



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

April 2015

LOVE is when a Man
wipes your tears, even after
you left Him *hanging on*
the cross for your sins.

We have so much to be thankful for.....

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I wonder how many life changing events you have experienced? Getting married, giving birth to my three children and being ordained were pretty life changing for me.

Fortunately I've not yet experienced those tragic life changing experiences such as losing a parent or someone else close to me. I wonder what we would consider the major life changing events of world history. There are many we could choose from: the signing of the Magna Carta, perhaps; Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo; the outbreak of the First and Second World Wars; Einstein's publication of the theory of relativity; the discovery of penicillin; the assassination of President Kennedy; the first landing on the moon; the unravelling of DNA, and so we could go on.

Many events of history and personal experience have unquestionably and powerfully changed and shaped people's lives for better or worse. But none will have had the far-reaching influence of the resurrection of Christ or the same capacity to change lives for ever.

Why? Because we celebrate not simply the one who rose but the one who lives, not just his victory over death but ours too, not a one-off event but an enduring reality. That's what Easter is about: life for you, for me, for all; life lived now in a new dimension, transformed by his touch; life that will go on being lived with him for all eternity. It's a message that has shaped countless lives across the world and throughout the ages, and it goes on shaping ours today.

May God's blessing be with you this Easter time, and always!

Rev Jan

CHARITY NIGHT SUCCESS

On Saturday 28th March a Charity Night was held at the Fleetwood Hesketh Sports & Social Club. Over 150 people attended the event to raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research and The Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at The Royal Liverpool Hospital.

A raffle of prizes donated by a number of local businesses and an auction including sports and music memorabilia were held and an incredible £3322.71 was raised!

Guests enjoyed a delicious hot pot meal made by Steve Williamson and were then entertained by former Meols Cop High School pupil and 2011 Finalist at The Open Mic UK Competition, singer Lauren Kate Brown, followed by DJ Trevor Jones of Pacino Entertainment.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out and supported the fundraising! Whether it was giving items for the raffle and the auction, donating money, attending the Coffee Morning last November or the Charity Night itself. To raise such a huge amount for both

causes is amazing and will towards helping current and future Leukaemia patients as they go through their treatment!

Darren Wright

Maurice Bernard Johnson (1948-2014)

Published in the The Red Rose (2015), the Magazine of the Old Georgians' Association

Maurice was born in Southport on 24 June 1948 and lived in Marshside during his childhood and his years at KGV (1959-66). After leaving school he attended Dudley College of Education, where he met his future wife Pauline. They married in 1971 and both taught in Leicestershire primary schools until 1976, but Maurice had another life, having been part of the strong Methodist community in Marshside and become a local preacher at the age of 16. Even then it was suggested to him that he should become a minister and in 1974 he felt called to do so. Maurice and Pauline moved to Queen's College, Birmingham in 1976, and were posted to the Forest of Dean in 1979, where Maurice had pastoral charge of seven churches. After a probationary period he was Ordained in 1981. A period of ministry on the Isle of Man from 1986 to 1994 followed that in the Forest of Dean.

Maurice and Pauline had no children by birth, but bravely adopted Andrew, a baby with multiple disabilities caused by rubella, from 1985. Bringing him up involved learning and teaching him British Sign Language among many other complications. By 1993 Andrew needed mainland schooling and after a year of him commuting by air to Derby School for the Deaf each week the family left the Isle of Man for Derbyshire. For health reasons Maurice had to take early retirement soon afterwards and from 1997 home for the Johnsons and Pauline's mother was in the Derbyshire village of Swanwick. Although he had given up the more onerous responsibilities of ministry Maurice remained a very active member of the Methodist church until his death. He and Pauline also became Companions of the Northumbria Community, combining their religious and Celtic cultural interests.

Maurice had a third life, being passionately interested in trams, and for a while worked as a volunteer at the National Tramway Museum at Crich, a few miles from Swanwick. He has left three very thick lever-arch files of research into the Amsterdam tramway system carried out over three decades and more, plus other equally intense studies. His other interests were too numerous for justice to be done to them here but included languages, from New Testament Greek through Dutch to Manx Gaelic, and a wide range of music as well as travel.

