

Children
and Young
People at
Formby
Methodist
Church

Issue: 4/2024

Coming soon



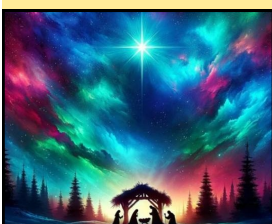
Thank you!



7th Dec
4th Jan

CHRISTINGLE
& CAKE

14th
Dec



Christmas
[See back page](#)

FOOTSTEPS



25th Jan

It was very busy at the Shoebox Express Christmas Bazaar on 12th October. Did you visit and pack a Christmas shoebox for a child in Ukraine? The Shoebox Express elves and their helpers were very impressed with all the wonderful boxes packed by the Brownies, Adventurers and Explorers.

In total, we have been able to send 1,150 Christmas shoeboxes this year.

Our friends at International Aid Trust will put them on a lorry that will take them into Ukraine, where they will be transferred to small vans for distribution in towns and villages across the country. We will share the




1,150 boxes



photographs that are taken in the new year.

Have you heard of Artificial Intelligence - computers that think and act like people?

 Shoebox Express put one to the test and asked it to write a jingle

for Shoebox Express. It took all of half a second! What do

you think of the results?

The Shoebox Express elves wish you a very Happy Christmas with your families and friends.



*Wrap it up, fill it high,
A little box, reaching the sky!
Shoebox Express, it's time to share,
Sending love with hope and care!*



*Shoebox Express, we're on our way,
Spreading joy every single day!
With every gift, we make a smile,
Together we can go the extra mile!*

*Toys and treats, clothes so warm,
Helping hands through any storm.
From heart to heart, we'll send the light,
Making their world a little bright!*



At the start of October a group of young people and leaders from Formby and Southport headed to Bir-

mingham's National Exhibition Centre (NEC) for a weekend of fun with other young people from Methodist Churches all over the UK.

Here is a diary of the weekend.

On Friday we arrived, we had dinner and settled in.



Then in

the evening I went to a magic show with Joel from *Blue Peter*. It finished at 11pm.

On Saturday I had breakfast, at 8am I did 'wake up and shake up'. I then made soap in the globe, did the leap of faith and climbed the

grey wall. There was a talk about ending poverty, before I went to the Dynamic Earth which was really fun.

On Sunday morning we packed up in the morning and then I had a go at the smoothie bike - you pedalled and it turned the energy into electricity to make your smoothie.

In the afternoon there was the big worship with everyone and a band called Moses and Brothers. There was then time to squeeze in a silent disco worship before we left.

Toddlers Thursday 9:30-11:30am

This term it has been lovely to welcome several new babies joining their older siblings and some new mums joining us and comparing progress with other mums.

Last year's babies have now found their way from the baby area and are venturing out into the exciting world of play houses, jigsaws, the play



kitchen and ice cream van and exploring the sit-and-ride toys in the big hall. For the quieter moments there is the book corner.

It's great to see their determination as their concentra-



tion and dexterity improve until they're capable of tackling the craft

activity unaided. This term our theme is nursery rhyme characters.

After snack time, we finish



with the usual nursery rhymes. It's amazing how many unusual creatures Old MacDonald has on his farm. The antics of the toddler's trying to imitate the actions to 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow', 'Heads and Shoulders' and, of course, the finale 'Hokey Cokey' give great pleasure! Come and join us next Thursday. You'll be very welcome.

A Sunday morning group for teenagers – join us for games and chat at 10:30.

Explorers

Adventurers Every Sunday 10:30-11:30am

Children just like me

It was good to greet all of our children back from their family holidays in September and to hear about some of

the new friends they had made. Our first session was a lively **trading game challenge** which made us



realise that common trading practices are not fair on the poorer countries with smaller farms and low-paid workers. Our more experienced members soon took advantage of our little people but some of those were quite quick to pick up a few trading tricks too! We can all find **Fair Trade** products in our Formby supermarkets if we look out for **this symbol** on the packaging.



September was the first time that our Adventurers and Explorers were responsible for serving coffee after church. We



thought about the **good causes** we could choose to

support. We heard about a **donkey sanctuary** and wondered whether to choose a charity supporting animals. We had heard about climate change in the Eco Church

Service and wondered whether to choose an **environment charity**. We also thought that as the children of the church we represented **the needs of children** in our country today so this was the idea that won the vote. We found out about the work of **Action For Children** who continue the work started by National Children's Homes that our grannies used to raise money for by selling **Sunny Smiles** at Sunday School in the sixties!



