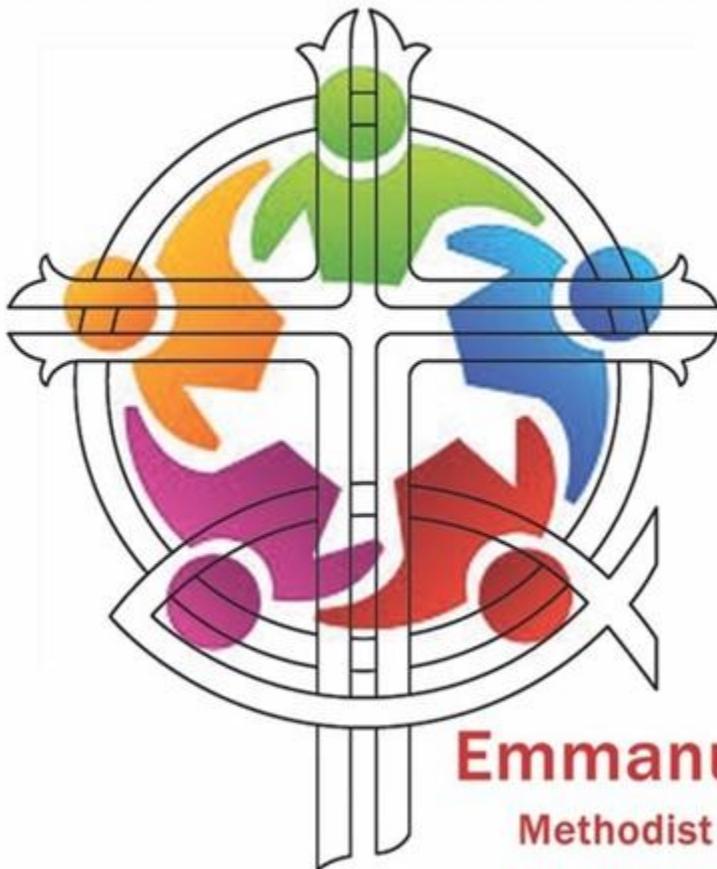


In Touch



Emmanuel
Methodist URC
Ormskirk

February, March & Mid-April 2026

Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church

Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DE

Minister Letter

Dear Friends,

It feels like no time at all since we were singing carols and gazing at the beautiful Christmas lights, and yet here we are in February. Our garden at home is still flooded in parts from all the rain-fall, and yet the snowdrops have made their way through the sodden soil and daffodil shoots are beginning to peep through. All beautiful signs of Spring and a reminder of God's creative power at work in nature. But as a dog walker, what also cheers my soul is the lengthening of the days, as the light lingers just a little longer each evening.



Light is such a powerful image at this time of year. The darkness of winter wearies us, as does dark news that floods our televisions, papers, radios, and mobile phones. And yet we know that the light of Christ continues to shine, even in the dark places of our world. When I get time, I shall be watching the Winter Olympics and although I didn't see the opening ceremony, images of the Olympic torch being passed from athlete-to-athlete, nation-to-nation, shone as a beacon of hope in our world, the hope that one day, all nations WILL leave in peace.

And so, let us all continue to do what we can to keep the flame of hope alight in our world. Let us continue to radiate the warmth of God's love into the lives of others and so too, may we feel the assurance of the presence of God in our hearts, at all times and in all places.

Every Blessing, Rev Sue

Mens Hub

A chance for our men to meet and connect, everyone is welcome to join, these meets take place the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Emmanuel. Next meetings – November 19th, no meeting in December, January 21st



ASH WEDNESDAY

SERVICES AT
ORMSKIRK PARISH CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18TH

10:30am Holy Communion

&

7:00pm Holy Communion

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Prayer Breakfasts

Join us for a continental breakfast followed by a time of prayer before the Sunday Service at 10am, dates as follows:

- 1st February
- 1st March

Cameo Ladies Group (Come And Meet Each Other)

Meet together on,

- 13th Feb: 'Blankets of Love: Quilts of Comfort and Hope' - Jane and Suzy from Project Linus
- 13th March: 'A Place of Welcome: A Place to Grow, A Place to Shine.' Speaker from Midstream Garden Centre & Cafe

Thank you!

The Salvation Army in Southport were extremely grateful for all the items donated by Emmanuel Church, Ormskirk. These were sorted, then wrapped and distributed to the homeless in time for Christmas!

THANK YOU to everyone who gave so generously for this project.

