



Leyland Road
Methodist Church

Weekly Notices



15th December 2024

9am Circuit Communion Service at PPW

10.30am Service led by Debs Attwater

22nd December - 10.30am Local Arrangement Service

- 6pm Raising Praise at Christmas

Minister:

Rev Ernie Grimshaw

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**Our Mission is to share the heart of
God at the heart of the community**

Lectionary Readings 15th December 2024

Zephaniah 3.14-20; Isaiah 12.2-6 (Canticle); Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Weekly Activities

Mondays	10am-4pm Warm Space
Tuesdays	7.30am Ecumenical Prayers at Canning Road Church 2.30pm Fellowship Group
Wednesdays	12pm Prayer Time
Thursdays	10am Toddler Group
Fridays	9.30am Spanish Tots Class 10.30am Spanish Babies Class

Prayer

God of mercy and power, whose Son rules over all, grant us so to live in obedience to your holy will, that at his appearing we may be raised to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Christmas Card

If you would like to send a message and Christmas greetings to your church family you will find a handmade card in the coffee lounge. You may decide to sign this card instead of buying and handing out many cards to different people. Please put any donations in the box provided. Thank you very much to Sylvia who kindly made this card.

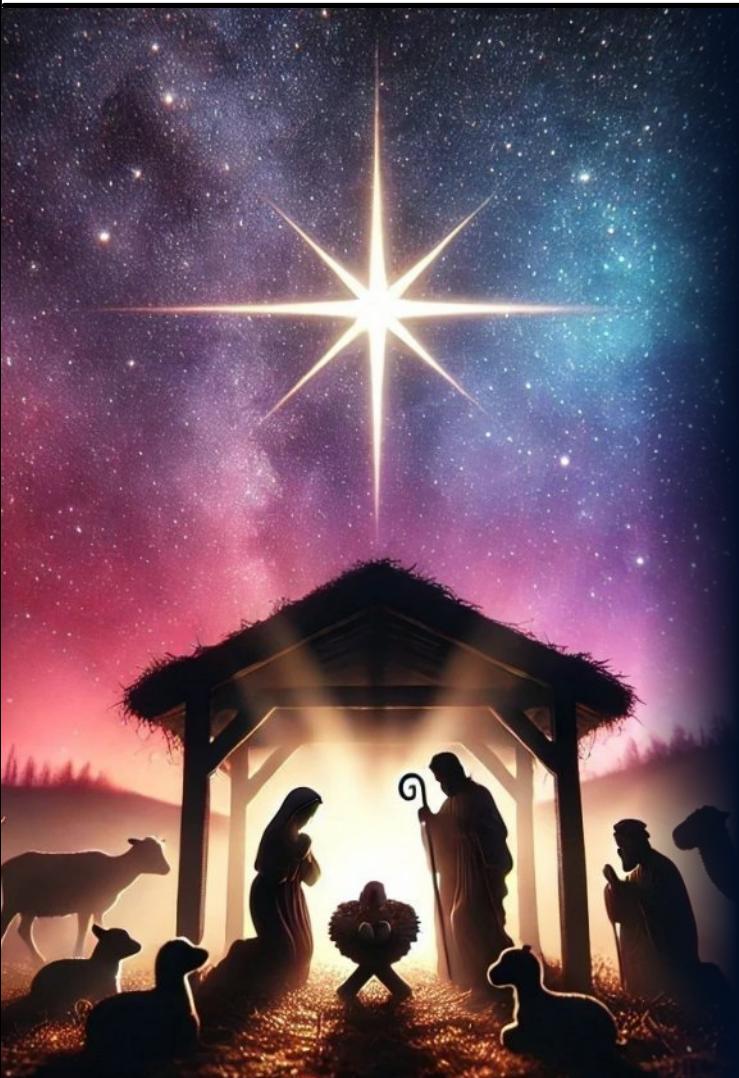
Easy Fundraising



Please can you help. When you shop on-line you could be donating the retailer's money to a charity via the easy fundraising browser extension. Just go to the website or download the app and open an account. Choose the Southport and Area School Worker's trust as the charity and when you shop on-line retailers can donate part of the spend to the Trust. Thanks.

Setting Up Rooms

Most of our activities set up themselves but we need a fit person to set up (or set down) chairs in rooms by arrangement
Please contact John A if you can offer this help.



Christmas at Leyland Road Church

Raising Praise at Christmas

Sunday 22nd December 6pm

Carols in the Warm

Christmas Eve 4pm

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25th December 11am

Stamps for RNIB

Over Christmas, please save your used stamps for the RNIB. You'll find a collection basket in the coffee lounge. This initiative continues throughout the year, so feel free to contribute whenever you can. Thank you for your support.

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Dear Friends

You brood of vipers!

Well, that's not a very friendly way to start this letter! I did not mean you, rather it's how the prophet John the Baptist addresses the crowds coming to him to be baptised (see this weeks gospel reading - Luke Ch 3 vs 7-18).

The crowd ask John "*and what should we do?*". He then encourages them (and us), to "*produce fruit in keeping with repentance*". Anyone who has two shirts should share one, and the same with food; tax collectors should only collect that which is required; soldiers should not extort money or falsely accuse people.

We very much live in a mixed economy between those who have excess and those who don't, and Christmas, a time for hope, peace, love and joy, tends to exacerbate these differences. How should we hear the words of John the Baptist this day as he encouraged the people of his day to produce fruit in keeping with repentance?

I've enjoyed my year on the allotment, seeing the tiny seeds that look of no consequence grow into the produce of abundance. As I look at the seed, I cannot see the power that is encapsulated within its outer core. It's there however, just waiting to be planted. It takes time to spring forth, its delicate and vulnerable and may succumb to the elements or the wildlife, although with enough seeds planted some will burst forth. There is power in that seed.

John's message is not so much about how we use our money or resources, although it includes that, more so it's about how we use our power that lies within us. We may think that we can make no difference on our own, although remember John was speaking to a crowd. As a collective, when they exert their power to produce fruit it will be a good harvest. If we all sense as individuals we can't make a difference and did not ask ourselves the question, "*what should we do?*", then the power imbalance won't produce a fruitful harvest.

So, what should we do?

God bless

Patrick