

# The Messenger

## Ainsdale Village Church

### United Reformed/Baptist

April /May 2018

On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the  
at the right hand of the Father.

The Apostles Creed



Station Road, PR8 3HW

[www.ainsdalevillagechurch.com](http://www.ainsdalevillagechurch.com)

**Minister:**  
Rev Peter Lyth  
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**Church Secretary:**  
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Mr Daniel Doyle  
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**Deacons:**

Imelda Aspinall

Kath Eccleston

Christine Holford

Peter Aspinall

Joan Green

Brenda Porter

Donna Barnacle

Lucinda Green

Chris Williams

Beverly Bush

Mary Whitehead

## Weekly Church Activities

**Sunday** Morning Worship: 9:45am

**Tuesday** Coffee Morning: 10:30am – 12 noon vestry  
Prayers in the Vestry 11.30  
Gardening: from 10:30am

**Thursday** Knitting Group: 10:30am Pat's Place

**Friday** Connect Youth Group: 6pm – 7:30pm

# Deacon's letter

What do you think of when you think of Easter?

If you are a child, it is Easter Eggs of course, maybe Egg Hunts or the Easter Bunny, or all three. Peter says he remembers having coloured eggs for breakfast on Easter Sunday. In my day it was a bit like Xmas, only if you were good were you to hope for an Easter egg, only then were they promised.

If your family were church going then of course it was the solemnity of Good Friday and then the joyful Easter Sunday. Apparently I started singing "Hot cross buns, hot cross buns, one a penny, two a penny", etc etc, at some stage in the very serious Good Friday service one year. I was only about 4! One of those family stories you cringe at, particularly when the last time you heard it you were nearly 60!!

As an adult, what does Easter hold for you? What about Good Friday? As Christians we understand why it is so solemn. The Apostles and Jesus' other followers must have been devastated on the first Good Friday. This man they had followed, had left their families for was dead, tortured and executed in the most barbaric way the Romans could devise. They must have been terrified: were they next? Peter denied that he knew Him (three times). Did they lose hope? Yes of course they did. Wouldn't we have done?

But He promised them He would rise from the dead. And He did. We celebrate this joyful happening On Easter Sunday. He is the Risen Christ here to save us.

Mary didn't recognise Him at first, the disciples didn't believe her and Thomas didn't believe until he felt the wounds in Jesus' side, hands and feet. We believe Jesus will come again. We hope and we believe because He promised he would. And we know that He is the one who we can always trust to keep His promises.

At Pentecost the Disciples were gathered in the upper room and the Holy Spirit entered into the followers in the form of tongues of fire.

## Cont'd

People from different places could understand one another: they "spoke in tongues". Peter addressed the crowd and we should remember what he said that day. **Acts 2: 21**

**"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"**

**Imelda**

Another promise kept by Jesus.

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## Green Spaces "create harmony and cut crime"

This is taken from a recent article printed in the "I" newspaper, and it seems that its message is borne out by our experience with the Community Garden.

Most of us know that a healthy dose of nature makes us feel better. Now, new research finds that people from communities with green space, trees and wildlife are more likely to look out for each other as well. Researchers at Cardiff University found that when it comes to "social cohesion", nature is much more important than age, gender, education and income combined - while the prevalence of accessible green space in a neighbourhood also helps bring down the level of crime.