Unfortunately, Maurice was found to have some pre-cancerous tissue a few years ago. After removal of this he was duly monitored annually until for some reason possibly connected with NHS pennies he was told he did not need to be seen for another three years. You can guess the rest (and please take heed from this story): during those years

he developed actual cancer and by the time it was detected it had become terminal. For a brief period it went into remission and he was able to enjoy final visits to places he loved. Somehow Pauline, herself somewhat disabled, found the strength to drive him to Norway and back in May 2014, in spite of the cancer being by then "terminally terminal". By June Maurice was housebound and could only cope with being visited for an hour so. He passed away on 31 July after a few days in a hospice. Tragically his mother-in-law Barbara, who had lived with him and Pauline for over twenty years, died during the same month, so that Pauline was doubly bereaved by his death.

In spite of many misfortunes down the years Maurice and Pauline refused to complain of anything life brought them and obtained great strength from a religious faith which is difficult for many of us to comprehend. My last visits to Maurice in the weeks before his death were an inspiration and a lesson to me and I can only admire the way Pauline has coped and is coping. I am sure the sympathies of all who knew Maurice at KGV will go out to her and to Andrew, who now lives semi-independently not far away.

David M. Suffolk (Sp. 1959-66)

Somewhere Else

Hidden above a book shop on Bold Street, not even a five minute walk away from Liverpool Central Station lies 'Somewhere Else' - Liverpool's city centre Methodist Church. Jan took Carmen and me last Thursday. Honestly, I did not know what to expect, how can a church not look like a church? Where were the pews? Where was the pulpit? It was at this point, I realised that there is a whole world of church out there that I have no experience of. Church is not about the building, it's the people that make a church and boy this was a place where I felt like I had come home.

The gorgeously flamboyant Reverend Ian Hu along with two volunteers Liz and Sue welcomed us like old friends. There were no dog collars, no Sunday best clothes, just a clean pinny and tea towel were offered! There were other people there to bake bread, about 18 of us in total. Ian explained that we could make two loaves, one to keep and eat ourselves and the other to give away as we feel led.

We could make white, granary or wholemeal bread. An enormous table was set out with bowls and all the ingredients. We set out mixing our dough. I had long forgotten how therapeutic kneading dough was. Refreshments were served whilst our loaves were on their first prove. There was a magical aroma of something tasty simmering on the hob. This was lunch, fresh soup made by Ian. Liz and Sue were making bread also, but they were making rolls to have with lunch.

We all chatted like we had known each other for years, these weren't strangers, just friends that we didn't know yet. We learned that Somewhere Else is a one church circuit welcoming those from all faiths and all backgrounds. It has been growing since 1999. How come it has taken me 16 years to discover such a wonderful place?

At 12:30 following the final prove, shape and into the oven, those of us who wished, went to the "cloud room" for prayers and reflection. Ian read from the book of Luke, the story of Zacchaeus up the sycamore tree. We were then invited to light candles for someone. I chose to light mine for Jan as she continues her journey at Marshside Road Methodist Church and to give her the strength to carry on the marvellous work she does with us all.

Lunch time! A steaming bowl of the most glorious soup with freshly baked rolls, thick with butter that you left teeth marks in! An assortment of homemade jams did us for afters, washed down with more tea and coffee. Everybody mucked in when it came to washing up. Such teamwork and friendliness was felt throughout the day. We will return, knowing full well we will be welcomed with the most open of arms.

Back to Southport we came, the smell of freshly baked bread filled the carriage on the train. I gave my loaf to a Marshside member who does so much work, often unacknowledged for our church. I don't wish to give their name on here but what I will say is that they were tickled pink with it. Something as simple as giving away a loaf of bread made me feel amazing and this act of Christianity made me realise that I am a Christian of action, not words

Carmen and I shed many a tear as we were overwhelmed. "Where is God in all this?" I asked. "Can you not feel it ?" asked Jan. "Yes" I replied, and I am still feeling it now."

