

Children  
and Young  
People at  
Formby  
Methodist  
Church

Issue: 4/2023

Coming soon



**Christmas @  
Formby  
Methodist**  
Details on back page



# FOOTSTEPS

The festive season had come early to Formby Methodist Church with 'Christmas Footsteps' on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The afternoon started in church with badge and bag making, games, decorating a Christmas tree and the quiz. The questions ranged from 'Which prophet predicted the birth of Jesus?' (Isaiah) to 'How many mince pies

are eaten in the UK each year?' Estimates vary but it's about 800 million.



Everyone then gathered together to sing and watch a DVD telling the Christmas story. The main story

was very familiar—Mary and Joseph, Jesus born in a stable, angels, shepherds and wisemen. But we must remember it didn't stop at the stable. Mary and Joseph couldn't go home immediately—they became refugees and Jesus then grew up to face many challenges for trying to 'do the right thing' ... but that's another story. So while Christmas is about having a really good time and enjoying the presents and a break from school (or work) it is important to remember that God sent us the best present of all—Jesus, God with us.

After the DVD we sang 'Come and join the celebration' before going through into the Maple Leaf room for the junk challenge. The theme was 'Nativity' so there were cribs, donkeys and even a 'live' baby Jesus being born as one of the girls jumped

out of a box when we were looking at the finished models.

The crafts in the hall all had a Christmas theme with a star card, a nativity mobile,



an angel, Christmas tree decoration, a pastry star to bake and a count down to Christmas with baby Jesus finishing up in the manger on Christmas Day. There were also skittles, sugar lump balancing and present sorting for those who preferred to play games.

All too soon it was time to finish off crafts and go

through to the Circle room for tea. There were lots of things to choose from—especially for pudding—fairy cakes, brownies, profiteroles, jam tarts, mince pies, chocolate loaf and ice cream!

Our next Footsteps is on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 but it would be great to see you before then. Why not come to Christingle and Cake on 9<sup>th</sup> December or the Nativity service on Christmas Eve?

**The next Footsteps is on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 3:30-6pm**

## Explorers



Aged 11 or over? Join us on Sundays at 10:30am for hot chocolate, games and chat.



## Brownies

**Thursdays,  
term time,  
6:15-7:45pm**



What a busy time we have had so far in our Brownie Unit.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Also our sincere congratulations go to Happy Owl, on starting her Young Leader qualification, which is going tremendously well ... well done!

Another massive well done goes out to Crafty Owl who has taken like a



Firstly, we would like to offer a warm welcome to one of the Mums, official Owl name to be determined, together with all our new Brownies.



duck to water with her leadership qualification.

Also a very big 'thank you' to a silent leader at our Unit, Finance Owl who has the fun task of balancing the books. We would be lost without her.

To all our leaders at 6<sup>th</sup> Formby Methodist Brownies, thank you, thank you, thank you, you really are 'our' unsung heroes! The Brownies are lucky to have you.

Our Brownie Unit is now full to capacity, with a long waiting list of girls wanting to join us. We must be doing something well!

So far we have had a jam packed few weeks. Our wonderful Brownies took part in a Chippy Hike, where our activities that evening included all things potato! We played potato pass the parcel, sang about potatoes and went on a hike to our local chippy ... all while singing about potatoes

through the village only to find that they had shut for a week's holiday. But in true Brownie fashion, we were not to be put off. We arranged for a special delivery of chips, that we all enjoyed eating back at Church. All the Brownies received their 'Chippy Hike Badge'.



We also had a visit from a St John Ambulance volunteer who kindly showed our eager Brownies some very useful first aid tips. These tips enabled our Brownies to earn their First Aid badge.

We had a very successful and enjoyable meeting with sparklers and making smores. Six packs of chocolate biscuits really do disappear quite quickly!

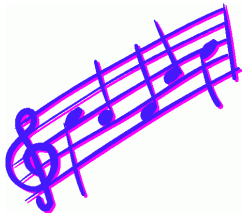
On the build up to Christmas, we have loads of enjoyable meetings lined up, not to

mention our annual  
carol singing in  
Tesco. We hope you



can pop along and give us a  
wave.

## Adventurers Every Sunday 10:30-11:30am



Name that tune!

At Harvest, we  
had a Pictionary

challenge to '**draw a tune**'.