The research argues that because people have an innate affiliation to other living organisms, they feel increasingly connected to their environment as the presence of nature grows. This, in turn, makes them feel more rooted to their communities, increasing social cohesion. **Jenny**

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## Gardeners' Day Out

Before tackling the work in the garden following our winter break, the gardeners decided to have a day out (purely in the interests of research, of course). We took off after Church on Sunday 18 February to visit Dunham Massey in Cheshire, where there is an extensive Winter Garden. Alan assured us that he knew a good way along some of the back lanes, where we went over a little toll bridge. The charge was 12 pence and having all clubbed together, we managed to pay this amount. We made straight for the Winter Garden where we had a good walk round, finding lots of snowdrops, and a beautiful area where snowdrops were planted in between jacquemontii birch trees. These trees have a lovely white bark and looked stunning along with the snowdrops. The more expert gardeners amongst us got some ideas for planting in the Community Garden. This included planting small iris and cyclamen in the rocky bed for late winter colour. The weather was reasonably kind to us as there was no rain, but it began to grow quite cold, so we repaired to the National Trust tea shop for tea and scones, or hot soup and crusty bread. On the return journey, we had to find another 12 pence! We all really enjoyed our day out, and will soon get working with a will in the garden.

**Jenny**

## Colin Ambrose – My Dad

I was asked by the deacons if I would write an article about Dad's involvement over the years at the Church. I haven't found it easy, obviously taking after Dad who used to dread it when it was his turn to write the Elder's letter for the magazine! But here goes.

A lot of you knew Dad for many years and are well aware of all the different roles he has had within the Church. However, newer members of the congregation possibly only knew him as the fella behind the organ screen, playing occasional 'bum' notes (as John Whitehead used to like to describe them!)

So here are some things that you may or may not have known about him (all notes being correct, but not necessarily in the right order!) I hope for some of you, it brings back some interesting memories of the Church.

- **Dad attended the Church for over 52 years.**

Mum and dad married on the 20th March 1965 and started attending the Church (Ainsdale Congregational Church as it was then) on the first Sunday in April, both transferring their membership from their respective Congregational Churches in Walton and Aigburth.

- **Dad worked way his way through 7 ministers in total!**

-starting with Walter Lazenby, ending of course with Peter, with Bill Wright, Wil Morris, Stuart Jackson, Brian Acty, and Robert Shallcross in between (on a scary note so have I!)

- **Dad was for many years involved with the Youth of the Church.**

Dad taught the senior class in Sunday school; was a leader of the Church Youth Club (of which a certain John Howard of Ainsdale Howards DIY was a member!); and played the piano in Junior Church, accompanying the children singing their choruses. (Who remembers the likes of 'The Wise man built his house upon the sand', 'Wide, wide as the ocean' and 'Be careful little hands what

- **Dad was a worker.**

Dad, along with the other men in the Church formed a 'Working Party'. They would meet up at Church on a Friday night to garden, paint the Rose Queen dais, clean the church halls etc. and then would always retire to the Arion for a much deserved pint. Alan Boulton, John Whitehead, George Wilkie, Wil Morris, Ron Hayhurst, Em Edwards, John McPherson were all involved at various times- to name just a few.

- **Dad served the Church in various roles.**

For countless years Dad served as a Church Elder.

He took on the role of Church Treasurer not once, but twice (he must have been mad), was Christian Aid Coordinator for years and took on the responsibility of Gift Aid.

- **Dad played the organ for a total of 35 years.**

Mr Pepper, the previous church organist died in July 1982. Dad, who at the time was playing the piano in Junior Church for Mum, offered to step in as a temporary measure, -in those days the alternative would have been to sing unaccompanied. And so each week the vestry piano was wheeled into Church in front of the choir stalls, which in those days did seat a strong choir which included Gavin Henderson (Barbara's father) and Pat Sutcliffe. With no available organist on the horizon, Dad decided to follow in his father's footsteps and in his spare time he taught himself how to play the organ using the stops and pedals. By September he was ready to officially take over as the Church Organist. A position he took very seriously! Many a time Rachel or I would suggest a family weekend away only to be told by Mum that Dad 'had the organ.' The only time he missed playing was for planned annual holidays when another organist would be available. Mrs Simmons or Mrs Gilbert usually did the honours – sadly both are no longer with us.

Unfortunately church organists are a dying breed.