On the day, we made a poster for the serving hatch and **thank you cards** for the tables while the mums made and served the coffee. We hope you liked the jammie dodgers and **thank you** for the £105 donated. We will be back again next year so look out for us!

We also enjoyed supporting

Shoebox Express

either by filling shoe-



boxes to send to the children in Ukraine or helping on stalls. We have chosen 'Children just like me' as the theme for our Christmas tree in this year's tree festival. Instead of tinsel we wound paper chains of children and young people from other countries around our tree and put the names of our friends and family abroad on the blue and green worlds we made by spraying coffee filter papers.

When we switch on the fairy lights it reminds us that God's love came down to chil-

dren everywhere when Jesus was born as the 'Light of the World' at Christmas.

How many Bible stories can you think of that feature babies or children? Jesus taught us that they have a special place in God's heart



and that we should protect them and be willing to learn from

them too, that is, to listen like Samuel and to share like the boy with the loaves and fishes.

Thank you to the leaders for the half-term games morning in November... the Jenga challenge may be back with other games at our Pancake and Pizza lunch on 2nd March.



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



Our Brownies have been galloping through a term full of

action, laughter and creativity, and we're thrilled to

share the highlights with you! We kicked off the term with a water night, making the most of the nice weather! The girls had a blast with our Brownie twist on 'Duck Duck Goose', called 'Drip Drip Drop', where each 'goose' got a little splash of water to cool off. But the real highlight was 'Soggy Bottoms', where the girls dashed to the end of the field to sit on a huge sponge soaked in water - earning them, as you can imagine, plenty of laughs and truly soggy bottoms! It was a refreshing, fun start to our term.

Over two wild-and-wonderful weeks, the Brownies embraced their inner cowgirls with Cowboy Night. Each girl created her own cowboy name and got into character with a hat, neckerchief and even a moustache! They conquered an obstacle course, facing challenges like jumping

over 'Rattlesnake Alley' (a series of skipping ropes), crawling under the 'hay cart' (a table), lassoing a cow (well, a chair) and finally grabbing the gold. The following week, our Brownies donned plaid shirts and cowboy boots for a wild west-style line-dancing session. They picked up the moves effortlessly - unlike me! - and danced the night away with style!

Many of you may have seen some of our girls helping pack shoeboxes at the Shoebox Express. They were a credit to our unit and loved pitching in. They spent a great deal of time and effort carefully packing each box to fit the maximum number of items. Some of our girls even helped a few shoppers pack their boxes, and the joy on their faces as they worked together was heartwarming to see.

Last week, we held an indoor

campfire night and our Brownies were on top form! From classic tunes like 'Ging Gang Goolie' to a remix of 'The Campfire Song', they sang their hearts out, filling the room with amazing energy. After a quick pit stop at our ice cream sundae bar, they recharged and jumped back into another round of songs with gusto!

We also stumbled upon a new favourite game that's quickly become a hit. The girls race to the end of the room to find a malteser perched on a plate and the only thing separating them from their treat

is a layer of flour! The challenge of digging through the flour with only their faces was met with lots of laughter, and let's just say there were floury faces all around!

To wrap up this term, we'll be spreading holiday cheer with some carol singing at Tesco, helping raise funds for our unit. The girls will be singing their favourite carols. Thank you for your continued support and happy holidays from all of us at Brownies!



FOOTSTEPS 2025

Bible-based, family fun and games.

25th January, 22nd March, 10th May,
21st June, 14th August,
27th September, 22nd November

Email: footsteps_fmc@yahoo.co.uk

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Free playgroup for dads and male carers
with children up to 7 yrs old

Give mum
some time
off

Meet other
dads

Baby corner,
toys and
games

Free snacks
and drinks

Craft activity

FIRST SATURDAY
IN EVERY MONTH

2024	Dec 7 th
2025	Jan 4 th
	Feb 1 st
	Mar 1 st
	...



10-11:30AM



**Formby Methodist
Church Hall**

Elbow Lane, Formby L37 4AF



Tristan



07752 612775

Find us on [f](#) **WLTD Formby**



TODDLERS LITTLE CHURCH

Mr Noah, his family and lots of animals came to TLC. We made a paper ark and put Noah and lots of animals inside. (We put a sample of this on the Toddler notice board in the Circle room for you to see.)