We made a collage picture of  
one of our designs for the  
front porch. Did you recog-  
nise the purple-headed moun-  
tain with the river running  
by?

In the Maple Leaf room you  
will see another collage. It is  
a vine because we heard  
about three of the parables  
Jesus told that used a vine-  
yard to explain the way that  
God would like us to live. We  
liked the one about the two  
sons. One said 'Yes' but didn't  
help and the other said 'No'  
but changed his mind when  
asked by their father to

help. We mustn't be shy to  
change our minds if we real-  
ise we got something wrong.



Half term was busy  
with visits to fam-  
ily, baking, reading  
and light parties.

We do like sharing our news  
(and biscuits) each week and  
congratulations on all of the  
'Star of the week' certifi-  
cates from school, the Blue  
Peter badges, clubs attended  
and promotions gained.

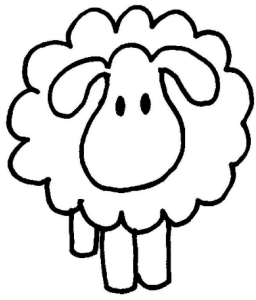
Hardly a week goes past  
without an exchange of rec-  
ommendations  
for films,  
plays or local  
events.



For this year's Christmas  
tree festival we have chosen

**animals of the Christmas Story** for our theme so have been making lots of woolly sheep, well dressed camels and big eyed donkeys!

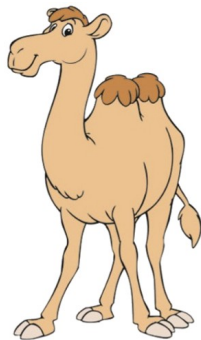
*Did you know?*



Sheep are mentioned about 500 times and shepherds about 60 times in the Bi-

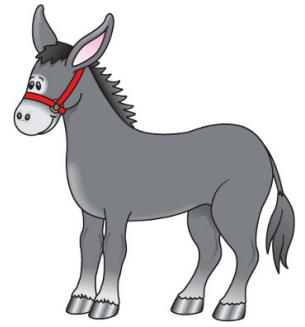
ble but **we** didn't count them.

Camels were useful for transporting goods and travellers, for providing milk and fibres for cloth but we could only think of two New Testament examples ... how about you?



Whilst horses were symbols

of power, donkeys were symbols of peace ... very appropriate for Jesus on his last journey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. But did



Mary travel on a donkey to Bethlehem? The Bible doesn't say so but we hope she did as 90 miles is a long way to walk for a pregnant lady.

We all want to thank you for the special Bible books which were presented to us in church and

**we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.**



**TLC**

formbymethodist@yahoo.com

**2024 dates**

**15<sup>th</sup> February ~ 4<sup>th</sup> April ~**

**30<sup>th</sup> May ~ 25<sup>th</sup> July ~**

**31<sup>st</sup> October**

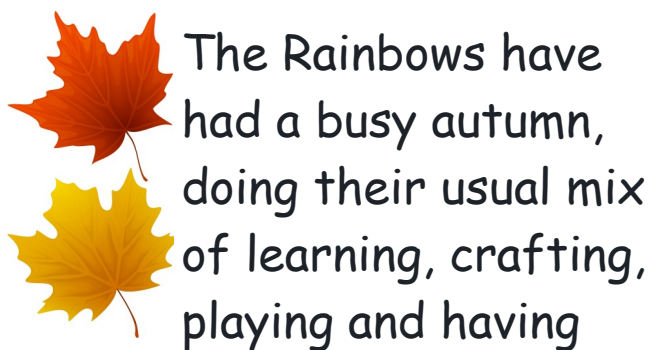


## Christmas Eve Family Nativity service

Join us on Christmas Eve at  
4:30pm for a short service.  
All ages are welcome.  
Come and hear the Christmas  
story, sing Carols and if you  
want to dress up you can.



**Thursdays, term  
time, 5-6pm**



The Rainbows have had a busy autumn, doing their usual mix of learning, crafting, playing and having fun. We have welcomed several new Rainbows, who have settled in brilliantly and they all made their promises recently.



We have done several activities about rainbows including beautiful rainbow mosaics. Our themes this term are 'Know Myself' and 'Take Ac-



tion'. We have had some wonderful discussions with the girls about the things that make them special and unique, and the causes that are important to them. They have gained skills in working as a team, collaborating on projects such as building a 'team machine'.