Kirsty Howard

Thailand Brunch

Thank you for your continued support throughout the time I've been fundraising for my trip to Thailand to work in an orphanage for 2 weeks. One of my final fundraising activities is a brunch on the 11th April from 10am-1pm where there will be everything from bacon butties to cakes and homemade chutney. It would be great to see you there, thank you!

Jake Owen

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** is due to be published on the **Sunday the 10th of May 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 3rd of May**. Please be aware that I will be in Kirkham on a Boys' and Girls' Brigade camp from the 1st until the 3rd of May. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

Your Supporter Number is: 99328181

18 March 2015



Mrs Dorothy Taylor
8 Crostons Brow
Southport
PR9 9QU

Supporter Care
3 The Boulevard
Ascot Road
Watford
WD18 8AG

Thank You

Telephone: 0300 123 2112
ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk

Dear Mrs Taylor,

It's so inspiring to see the tradition of the league of light still shines on in our Home Collecting Box Holders, and that's why I'm writing, to say thank you for the £398.55 you and your Box Holders came together to raise. actionforchildren.org.uk

In these hard financial times, we find more and more young people's lives are affected by poverty. Many parents are struggling to feed their families, leaving many more vulnerable children needing our support. More than ever, every penny we receive is desperately needed to make sure every child and young person we support can achieve their full potential.

The tradition of the League of Light runs deeply in our Home Collection Box Holders, and we are extremely grateful for the valuable time and effort you give as a Secretary, and every gift donated makes a positive difference to a young person's life.

That of course if why we are so grateful for your support, and please be sure to pass our sincere gratitude on to all the Box Holders that made this kind gift possible.

Together we continue to be there, for vulnerable and neglected children and young people, for as long as it takes.

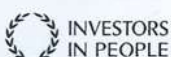
Heartfelt thanks to all involved in the collection, for all your time and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Cook".

Sarah Cook
Director of Fundraising

P.S - If like Action for Children you want to be there for vulnerable and neglected young people for as long as it takes, you may wish to consider remembering Action for Children in your Will. If the time is ever right for you to do so, please contact our Legacy team on 0300 123 2112 or at legacies@actionforchildren.org.uk HCBS0113



Lin Mayor
Mission Secretary
Marshside Road Church
57 Marshside Road
Merseyside
PR9 9TD



For Life
Langdale House
11 Marshalsea Road
London
SE1 1EN
020 3176 5254
Email: info@4lifethailand.org
Website: www.4lifethailand.org

20 March 2015



Dear Lin

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your generous cheque for £316.66 towards our work. We have been so amazed at the wonderful £1248.91 you have raised this year, and so blessed by being your church's project for the 2014-15. In fact, including the £153.60 that I raised by selling crafts, cards and T shirts when I came up to Marshside last March, I make the total over £1400!

I just wanted to add that I really enjoyed meeting you all when I came up last year, and Barney my son still sometimes asks me about going on a fun 'mummy and Barney trip'. We are actually going out to visit CCD in May – can't wait to see the children and how much they have grown up. When you look into those children's face it is absolutely amazing to see how they are developing and how much kind donations (like those from your church) make a massive difference. We will be giving a report when we get back, so watch this space!

Please send my love to everyone there. If I am in the area again in future I will let you know and pop in to visit!

Love in Jesus,

Lydia George
For Life

p.s. thank you for also sending in the gift aid envelopes which we received today. We will process them shortly.

Poem of the Year – supplied by Peter Proctor.

The computer swallowed Grandma,
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control and enter'
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.
I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;

I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.
In desperation, I asked Mr. Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.
So, if inside your 'Inbox';
My Grandma you should see
Please 'Copy, Scan' and Paste' her,
And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nanas & Pops, who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer. They are the greatest!

We do not stop playing because we grow old;

We grow old because we stop playing. NEVER Be The First To Get Old!