Listening to recordings of Dad's organ playing on old cassettes over recent weeks we have remembered just what a fine organist he was for so many years. Not a bum note to be heard at all! He's played at countless important services including minister ordination services, weddings and funerals.

He treated his role in a very business-like way, as he did with most things in life. It must have been the accountant in him. He kept a record of what he played each week, including music played before and after the Service, for the Offertory, and for each Communion. He always did his best to play specific pieces of music important to members on particular dates.

In recent years playing the organ did become increasingly difficult for him due to ill health. He lost his sight in his right eye so was unable to see the organ stops or pedals on that side properly, nor the preacher in the pulpit. Failure to wear both hearing aids meant he couldn't always hear what they were saying either (to be honest I think he did that on purpose at times!) His fingers were that crooked he had to almost aim for the adjacent keys so that he would might hit the right notes. All that said, from years of experience sat on that organ seat, he could always manage to produce a fine sound out of those organ pipes. A sound I will never forget.

Despite his poor health particularly in the last couple of years, Dad was never a quitter.

He felt he had been called to serve the Lord and did so through his various roles at both this Church and in his former Church in Liverpool.

For over half a century he was a devoted, committed servant of our Church here in Ainsdale.

I for one am so very proud of him. And miss him terribly.

## **Ruth**

*Risen Lord,  
give us a heart for the simple things:  
love, laughter, bread and wine and dreams.  
Give us a green growing hope,  
and make of us a people  
whose song is alleluia,  
whose name is love,  
whose sign is peace. (DaNoust)*

## **Quiz Night with Fish and Chips – Saturday 7 April at 7.30 pm.**

This should be a great night, and also a good fundraiser for the Church, as long as we can get a really good turn out. Please try and get other people to come. Posters have been placed around the village, and tickets are available at £7.50 each, including the fish and chip supper. Tea and coffee will be available and people are welcome to bring their own drinks, including wine if they wish. Entry to the quiz night will be by ticket only.

Continuing the fishy theme.....

### **A Whale of a Story**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whole could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, “When I get to heaven I’ll ask Jonah” .

The teacher asked, “What if Jonah went to hell?” The little girl replied, “Then you ask him” .

## Deacon's Letter

Dear Friends,

We tend to think of the Gospels as being all about Jesus, especially at Easter time. Jesus is primarily in the spotlight, but the disciples feature heavily throughout. Some of them rarely feature, indeed there are a number who feature once in passing but then are never mentioned again. Others, such as Simon later to be Peter, Andrew James, John and, of course, Judas Iscariot are very important characters in the narrative. They followed Jesus throughout his ministry and often made mistakes, quite clearly not understanding what was going on., as well as showing quite human fallibility. Peter showed this on a number of occasions, as he was accused of being Satan for trying to deflect Jesus from his mission in favour of something more safe, and again as he denied Jesus three times. Later, they would go on to form the early church and Peter, in particular was a pivotal figure in that movement.

Many of the churches are looking at reclaiming that energy and are asking the question, "what does it mean to be a disciple?". Andrew Roberts, in his book "Holy Habits", describes it as a "call to adventure". It involves being called to follow Jesus. It means learning about Jesus and his mission. It has, at its core transformation.

In the URC, the new Discipleship campaign that is starting shortly is called, "Walking the way". It is based on Andrew Roberts' book which outlines ten habits or ways of being which underpin the life of a Christian as they follow Jesus. The Methodists are following a similar path using the book as a basis, as are some other denominations.

You will hear a lot about this over the next few months. I hope that you will be enthused as we journey together, reminding ourselves just what it means to be followers of Jesus.

**God Bless**

**Peter**

## Community Garden

Having struggled through what has felt like an incredibly long winter, I was feeling like spring was on the way this week. I decided to start cutting back the grasses on the side bank which were looking pretty tatty. Also there were lots of small crocus and mini daffodils completely hidden under the mass of dead material. Luckily David came to help and between us we have cut down most of it. I must admit to feeling a bit smug when Monty Don was spotted on Gardener's World cutting down his grasses. Beat you to it there Monty!