We have done some autumn



themed activities, such as making pumpkin treat baskets and paper poppies, and



we are looking forward to lots more crafting ready for Christmas!



Back in October some members of Explorers and Adventurers went to the NEC in Birmingham to attend the Youth weekend 3Generate. This is held every year for Methodist Children and Young People. This year 1,300 children and young people attended. This is a diary of the weekend.

Friday: It was a long journey to Birmingham and I did get bored halfway through. At the end of the journey I could see the place where we were staying, the NEC. I was very excited.

We came in, found our tents and got settled. Then we went to the village for dinner. This year we had something different to packed lunches, we had 'street food'. Later on we had a look around the place as for some of us it was our first time at 3Generate. After that we got tired and decided to go to bed. I didn't have any sleep though! The next morning (Saturday), I went for breakfast then we went back to our tents to decide which activities to do. There were loads to choose from. In one area we spun the wheel and it landed on 'care.' This was one of the 12 words on the wheel which helped us to think about how we should live. We then

found a yurt to sit in, it was really comfy and perfect for chatting!

After that in the same area, I also found a mirror which you could write on with a marker. We wrote words about God.

I went to an inflatable church later on and prayed for the fish in the middle of the Ocean.

We also had a planning session about what else we should do.

We went to a place called 'Sensory space' shaped like a dome where you can relax, I sat on a yoga ball.

The evening started with an 'After Eight' challenge. Can you get an After Eight from your forehead to your mouth without using your hands?

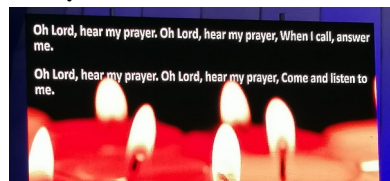
We then went to the silent disco and had fun.

On Sunday morning, we had a go at the artificial caving.

Some people tried climbing.

In the sensory space I was doing some string art.

The same day in the globe we experienced Taize (a kind of



worship which involves sing-

ing simple songs, readings and prayers as well as silence) and re-enacted the feeding of the 5,000 without fish.

By the end we were exhausted (especially the leaders). We ate our lunch, got on the coach and relaxed as we travelled home.



Did you visit the Shoebox Express Bazaar on 14<sup>th</sup> October?

It seemed like all the Guides, Adventurers and Explorers



were there, manning stalls in the morning and

filling shoeboxes in the afternoon. They were kept very busy by the generous people who sponsored Christmas shoeboxes ahead of, or on the day.

The Shoebox Express Bazaar would not exist were it not for all the people like you



who give their time and for the church donating its' buildings for

the day. The Shoebox Express elves would like to say

a big 'thank you'. A total of 556 Christmas shoeboxes were made that Saturday - a new record for Formby Methodist Church. There was also a new record for the kitchen - over 200 bacon baps were served by the hard working catering team. So far this year, 1100 Christmas shoeboxes have been made for children in Ukraine.

Did you know? A lot of people attended the bazaar for the first time and some said this would be the start of an annual tradition for their family. So, what do you say? Same time next year?



## WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Our meetings continue to be supported by regular attendees and a few newer Dads and children. November's

**Free play group for dads, granddads & father figures with children aged 0 to 7+**

meeting had 11 youngsters which was good.

We have toys and games for

all, a craft table where we made Halloween items and rice filled balloons as Christmas decorations plus fire-work paintings for Bonfire

night.

We always end with the parachute and a prayer with a good time being had by all.

# WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Give mum some time off

Free play group for dads, granddads and male carers with children up to 7+

Meet other dads

Tea, coffee, toast

**FIRST SATURDAY IN EVERY MONTH**  
2023 Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2024 Jan 6<sup>th</sup>  
Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>...

**10-11:30AM**

**Formby Methodist Church Hall**  
Elbow Lane, Formby L37 4AF

Tristan  
**07752 612775**

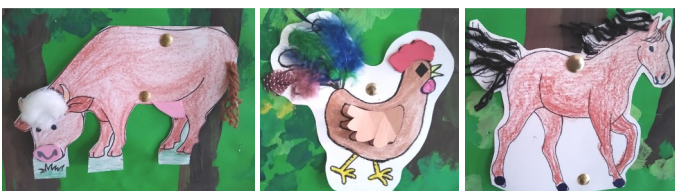
Find us on [f](#) **WLTDOfarmby**

## Toddlers Thursday 9:30-11:30am

We have welcomed new families who come to us from Formby and the surrounding area. All are very welcome. The craft table is still busy with the boys and girls sticking, glueing and colouring a different farm animal each week to take home at the end

of the morning. Come and see the animals on the board in the Circle room. The children enjoy singing 'Old MacDonald' with various animal noises conjured up.