Anne B

Food Bank

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our Food Bank. As the need in our community continue, we kindly ask you to keep donating what you can—every item truly makes a difference.

Please place any items in the foyer at the front of the Worship area. Special thanks to **Bill Jones** for kindly coordinating this effort.



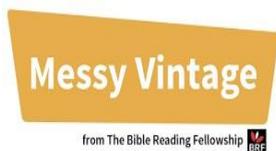
Front row seats in the Worship Area balconies

The Finance & Property Committee have agreed that the front row of seating in the two balconies should no longer be used. Following our recent insurance review, our insurers have raised concerns over the height of the balustrade panels forming the edge of the balconies. As a committee we always respond to recommendations to ensure everyone's safety. We hope you will understand the reasons for the Committee's decision and please remain behind the rope barriers.

Property and Finance Committee

Messy Vintage

Messy Vintage (via Zoom) is an opportunity to share our faith through conversation, craft, and music. The next sessions take place on



24th February and 17th March

Please contact Cheryl if you'd like to attend,
family.schools@lancashirewest.org.uk

Membership Class

The Methodist Church gives us the opportunity to be formally confirmed into the membership of the Methodist Church. This is not a required process for folks who attend Emmanuel, but if you are interested in becoming a member, please see Rev Sue. We will be having a meeting to discuss this, after worship, on Sunday February 22nd.

Community Garden Update

A huge thank you to those who have generously donated financially towards the creating of our Community Garden. And also thank you to Ian and Luke for continuing to prepare the ground for us. The raised beds will be arriving and so the project commences! Shortly, we will be installing an outside tap and improving the disabled access. We will need gardening tools and a storage container so if you have anything you wish to donate, or you are able to make a financial donation towards the project please speak to Rev Sue, thank you

Christmas Fair

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair in December—whether you helped organise, volunteered on the day, donated goods, or made a purchase. Your enthusiasm and generosity created a truly joyful event and helped raise nearly £2,000! We are deeply grateful for the kindness and community spirit shown by all who took part, and for the way you continue to support the life and work of our church.

Mark

Volunteers needed!

Are you passionate about stewardship and helping our church thrive? We're looking for dedicated volunteers to join our Property and Finance Committee. Although it's great if you do, you don't need experience in finance or property, the group oversees the stewardship of our buildings and financial resources, ensuring they are managed responsibly and in alignment with our mission.

Please speak to Bill Jones or another member of the committee to arrange further.

Thanks – P&F Committee

Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church invites you to:



Messy Church activities

Sensory Room

Board Games

Refreshments

* For all the family

Inclusive and accessible for all ages, abilities and needs.

Come along and join us at our Family sessions on the FIRST Sunday of each month

(4th January, 1st February, 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July)

Starting 10.45am - 12.00pm (followed by tea, coffee, juice & biscuits)

Emmanuel Methodist UR Church, Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DE

News from the Brigade



The Brigades are delighted to share that our recent “Bring a Friend Night” was a great success! It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces, enjoy fun activities together, and see our young people proudly introducing their friends to what we do. A huge thank-you to everyone who came along and helped make the evening so enjoyable. We’re excited to see some of our visitors returning in the weeks ahead! If you know of any children or young people who would love the friendship and fun that Brigade offers please let the know about us.



Every Friday. Times: 6:30 to 7:30 Anchors; 6:30 to 8pm Juniors; 8pm to 10pm Company section.

We are currently looking for a new staff member to join the team in Anchors (ages 5 to 7), if you fancy giving it a go please have a word with either Rob Langdon or Lilian Graham.

Thank you for your continued support with our recycling, these can be dropped off in the plastic container on the cabinet next to the lounge.

Move It or Lose It

If you'e over 60 & looking to improve your fitness levels, then why not join our fun and friendly group at Emmanuel Church on Thursdays. The exercises have all been designed specifically for older adults and can be done seated, standing or with chair support, so everyone is welcome! We work on improving balance, strength, flexibility, and heart health besides playing fun games! Members can also enjoy a cuppa and chat afterwards in the community hub.

To book your FREE taster session contact: Lucy 07514 687354

Email: lucy.faulkner@moveitorloseit.co.uk

Quiet Space

We invite you to come and relax in the calm and peace of our beautiful church building. This is very informal time. You can just sit quietly and listen to music or choose one of the gentle activities that will be around the church.