Melissa's Thought for the Month – April 2015

Live on a Large Map

This was an attitude with which I was brought up. One of the very early presents which I received was a small globe of the earth mounted at the exact angle to the perpendicular of the earth's axis to the sun's orbit.

There were also the times when one could truly say that the sun never set on the British Empire. This in turn may partially account for the fact that the English language (in one form or another!) is spoken more or less everywhere on earth.

My attitudes were also no doubt influenced by regularly worshipping in a Wesleyan Methodist Church before our happy union in 1932 with both "Primitive" and "United" Methodist. After all, one of Wesley's oft repeated assertion was "The World is my Parish". As an Anglican priest to the day of his death John Wesley was accustomed to the Parish system.

We are talking of when the greater part of the country was rural and the majority of Parishes would be areas of farm land. The Parish was the whole area around the village containing the "Parish Church". Churchtown grew in the neighbourhood of St Cuthbert's Parish Church. It is fascinating to read in the Church that the first rector in the Twelfth Century was "Adam", doubtless his nearest Parish and rector would then be at Croston which also has a historical Church.

What I have appreciated of the Ministry of Tim and Ann Hall has always been their wide vision. It did not surprise me in the least to hear such a good report of Ann Hall's conduct of the Circuit Daffodil Day service at Lord Street West Church. I know that I have always been very pleased when either of them has preached at Marshside Road. I told each of them on the last time I was privileged to be led in worship and in meditation by them.

We were very much aware that she led this inspiring service so soon after her sad loss of Tim in South Africa. I can't help wondering if the heat of the direct sun's rays in their summer may have been too much for his physical health. When we used to stay in the country so often we always went out early morning or after tea time – "Only mad dogs and English men, they go out in the midday sun!"

Those of you who read my "memories" in The Link may recall that I was in fact brought up by an "elderly" Aunt, who was in her forties when I was born, and had "always wanted to travel". My uncle emigrated to Australia when I was born. Unfortunately, I was not able to go that far while she was living and have only been once myself.

Now I am quite happy not going further than Churchtown – not even that for a few weeks. It is therefore even more important to keep up to date with world affairs. Otherwise how can I pray intelligently for all of John Wesley's Parish.

Sometimes I wonder if we at Marshside Road may be too locally parochial. Only two people from our congregation were at the Circuit Daffodil Service.

Melissa.



Church Family News

How brilliant it is to be able to start this page with celebrations! Our first, and greatest celebration, of course, is the most joyous celebration of our Christian calendar, Easter. Throughout holy week, we have been reminded of Christ's suffering – and all for us, then Easter Day! What joy! Christ is risen. Hallelujah!

On March 11th, our minister Jan, celebrated a special birthday. We hope you had a great birthday, Jan & enjoyed your holiday. On 24th March, a celebration was held in the church lounge for our dear friend **Reg Cheshire** as he celebrated his centenary. The lounge was packed with

family & friends and it was wonderful to see Reg enjoying the occasion. He even made a speech, complete with his usual sense of humour! The card from the Queen took pride of place. It was a wonderful occasion.

For several months, **Darren Wright** has been planning a great fund-raising event for Leukaemia & Lymphoma research and the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. During the planning stage, Darren was unwell and was admitted to

hospital so the event, which was held on Saturday 28th March was a double celebration. Firstly that Darren was well enough to be there organising the event at the Fleetwood Hesketh Sports and Social Club and secondly, the wonderful occasion which was enjoyed by everyone who attended. A really great occasion and the amount raised, £3322.71p in total is just amazing! Well done Darren & all your helpers.

Unfortunately, it hasn't been celebrations for everyone this month. Two of our members have had problems which have resulted in admission to hospital. **Tony Rimmer** was admitted to hospital on March 21st. He is home now but has had to remain indoors for a few days. We hope you will very soon be back to full health again Tony, with any further treatment being completed speedily and successfully. **Bill Sutton** is at present in hospital & is likely to remain there for at least a few more days. However, we are pleased to report he is responding well to treatment. Get well soon Bill. We are remembering both you and Tony in our prayers.

