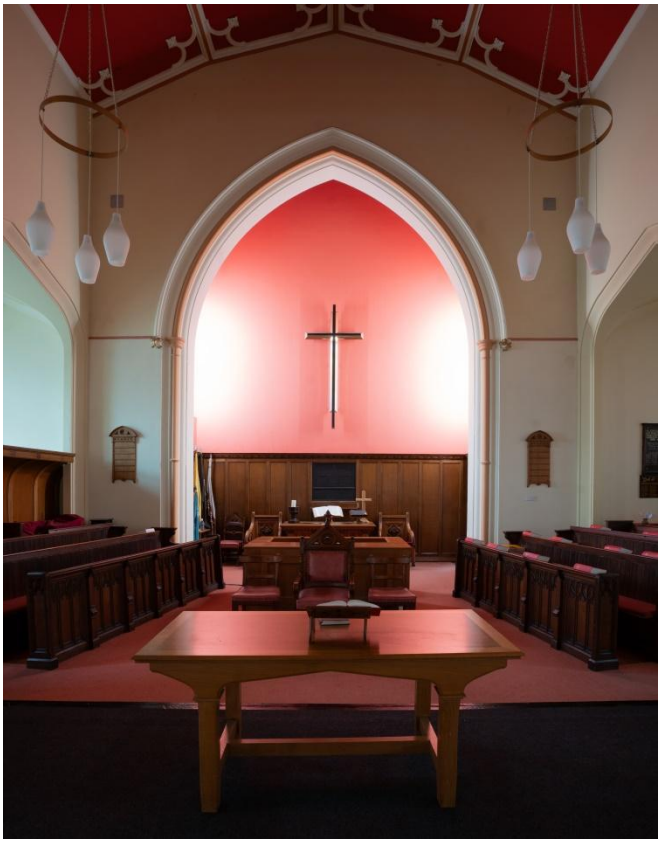
Lord Street West United Church

“Outlook”

September and October 2026



Dear Friends,

This is a very brief introduction to who I am as one who will be sharing in ministry and leadership alongside The Revd Hilary Smith during the coming year. Some of you will have seen me already as one who has led worship at LSW, others will have seen me at Circuit events, meetings and services. So here is a very brief biography. I was brought up at Saltburn by the sea in the old North Riding of Yorkshire. My family roots in Methodism go back a long way, even to ancestors rubbing shoulders with John Wesley himself. I went off to the University of Lancaster to read History but switched to do Religious Studies and mixed with Christians from other denominations in those heady days of ecumenical experiments and anticipations. I began local preaching at the age of 19 and later this year will mark 40 years since I was, as we used to call it "fully accredited". I trained ecumenically too at Lincoln Theological College (an Anglican college with some Methodist students). My ministry over the last 36 years has taken me to many different places and contexts:- Leeds, Amersham, Grimsby & Cleethorpes, York, Crook in County Durham and now here in Southport which I came to last year as Superintendent. In addition to these duties I have served as a District Ecumenical Officer, Synod Secretary, part-time Maternity Hospital Chaplain and chaplain to York action mart. I have served in rural

chapels, small towns and city centre contexts. All these many and varied encounters and experiences have helped shape me into who I am.

Outside of church, I enjoy singing, and am a keen football fan. My wife Judith will often be with me when I come to LSW, though she has her membership at Cornerstone and serves as a Worship Leader and Communion Steward there. I have had some experience of serving in a URC/Methodist LEP before in Crook. I also recognise that I come as the Methodist part of the joint ministry team in a significant anniversary year as you mark 50 years of the LEP.

Whilst recognising that we face many challenges at LSW with property issues and financial pressures I trust that God will lead us as we face these challenges together.

I look forward to getting to know you as we move forward.

With prayers for God's blessing and direction.

Chris Humble

Dear friends,

As the year moves on towards autumn and winter, once again I find myself amazed at the passing of time, and glad that I have the chance to, as the liturgy says, "be glad that we live within the knowledge of God's eternity."

In my school days, I'm sure each hour took as long as a year does these days – it's all about perspective, as we are made "of frail flesh and gentle spirit" and have to accommodate the passing of time with the things going on in our lives – growing up, growing older, new generations coming through, new challenges and joys day by day.