The church will be open as quiet space on the last Tuesday of each month from 6pm – 6.45pm. The dates for this year are:

- 24th February
- 31st March

This is an opportunity for you to come, to take time out from the pressures and busyness of everyday life and relax.

Please feel free to pop in at any point and stay for as long or as short a time as you would like - everyone is very welcome. We hope you will leave feeling refreshed in mind, body and spirit.

Ruth Rushworth and Miriam Roxburgh

Maintenance of our building and Health and Safety

We are committed to ensuring our church remains a safe, comfortable and well-maintained space for worship, fellowship and community activities.

If you notice any health and safety concerns or issues with building maintenance please pass concerns to Cynthia, a vestry steward or a member of the leadership team.

February, March & April Service Dates

Date	Service	Preacher
Sunday 15 th February 11am		Janet Walton
Sunday 22 nd February 11am	Parade	Rev Sue Guenault
Sunday 1 st March 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Guenault
Sunday 8 th March 11am		Merle Farthing
Sunday 15 th March 11am	Parade	Jane & Rob Langdon
Sunday 22 nd March 11am		Rev Michael Tindsley
Sunday 29 th March 11am		Pauline Culshaw
Sunday 5 th April 11am	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Guenault

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

2nd April, at 4.00pm, we are invited to join our friends at **Ormskirk Parish Church** to share in the act of Holy Communion.

Good Friday

We will be hosting a short meditation service of music, poetry and readings at **10.45am on Good Friday**. We are then invited to join our Ecumenical partners for a service at the **Ormskirk Clock Tower at 12.00pm**. Churches Together have also invited us to join in a **'Flashmob'** before the service starts. Emmanuel folks are asked to travel to the Clock Tower from **Moor Street**. The idea is that we just hang around in our areas and then move to the Clocktower like a 'Flashmob' when the music starts. We will give out chocolates and information sheets about our Churches.

Easter Sunday

On **Easter Sunday** we invite you to share in a **prayer breakfast at 10.00am**. We will then celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in worship at **11.00am**. Join us for **Holy Communion and an Easter Egg trail!**

Time to talk about...

Lent



At Emmanuel Methodist UR Church, Derby Street, Ormskirk on:

- Wednesday evenings: Feb 18th, 25th; March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th at 7.15pm
- Thursday afternoons: Feb 19th, 26th; March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th at 1.45pm

Where *The Lost Things Go* is a 'practically perfect' Lent course based on the film *Mary Poppins Returns*. Poet and minister Lucy Berry skilfully draws out some of the themes of the movie and shows how we can consider them more deeply alongside passages from the Bible. The sessions aim to explore themes such as belief and unbelief, loss, denial, acceptance and light. Each session includes suggested clips from the film, as well as questions for discussion, Bible readings and closing prayers.

The same session will run on both days each week, so come and join us at the group that suits you best, or mix and match as you go!

Join us on
Saturday 21st February
at 3pm, at Emmanuel Church,
for a Film Afternoon...

Free!



Bring
your own
snacks

This year, our Lent groups "Time to Talk about Lent" are using a resource that is based on the film *Mary Poppins Returns* - come and watch the film!

And even if you're not coming to our Lent groups - you'll be very welcome at our film afternoon, it's open to all!

Emmanuel Community Hubs

Our Thursday Hubs continue to thrive, and we're delighted to welcome everyone—whether you're joining us for a chat, crafts, a warm drink, or a slice of cake! We meet every Thursday from 10am–1pm, and it's been wonderful to see how our community has grown over the past few years. We now have a lovely mix of regulars and new faces each week, and our banner outside continues to attract even more visitors. Please keep spreading the word to friends, neighbours, and family—there's always room for more!

Our hub is only possible thanks to our incredible volunteers, we're so grateful for their time, kindness, and enthusiasm each week. If you'd like to join the volunteer team—whether weekly or just for the occasional hour or two—please speak to Mark Taylor, who will be happy to help you get involved.

Our Saturday Hubs are also still taking place with Live Music, see details of our upcoming musicians below:

28th February – Melling Gospel Choir

28th March – Performing Arts Academy

25th April – Emmanuels Got Talent (variety acts)

23rd May – Richard Barry

If you have any articles you wish to go in the next In Touch these need to be received by 20th March to be published in the April & May Issue

Please contact Meg Langton at meganjane124@gmail.com if you have any information to be included or speak to Mark Taylor on 07932406696.

Our websites are maintained by **Weblin Design** and **Village Computer Services** Thank you Ben & Sara