Now we are in the grip of freezing weather again, and it seems that spring just cannot get going this season. Still all we need is a bit of sunshine and everything will start to grow like mad.

April is the month when there will be a special Sunday afternoon concert, hosted by the Richard Hart Singers. We have planted lots of tulips in the hope that we will have a lovely show of flowers for guests to enjoy. Fingers crossed for some spring sunshine.

Mary Whitehead

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## Women's World Day of Prayer service

It was our turn to host this event held all over the world on the first Friday in March. This year the signs were not good. The whole country was in the grip of freezing weather with snow widely forecast. Many similar services were cancelled, but we decided to go ahead with ours as snow was not forecast for our area.

I think this was the right decision and although numbers attending were down, still a significant number of hardy souls braved the weather.

The service devised by the ladies of Suriname was quite moving in its appeal for us all to preserve our planet, as they are witnessing pollution and the destruction of their beautiful tropical landscape. We did insert a little of our own material as well, when Kath read a short meditation which gave us all food for thought.

May I say a thank you to our own ladies and one gentleman who turned out to help us on the day, or just came to experience the service with us. Thanks are due also to the ladies of the other Ainsdale Churches, who all pulled together to make the day a success. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. **Mary**

## **Look Back With Barbara..... the final episode**

The war years didn't really affect Ainsdale, except for the bomb which dropped on a house in Ainsdale. No one was killed but shop windows were shattered in the village.

The Lido was turned into Queen Charlotte Naval School for the duration of the war.

### **Films**

The Toby Carvery, was originally a cinema, the Plaza. (also the Moulin Rouge, a dance hall - my era. I remember bopping there in the late 60s, early 70s).

Barbara remembers going to see a locally shot film there, supposedly set in the desert. Well, there was sand, as it was filmed on Ainsdale Beach. It was called Blue Peter. According to Wikipedia it was shot in 1928, obviously a silent film. The plot concerned an engineer who became embroiled in a family melodrama after returning home to Britain from Nigeria where he had been working. Of course when the film arrived in Ainsdale the cinema was packed. People had gone down on the beach to see it being made and were greatly amused to see the many unsuccessful attempts made by its star to mount a horse. This was eventually edited out, with said star running to the horse and then shown miraculously mounted. Bet that got a laugh in the cinema.

(Anyone remember the detective series Cannon where the very portly star used to do exactly the same when approaching quite low fences?)

Continuing with the sandy part of the story, there was another station in the Ainsdale neighbourhood. This was Ainsdale Beach Station which was opposite where the Sands Hotel is. The railway ran from the southern part of Liverpool out through countryside and arrived at Woodvale Station, where there was also a station (where the traffic lights are now), then to Ainsdale Beach and on to Southport, to what is now Morrison's. Or, in my memory the Ribble Bus Station where the Southport buses used to come in from Liverpool in and presumably from other parts of Lancashire too.

The station and railway line closed in 1952, and is of course the Coastal Road

**Thank you Barbara for giving us your time and sharing your memories.**

# Ladies Group Meeting; Recent Events

## February

### Ladies Group

In February we all enjoyed a Chinese Meal to celebrate Chinese New Year at the Jade Gardens, organised by Imelda. It was very delicious, but not good for the waistline.

Then in March we had an evening of high fashion at Ainsdale's latest (and only!) fashion boutique, The Wardrobe Boutique in Station Road. The owners, Tina and Denise, welcomed us with Prosecco and Bucks Fizz and told us about opening the shop and about the items they stock there. Needless to say, we were all armed with our credit cards and used these to great effect!

No doubt there will be other visits, but won't go into too much details here, as you never know who might be reading this article!!! Say no more!!