A few weeks ago I was fascinated by the news of the lunar eclipse – and not so much the eclipse itself, but the fact that scientists knew exactly when it would happen! Thank God, we have the knowledge to understand such things, and I can only imagine the fear and awe of people in the past who must have been terrified when the moon – or worse, the sun, suddenly disappeared!

We may have lost something of that sense of awe, but there are always new things that we don't understand and that, in our frailty, we can only offer into God's hands – the health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, the unpredictable weather, affecting us all in terms of food and travel, and the way even experts in science and

astrology, whose very knowledge has come from God, sometimes have to say, I don't know. Only God knows.

In the meantime, we continue our lives of faith and joy, meeting week by week, and doing just that – offering ourselves and our lives into God's hands, where we know that whatever happens, all will be well.

I conclude with the quotation from Ecclesiastes, which reminds us that the human condition is full of the richness of life, and to accept that fact is indeed to find peace.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap, a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and time to gather them up; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain; a time to seek, and time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sow; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and time to hate; a time, for war, and a time for peace."

Yours in the service of our Lord,

Hilary

Sunday Worship

We welcome the following Preachers as they lead us in worship.

Sunday 6th September	Rev. Peter Lyth, Communion
Sunday 13th September	Janice Atfield
Sunday 20th September	Rev. Brian Trudgian
Sunday 27th September	Nigel Mawdsley
Sunday 4th October	Rev. Derek Bowker
Sunday 11th October	Rev. Chris Humble
Sunday 18th October	Shirley Potts
Sunday 25th October	Rev. Chris Humble, Communion

All Sunday services at Lord Street West start at 10.45am.

Services held at Lord Street West include JAM Club for Children. Tea and coffee will be served after worship.

Cycle of Prayer

During the up-coming weeks, please hold in your personal prayers

6th September	Week 02	Local Preachers, Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders
13th September	Week 03	Elected Lay Leaders
20th September	Week 04	Our Choir
27th September	Week 05	Pastoral Visitors
4th October	Week 06	Hall Users
11th October	Week 07	Community and Volunteer Workers
18th October	Week 08	Our Congregation
25th October	Week 09	Our Local Community

John Fairclough

From Elsie Fairclough,

I am writing to thank you for your wonderful support over the past couple of years, whilst John has been in care and especially since his death.

Flowers, cards, practical help and offers of transport have been given
in abundance.

Words seem inadequate but, please believe me, your loving kindness has
been a huge source of encouragement and comfort.

We have a wonderful church family, and I can only repeat,

Thank You, Lord Street West!

Safeguarding Officer

Thank you to Anne Littler for taking on the role of Safeguarding Officer and to Helen Brown for agreeing to be the Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

Faith & Fellowship

MONDAY FELLOWSHIP

We give a warm welcome to everyone who would like to join us. We meet once a fortnight Mondays from 2:30pm – 4pm, in the small hall, with a mixed programme and we are a friendly lot of folk.

The dates for our programme are as follows:

7th September	Rev. Hilary Smith, Communion will be celebrated
21st September	Yoga with Jules – Chair Exercises
5th October	Graham Turner – Compassion Acts
19th October	Janice Atfield – Story time!!

Wednesday Service & Coffee



The Coffee Morning and mid-week service is every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 am in the small hall.

Come enjoy a brew, some fellowship and the wonderful word of God.

2nd September	Rev. Hilary Smith
9th September	Rev. Gordon Wareing
16th September	Nigel Mawdsley
23rd September	Rev. Peter Lyth
30th September	Janice Atfield
7th October	Nigel Mawdsley
14th October	Rev. Peter Lyth
21st October	Janice Atfield
28th October	Rev. Gordon Wareing

For anyone wishing to make donations to the Food Bank, there is a basket in the church entrance. The Southport Food Bank is currently in urgent need of the following items:

- Savoury Crackers
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned meat – corned beef, ham etc.
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant noodles
- Tomato sauce, brown sauce and mayonnaise
- Long-life juice and cordial
- 'Free from' items
- Jam

Every contribution makes such a difference when some people must make that impossible choice between heating their homes or putting food on the table. Sue Yelland kindly delivers the food collected at church to Southport Foodbank at the Victoria Centre on Sussex Road.