We heard about Noah and his family. God told them to build an enormous ark (boat)

and to take 2 of every animal on board. They did this; they closed the doors; and then it started to rain. It rained and it rained and it rained, but they were safe on the Ark. When it stopped raining and the water had gone away, Noah let all the animals out to go and make new homes; and God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky and said that He



would never flood the whole earth again.



We then searched the Church to find animals to go in the big ark.

This proved to be thirsty

work and so we went to the Circle room for drinks, fruit, biscuits and toast.

We just had enough time left to play on the ride-on toys, table football and the big Connect Four.

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

Almost unbelievably, Who Let The Dads Out Formby started 6 years ago. We stopped for 6 months in 2020, as many groups did, but over the rest of the time we've enjoyed ourselves each month.

Lots of **tea, coffee, toast and grapes** have been consumed; lots of games of **table football and giant 4-in-a-row** played; and of course we have got through plenty of

craft materials. We've also got pretty expert at the **parachute games** which round off the morning.

Thank you to all the father figures and their children who made WLTD0 2024 so enjoyable.

We're looking forward to 2025, with the first Saturday in January, February and March confirmed.

Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us at WLTD0.

WLTD0? * 7th December * 4th January

FOOTSTEPS



Next one ... 25th
Jan., 3:30-6pm

Since the last edition of 'Our News' there have been two busy and exciting Footsteps - here are the highlights.

Back at the end of September, to celebrate Harvest, we heard the story of Ruth and Naomi. These were two women who became friends and despite lots of sad and difficult things happening they stayed friends and supported each other proving that 'true friends stick together'. The challenge was to make a scarecrow and there were lots of harvest and autumn crafts including a hedgehog bread roll.



And now coming right up to

date we've just had Christmas Footsteps.

Can you believe that by the time you read this it will be less than 28 sleeps to Christmas (for

our older readers I haven't counted afternoon naps!).

The afternoon started in Church with Christmas themed badges and bags, the quiz and games. One of the challenges was to build a tower with empty coffee tins - the winner managed to make it 11 storeys high.

There were also Christmas tree decorations to make and hang on the tree which will be included in the church Christmas tree festival. We then joined together to sing some of our regular songs including 'Jesus love is very



wonderful' and 'Who's the King of the Jungle'. A DVD of the Christmas Story followed - reminding us that along with all the presents, sweets and lights we need to remember the ultimate gift - Jesus came down to us at Christmas and he is still here for us now, more than 2,000 years later, if we take the time to look for him.

It was then time to go through to the Maple Leaf room for the junk challenge - making nativity figures. There were lots of baby Jesus' in the manger along with Mary, sheep, donkeys and presents. The models have been put at the bottom of the Footsteps Christmas tree so that everyone can see them.

There were more Christmas themed crafts and games in the hall with a wooden nativity scene, Christmas tree biscuit to ice, shepherd and

an advent calendar to make



plus whack the present as it fell down the chimney, shove a penny and spelling Bethlehem with block letters to mention but a few.

The afternoon finished with tea, including mince pies (just some of the 800 million the UK eats each year), and then prizes for the winners of the games and quiz.

Footsteps returns in 2025 - it would be great to see you on Saturday 25th January.



The Rainbows have had a super autumn. We have welcomed several new Rainbows who have made their promises and enjoyed getting involved in all our activities.



This term we have been working on the 'Skills for My Future' theme and the girls have been very busy completing the different components. All the Rainbows have completed their 'Construction' badge, which involved learning about materials, having a go at being town planners and making their own



model buildings. We have also been learning about each other's skills, talents and beliefs and how we can be leaders as part of our 'Lead' badge. The girls have shown brilliant skills working together to make a marble run and untangling various problems!

As always, we have celebrated the season's special occasions making pumpkin door hangings and our own (safe!) fireworks. We are looking forward to the crafts and activities we will be doing to celebrate Christmas.

