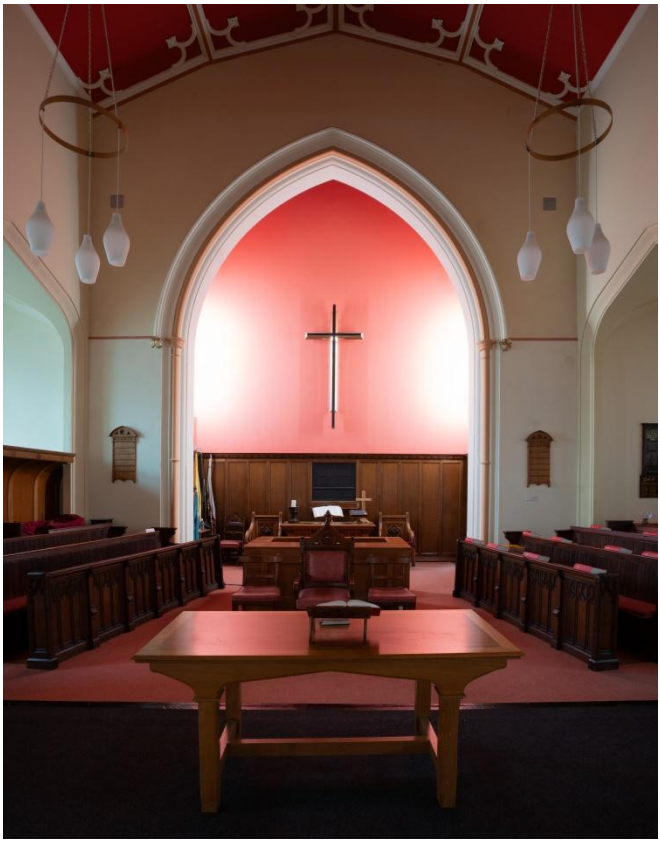
Lord Street West United Church

“Outlook”

November and December 2026



Dear Friends,

The month of November begins with All Saints Day a day when traditionally the Church of God celebrates our belief in the fellowship of the communion of saints when we remember some of those great characters who have inspired us on our way. Each of us will have been influenced by other Christians on our journey of faith and taking time to remember them and to give thanks for them is a good thing to ponder. I wonder who you might be especially thankful for? Hebrews 12. 1 puts it like this "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses". Technically this is the focus also of the following day All Soul's Day but both days enable us to celebrate something about the mystery we call the communion of saints. As Isaac Watts that great Independent hymn writer of former times puts it in this way "Give me the wings of faith to rise within the veil and see the saints above, how bright they shine, how bright their glories be". (747 StF)

Remembrance Sunday and all that evokes is of course a poignant day in the life of our nation and in the Commonwealth. Amidst so much conflict in our world today we cannot fail to be reminded of the need to work and pray for peace, reconciliation and justice.

For those with Scottish blood and roots St Andrew's Day will be significant at the end of the month, but the season

of Advent also begins at the end of the month, on Sunday 29th November this year. This marks the liturgical new year and the countdown to celebrating the coming of our Lord in the babe of Bethlehem but traditionally the Advent themes are about the Second Coming and preparing ourselves for what is to come. Such themes are not very popular today but preparing for Christ's coming in terms of the child in the manger is a very significant theme. The Revised Common Lectionary that most mainstream churches (including both our denominations) are signed up to begins its long journey through the liturgical year again on Advent Sunday. From Advent Sunday 2026 until November 2027 will be in Year B with its main focus found in Mark's gospel predominantly. Mark's gospel of course does not include any record of Jesus birth or early life, he comes on to the stage to begin his ministry as an adult announcing the coming of the kingdom of God having been baptized by John. Mark 1. 14 tells us "Now after John was arrested Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying 'The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news'. Jesus then calls his first disciples with the invitation to "follow me and I will make you fish for people" Mark 1. 17.

How we fish for people is a very interesting theme. Coming through the doors of our church premises each week we have a large number of people of all ages and we are aware that we need constantly to be thinking of different ways to

proclaim the good news to them. This takes us to the heart of the mission which is God's primarily but which God invites us to share in. We are of course already doing this in many ways but there is always room for fresh ideas. So how do you think might we do this?

In the life of the Methodist Circuit we have recently had some conversations in each church about exploring possible different ways of shaping ourselves. In November we will hear what proposals emerge from that process. Please pray for all involved in these meetings.

So, December will see us well into the season of Advent as we seek to prepare for Christ's coming and all that the Incarnation means. I will be with you for Christmas Eve at 11.30pm for Holy Communion and I look forward to that. May hope, peace and joy be yours during these weeks of November and December. May the Christ child's coming to be one with us bring us and all the world peace on earth. Blessings.

Chris Humble

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday 1st November	Nigel Mawdsley
Sunday 8th November	Cliff Hill, Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 15th November	Rev. Peter Lyth, Communion
Sunday 22nd November	Rev. Derek Bowker
Sunday 29th November	Team Service at Birkdale United Reformed Church
Sunday 6th December	Rev. Hilary Smith, Communion
Sunday 13th December	Carol Service
Sunday 20th December	Christingle Service
Thursday 24th December	Christmas Eve 11.30pm Rev. Chris Humble
Friday 25th December	Christmas Day 10.30am
Sunday 27th December	Cliff Hill

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

1st November	Week 10	All who work to maintain our premises
8th November	Week 11	Property and Finance
15th November	Week 12	Workers with Children and Young People
22nd November	Week 13	Fellowship
29th November	Week 01	Our Ministers and Lay Workers
6th December	Week 02	Local Preachers, Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders
13th December	Week 03	Elected Lay Leaders
20th December	Week 04	Our Choir
27th December	Week 05	Pastoral Visitors

Dennis Tickle

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dennis Tickle, a member of our church and choir for many years. Dennis served the church in many ways, including producing the church newsletter. Many of Dennis' family and friends, the church choir and church members, attended the funeral service in our church on Friday 16th October. Dennis' daughter gave a lovely tribute to her father.