Jane Biggs recently had surgery on her neck. She has now recovered from that but she has realised that maybe now is the time to take things a little easier. For several years now, Jane has opened her home on a Tuesday evening for the Tuesday Prayer Fellowship. The prayer group have been extremely grateful to her for this and for her commitment to prayer which has been an inspiration to us all. We know that if Jane is not able to attend the meetings very often now, she is praying along with us in her home. God bless you Jane and thank you for all you have done.

Bob Gardner has not been well enough to worship with us for some time now. He has recently spent time in hospital but is now home where he is being cared for. He remains poorly. Please pray for Bob, his wife Jean and his daughters at this difficult time. We send them our love.

Finally, on Friday 27th March, the funeral service took place here at Marshside Road for **David Abbott**. David, a young man of 29 years of age passed away having suffered from cancer. David was known to this church as a member of the Boys' Brigade, along with his brother and though his family attended Russell Road Church, they chose for the service to be held at Marshside Road. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and his parents, brother and other members of the family at this very sad time.

Once again, please can I ask you to keep me up-dated with family news. I am conscious that there must be those in the church with special events or occasions which we would love to share with them but they are missed from this page because unfortunately I don't know about them. Please forgive me if this has happened to you.

Again, to those not able to share in fellowship with us any more, you are always in our thoughts and I hope you never feel forgotten.

God Bless,

Dorothy Simpkin

Boys' and Girls' Brigade Annual Display

The 10th Southport Boys' Brigade and the 5th Southport Girls' Brigade would like to invite everyone to their Annual Display and Awards evening on Saturday the 9th of May beginning at 6.30pm in the Church Hall.

This is always an entertaining evening and gives the children a chance to show their work from the previous year. It would be brilliant and encouraging to the Officers, boys and girls to see as many members of the Congregation and our Church family as possible at this event.

Thanks,

Kay Owen and the Officers and Children of the Brigades.

Darren Wright's Fundraiser for Leukeamia Research



Bread making at Somewhere Else

Reg Cheshire's 100th Birthday Party



Marshside Road Methodist Church, Southport, PR9 9TL

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk

Ministers : Revd. Jan Fraser

Tel : 01704 227296

Email : revjanfraser@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday Services

09:00 am.	Holy Communion – first Sunday of each Month
10:30 am.	Morning Worship – including Crèche, J Team and Teenscene
18:30 am.	Evening Fellowship – see Weekly Notices

Weekly Programme

Day	Meeting	Time	Contact
Monday	Parent & Toddler Group	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Margaret Boston (211548)
	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Monday Evening Fellowship	20:00 –	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
Tuesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Bible Study Fellowship	10:45 –	Mrs Dorothy Taylor (211643)
	Prayer Fellowship	19:00 – 20:00	Mrs Pat Wright (213647)
Wednesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade	18:30 – 21:30	Mrs Kay Owen (225126)
	Wednesday Group - every 4 th Wednesday		Miss Heather Jackson (532977)
Thursday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Thought for the Day	10:15 –	Mr George Phillips (514795)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Choir Practice	19:30 – 21:00	Mr Glenn Howard (840485)
Friday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Chris Wright's School of Dance & Drama	16:00 – 19:15	Miss Alison Wright (0773 4305348)
Saturday	Chris Wright's School of Dance & Drama	09:15 – 15:00	Miss Alison Wright (0773 4305348)
	Badminton Social Night	19:00 – 22:00	Mr Mike Owen (01704 225126)

Other Contacts :	Church Notices	Mrs Dorothy Simpkin (229987)
	Cradle Roll	Mrs Margaret Boston (211548)
	Magazine/Website Editor	Mr Mike Owen (225126)
	Action for Children Co-ordinator	Mrs Dorothy Taylor (211643)
	Pastoral Committee	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
	Premises Letting Officer	Mr David Goldson (514390)
	World Missions	Mrs Lin Mayor (212059)

Disclaimer :

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