Jenny Boulton

Our next two events will be, in April, **Spring Reflections with Kath**

### **MEMORY MATTERS**

Every Monday 2 till 4 at

St Georges Church Hall

Lord Street

Southport

A lovely get together with refreshments

for

Alzheimer's and Dementia sufferers and their carers

# Up coming news

## Summer Fair – Saturday 2 June

This is our real chance at fundraising for our Church, so here's hoping for a lovely day! The following is a list of stalls, but this is not finalised as we will be having a Summer Fair meeting some time in early April.

**Cakes and Preserves**

**Tombola**

**Raffle**

**Books**

**Bags, jewellery and accessories**

**Plants**

**Barbecue**

**Refreshments**

Please put this date in your diary, and bring along all your friends. It is the same day as the Ainsdale Fun Day, run by the Civic Society, so there should be plenty going on all around the village.

## Church Secretary

As you will all now know, I am no longer Church Secretary, and Imelda has bravely taken over this role. I have no doubt that she will do an excellent job, and I ask you all to give her your full support, as you have done for me.

It has been my privilege to serve Ainsdale Village Church, which has a very special place in my heart, for the past fourteen years as Church Secretary and I look forward to many more years serving in different ways – so don't think you have got rid of me – you haven't!

## Calendar for April

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** Easter Sunday Beach Service at 6.45 am with Father Tony Slingo followed by hot cross buns at Ainsdale Village Church  
Easter Sunday Service at 9.45 am – Alan Missen
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>** Men's Group meet at 8.30 pm at the bar in the Toby Carvery
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup>** Quiz with Fish and Chip Supper at 7.30 pm. See item in magazine
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Ken Hooton  
Sociable Sunday in the Vestry at 3.00 – 4.30 pm. See item in magazine
- Mon 9<sup>th</sup>** Ladies Group meet in the vestry at 7.30 pm – Spring Reflections with Kath Eccleston
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Peter Lyth
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Alan Missen
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** Team Service at Churchtown Village Church at **10.45 am**. No service at this church.

## Calendar for May

- Tue 1<sup>st</sup>** Men's Group meet at 8.30 pm in the bar at the Toby Carvery. **Please note the change of day, as Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May is a bank holiday.**
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** Holy Communion at 9.45 am – Neville Jarrett
- Wed 9<sup>th</sup>** Deacons' Meeting at 7.30 pm in the Vestry
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Peter Lyth
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup>** Ladies Group – Local Walk followed by refreshments. Please meet at the church at **7.00 pm**.
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Diane Vernon
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** Morning Worship at 9.45 am – Ken Summers

If you are the reader for any particular Sunday, please ring **Lucinda Green (01704 570307)** to get the readings.

Items for the June/July Messenger should be with Imelda or Jenny by Wed 23 May.

## Rotas April 2018

Communion	Reader	Flowers	Tea/ Coffee
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April	1st	Lucinda Green Kath Eccleston	Elise Evers	Kath Eccleston	Brenda Porter
	8th		Jenny Boulton	Pat Sutcliffe	Jean Harding
	15th		Kath Eccleston	Stella Tomlinson	Elise Evers
	22nd		Pat Sutcliffe	Ann Swift	Kath Eccleston
	29th	Team Service Churchtown URC at 10.45 am			

Communion

Reader

Flowers

Coffee

Month	Day	Communion	Reader	Flowers	Coffee
May	6 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Bush Jeremy Lister	Wendy Parry	Suzette Gorman	Wendy Parry
	13 <sup>th</sup>		Jeremy Lister	Christine Holford	Imelda Aspinall
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Chris Wil- liams	Vacancy	Donna Barnacle
	27 <sup>th</sup>		Maggie Maxwell	Brenda Por- ter	Chris Williams

In the June/July Messenger we are planning to start a series of articles on volunteering, as so many of us in the church do just that, Samaritans, CAB, Trussell Trust, Horticultural society etc etc. So if you want to share some stories, please speak to Jenny or Imelda, preserving confidentiality of course.