Jean Davies

We were sorry to learn of the death of Jean Davies. Jean attended our church for many years until health problems prevented her from coming. Jean's funeral service was in our church on 27th October.

Irene Fraser

We were also sorry to learn of the death of Irene Fraser. Irene and her husband Ian attended our church for many years until prevented from doing so by ill health. Irene continued to receive extended communion from Nigel Mawdsley. Irene's family asked Nigel to lead her funeral service at Southport Crematorium on 27th November.

Rock Choir 28th November

Rock Choir North West are giving a concert at Lord Street West United Church on Saturday 28th November at 2.30pm. Tickets are £8, under 11s £1. To reserve tickets please email lordstreetwestunited@gmail.com or pay on the door (cash only please). All monies raised are for the church building fund.
Rock Choir North West kindly gave a concert at Lord Street West on 2nd May. This was a very enjoyable occasion and it is great that they are coming again.


ROCK CHOIR
LIVE AT LORD STREET WEST UNITED CHURCH
on Saturday 28th November 2026 at 2.30pm
£8 a ticket; under 11s £1 a ticket
to reserve email:
lordstreetwestunited@gmail.com
or pay on the door (cash only please).
All monies raised for the church building fund.

Christmas Appeal for Queenscourt Hospice

Rev Hilary Smith recently attended a meeting for church members in the Southport area, hosted by Karen Groves, from the hospice. The purpose of the meeting was to ask us as community leaders to keep raising the profile of the need for funding to ensure that the hospice, and all the services that it offers in the wider community, open.

Not only does the Queenscourt Hospice provide beds for respite and palliative care, they also go out to the hospitals and into the community to provide the expert care and reassurance for people and their families facing serious illness, and they are desperately in need of support.

Our harvest appeal raised £140 for Queenscourt Hospice.

The offertory at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services will be donated to Queenscourt Hospice.

Heritage Open Day

Our church was open for Heritage Open Days for the first time. Thanks to Chris Martin for organising this. The church was open on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th September and the morning of Friday 18th September. 23 people visited our church and were shown round by Ruth Lane or Ian Wright, or used the printed guide. They were

interested in the history of the church and in particular the stained glass windows.



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:

2nd November	Helen Brown – Amusing and interesting encounters with young children
16th November	Tony Wright – Magical Afternoon
30th November	Craig Horan - Introduction to the Life of Bees – Honey and Beeswax Candles
7th December	Christmas Dinner

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.

4th November	Rev. Hilary Smith
11th November	Rev. Peter Lyth
18th November	Nigel Mawdsley
25th November	Janice Atfield
2nd December	Rev. Hilary Smit
9th December	Rev. Peter Lyth
16th December	Nigel Mawdsley
23rd December	Rev. Gordon Wareing
30th December	Janice Atfield

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.

Compassion Acts, which runs Southport Foodbank, thanks us for the 43.4kg of food donated at our Harvest Festival.

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.

Jo Lyth.

Please indicate if your shoebox is for a boy or a girl, and the age of the child. Please bring your filled shoeboxes to church by Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. There are leaflets about the Shoebox Appeal on the table in the small hall.

The West End Players

Our recent Beetle Drive and fish and chip supper went very well, and all appeared to enjoy the evening. Thank you for your support at this event.

Our next social evening will be a Quiz on 12th November 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £10. Please let either Maria or me know if you wish to take part. There will be hot pot and desert plus tea/coffee. We are aiming to have tables of 6 people per team.

Panto rehearsals are underway and we look forward to performing "Snow White" at our next production during the last two weekends in January 27. Tickets will be on sale in due course.

Wendy

West End Players
annual

QUIZ NIGHT





Enjoy a fun evening of questions and comfort food.

There will be a hotpot/stew served so please let us know of any dietary requirements





Bring a team (max 6 people) or join another to compete to be the WEPS quiz team of the year!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!
Booking will be closed on Monday 9th November

7:00pm for 7:30 start	**THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2026**	LORD STREET WEST CHURCH HALL

Email us at westendplayer02@gmail.com to book your team in

Treasurer's Report

	Envelopes	Loose
	£	£
2nd August	80.00	164.90
9th August no service	-	-
16th August	50.00	102.52
23rd August	40.00	133.00
30th August donated to charity	110.00	-
Totals	**280.00**	**400.42**
Direct Giving	**862.00**	
Total August 2026	**1,542.42**	

	Envelopes	Loose
	£	£
6th September	20.00	132.60
13th September	52.00	120.21
20th September	52.00	148.02
27th September	61.60	208.04
Totals	**185.60**	**608.87**
Direct Giving	**762.00**	
Total September 2026	**1,556.47**	

Totals up to 30th September 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Envelopes	2,135.60	1,547.52
Loose offertory	4,693.59	4,205.31
Direct Giving	9,853.00	11,517.90
Totals	**16,682.19**	**17,270.73**

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 13th December.

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.