In the Circle room, the children's kitchen continues to be popular, as does the doll's house and the prams with the dolls in their new beautifully knitted clothes. But the ice



cream trolley is still the main attraction!



The hall provides space for the big cars and

trikes which are in great demand, plus a slide for the adventurous youngsters.

At 10:45 fruit, biscuits and drinks are provided in the hall, while the Circle room is prepared for the popular singing, birthday celebrations, notices and the 'throwing' of the prayer cube. It was lovely to see some of our present and past Toddlers at the Shoebox Express. We hope to see some of you at our Christmas

Events—the first of which was our Christmas Fair, including the Christmas tree festival. The children had decorated the Toddlers Christmas tree in Church.



At the end of October we were sad to say farewell to two helpers who have been such stalwart helpers each Thursday. We wish them God's blessing as they move — they will be missed.

We're delighted to welcome a new member to the team of helpers. He has volunteered to help with room preparation and tidying away chairs, tables and toys each Thursday.

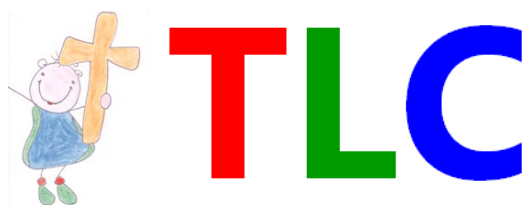


## FOOTSTEPS 2024

Bible-based, family fun and games.

20<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> May,  
22<sup>nd</sup> June (tbc), 15<sup>th</sup> August,  
28<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Email: [footsteps\\_fmc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:footsteps_fmc@yahoo.co.uk)



Next TLC  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
9:30-11:30am



Cats miaowing, dogs barking, horses neighing and even lions roaring. Where was it? Was it Old MacDonald's farm? No, the words were different.

It was a man called Noah, he'd built an enormous boat called an ark and there were tigers and tortoises, penguins and polar bears, kangaroos and koalas all to be rounded up and taken to the Ark.

They had to come in out of the rain so God could save them.

It was a good job we had some older brothers and sisters to help us. We're so glad you came.

Well we have had a lot of rain but happily this ark was

in church and we were quite dry but it was VERY noisy with all these animals.



We made lion cards with a picture on the back of Noah's Ark and a rainbow because ...

... the rainbow in the sky above reminds us all of God's love.

After all our hard work running around and singing we enjoyed our snacks over in the hall and playing with the big toys. The older ones liked the Lego, Connect Four, table football and hockey.

The next TLC will be February half term.

Check our website for other fun events like Christingle and Nativity.

# Guides

Thursdays, term time,  
7:30-9pm

This September, we were happy to welcome 11 new Guides to 6<sup>th</sup> Formby Methodist Guides! With so many new Guides in our unit, it has been great seeing them all get to know each other and work together each week!

The Guides have been working towards earning their 'Skills For My Future'



Theme award this term. This has included sewing their own clip-in hair bows, becoming taste-testers for an hour and cooking homemade veggie

tomato sauce for quesadillas! Our Guides have enjoyed many new games and challenges this term as well. They even created their own mini-museums, filled with interesting items and sentimental pieces including rare coins and Guide badges through the generations.

We also had 18 Guides help out at the Shoebox



Express, managing the toy and sweet stalls, as well as filling as many boxes as they could for children in Ukraine this Christmas.



# Christmas @ Formby Methodist

As well as our usual Sunday services there are the following special services which you'd be welcome to come to:

9<sup>th</sup> December      4:30pm    Christingle and Cake

17<sup>th</sup> December    6:30pm    Carol Service

Christmas Eve      4:30pm    Family Nativity Service

Christmas Day      10:30am Christmas Family Service

***Wherever you spend Christmas we wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

***For more information please email [formbymethodist@yahoo.com](mailto:formbymethodist@yahoo.com) or go to our NEW website <https://formbymethodist.church/>***