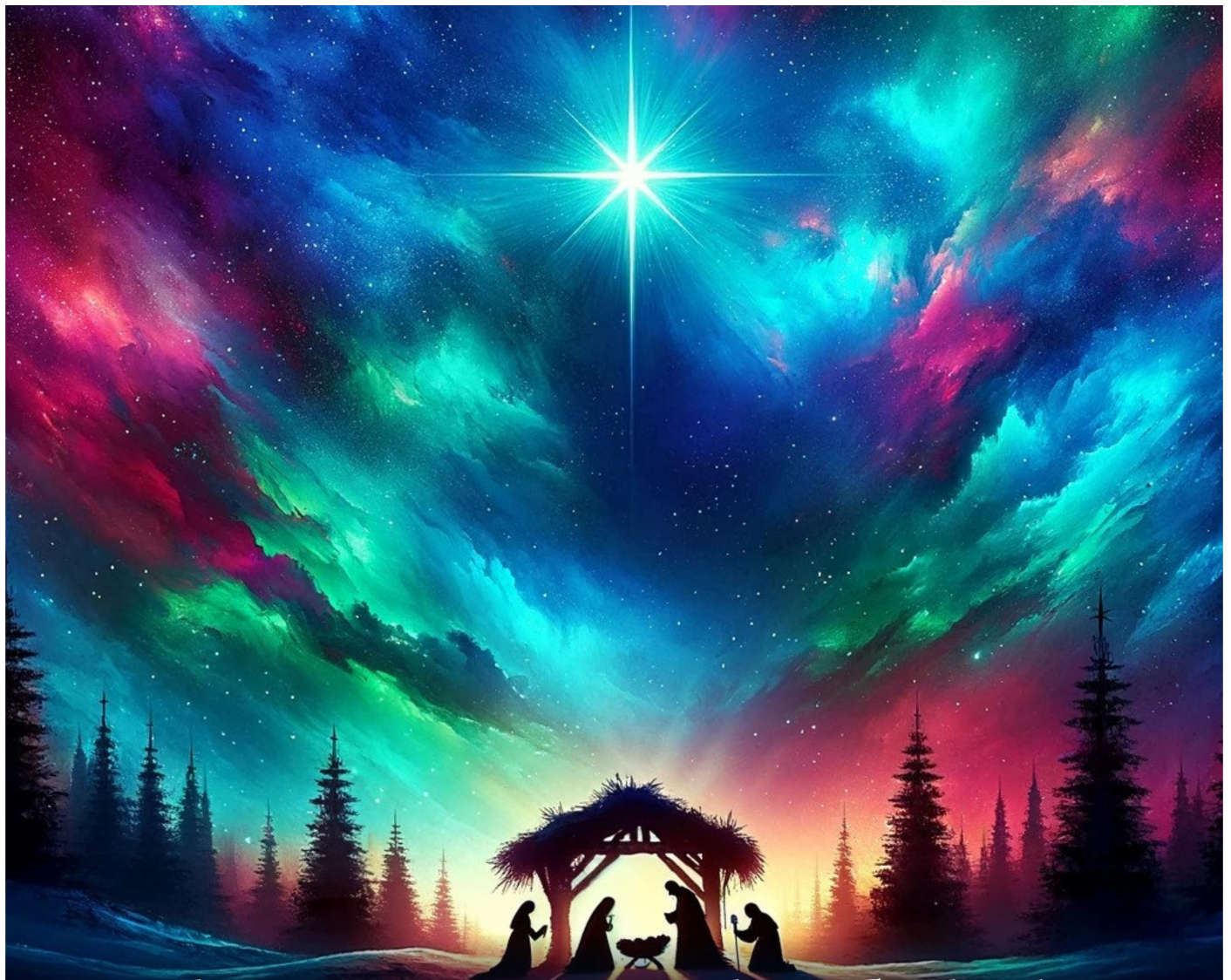




Christmas Eve Family Nativity Service

Join us on Christmas Eve at **4:30pm** for a short service. All ages welcome.

Come and hear the Christmas story, sing Carols and if you want to dress up you can.



Christmas at Formby Methodist

As well as the weekly 10:30am Sunday service, together with the groups for children and teenagers, there are the following special services which you'd be more than welcome to join us for:

Saturday 14th December - 4:30pm Christingle and Cake

Sunday 22nd December - 4:30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 4:30pm Family Nativity Service

Christmas Day - 10:30am Family Service

Wherever you spend Christmas we hope you have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.