Shoebox Appeal 2026

I can't believe that it is that time of year again when I start thinking about Shoeboxes! I have made a start and used the lovely weather to wrap in the garden. This got a little tricky when it got breezy!

As last year, we are planning to use International Aid Trust to send shoeboxes to areas of the world where children have very little. We really enjoyed working with this local charity, the process worked very well. In 2025 they distributed 19,000 shoeboxes!

Toothpaste and sweets are allowed! The recommended amount to cover postage for International Aid Trust is £2. Last year we collectively sent over 250 shoeboxes which was another great success. I really appreciate the support I get from all the churches.

The process is simple – get a shoebox, wrap it and fill it with goodies. Peter and I will ensure that it gets to International Aid Trust. The shoebox packing session at Churchtown this year will be on 31 Oct from 13.00 – wine and cake are provided, and we have a smashing time selecting goodies to go into the boxes. All are welcome.
We are aiming to get these to International Aid Trust in the first week of November.

Jo Lyth.

United Reformed Church Team Outreach Fund

The loose offertory at the United Reformed Church Southport and Formby Team Services is given to the Team Outreach Fund. Donations are made to needy causes.

The giving and donations for 2025 and 2026 have been:

2025

Balance b/f	304.46	Myanmar	250.00
Ainsdale 29/12	156.15	Gaza	300.00
Gift Aid claim	108.85	Compassion Acts	300.00
Lord Street West	354.41	Jamaica Hurricane	200.00
Birkdale	276.40		
Ainsdale	183.62	Balance b/d	333.89

2026

Balance b/f	333.89	Queenscourt	500.00
Churchtown	176.36	Venezuela	250.00
Gift Aid claim	112.61		
Formby	213.65	Balance b/d	86.51

The West End Players

What a beautiful afternoon we had when the Players put on a wonderful show in the Church garden, we even had a make shift stage. Excellent mix of old and new songs sung by soloists and the group choir. An emotional song, Somewhere Over the Rainbow was performed beautifully by the whole cast and was dedicated to our dear Pauline. There were many teary eyes, thanks to you all. Some £600 was raised and donated to the Church.

Like the calm before a storm, we are having a few weeks break, ready for the start of Autumn, which always means panto reading and castings. The panto will be performed during the last two weekends in January 27. Further details will be in the next Outlook.

Meanwhile we have a couple of social events coming up:

Beetle Drive and Fish and Chip Supper

Friday 25th September 7 for 7.30pm

Quiz Night and Hot Pot Supper

Thursday 12th November 7.30pm

We hope you are able to support these events and if you require further information please contact either myself or Maria.

Wendy, Secretary ,West End Players

Treasurer's Report

	Envelopes	Loose
	£	£
7th June	70.00	193.22
14th June	50.00	107.00
21st June	30.00	94.21
28th June	10.00	152.35
Totals	**160.00**	**546.78**
Direct Giving	**952.00**	
Total June 2026	**1,658.78**	

	Envelopes	Loose
	£	£
5th July	130.00	115.35
12th July	30.00	116.56
19th July	40.00	122.10
26th July	120.00	128.50
Totals	**320.00**	**482.51**
Direct Giving	**802.00**	
Total July 2026	**1604.51**	

Totals up to 31st July 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Envelopes	1,670.00	1,218.52
Loose offertory	3,684.30	3,101.87
Direct Giving	8,229.00	9,713.90
Totals	**13,583.30**	**14,034.29**

Useful Church Contacts

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Ministers

Rev Chris Humble - Tel: **01704 513128**

superintendent@SouthportMethodist.org.uk

Rev Hilary Smith - Tel: **01704 792235**

Lay Worker

Nigel Mawdsley - Tel: **01704 545756**

Outlook Editor

Ian Wright - Tel: **01704 226160** email **iwrightstretton@aol.com**

Outlook

If you would like to have an article put into the Outlook newsletter then please email lordstreetunited@gmail.com or drop a message into our office or in the mailbox. Please submit items for the November and December issue by Sunday 25th October.

Church Hall Booking Group

Tel: **01704 651371**

E-Mail: **lordstreetunited@gmail.com**

Weekly Notices

If you would like to receive the weekly notices via email each week, please inform Ian Wright at iwrightstretton@aol.com and he will add you to his mailing list. Printed copies are available on the table in the Church.