



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

April 2016



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**Love that is unprompted and unexpected
is love that is undeniable and unquestionable!**



Inspiring and Gifted Australian Preacher with
Internationally Acclaimed Story Teller and Author

at

Knutsford Methodist Church

21st and 22nd May 2016

Keith Garner

Rev Dr Keith Garner is CEO of Wesley Mission, New South Wales and has a weekly TV show.



Bob Hartman



Bob Hartman combines traditional folk-tales from around the world with his own inventive stories

Summer Fire, formerly known as The Southport Methodist
Holiness Convention, present the event **Firefest** at
Knutsford Methodist Church.

Saturday 21st May

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| 10:00 -11:00 | Bible Study 'The Call to Christian Holiness'
led by Keith Garner. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11:15 - 12:30 | a) Seminar with Keith Garner on
'Christian Holiness in Practice ' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | b) Seminar with Bob Hartman on
'Story Telling' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12:30 -1:30 | Lunch | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3:00 - 4:00 | The Launch of 4:1 the new Family Service
led by Bob Hartman | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7:30 - 9:00 | Evening Celebration
with Keith Garner | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Sunday 22nd May

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| 9:15 -10:10 | Traditional Morning Worship (Keith Garner)
Theme 'The Church in the Main Street' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10:45 -12:05 | Family Worship led by Keith Garner with
Bob Hartman Theme
'The Church in the Main Street' | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3:30- | CAMEO with Keith Garner
followed by afternoon tea. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6:30 - | Sunday Night Live with Dan Harris | |

In order to assist with catering would you please return this slip,
ticking the individual events that you will be attending to

**Knutsford Methodist Church, Princess Street,
Knutsford, WA16 6BY**

or phone the church office on **01565 652251**

or e-mail **office@kmc.org.uk**

Dear friends,

Well it seems like the past few weeks have been all about sons. On the 18th February my youngest son made me a grandma for the first time as Robbie Thomas Fraser was born at 3 O'clock in the afternoon weighing 7b 3oz. He is gorgeous and doing well and I am so proud of both my son and his son. They came to messy church when Robbie was a week old and completely disrupted our prayer time before the start of Messy church; who knew so many people could move so fast on mass to surround a baby and his dad? It's lovely being a grandma, as I'm sure so many of you know, as so good that they live so close that I can pop round for a cuddle with Robbie whenever I'm passing.

Sadly, these last few weeks we've journeyed with the Cowan family as their son became critically ill and has spent weeks in hospital undergoing many operations and lots of uncertainty. The prayers of so many people including everyone from this church have carried them through a tough time and James is now on his way home! But still in need of our prayers. Thank you all for your faithfulness in praying for this family and this situation and your care and concern for the family.

Also this month we have journeyed with God's son, Jesus, on his way to the cross to earn our salvation. During lent we reflected on the things that Jesus carried to the cross, which included the cross, the crown of thorns, a seamless robe, his follower's disappointments and the sins of the world. We celebrated the last supper together gathered around a table and sharing a meal, just as Jesus did with the disciples. We spent an hour at the cross on Good Friday hoping to engage our imaginations and our hearts as well as our heads and our minds in order to gain a deeper understanding of what the cross was like for Jesus. Then we came together to celebrate the resurrection and the glorious good news that God has raised Jesus from the dead and given us life eternal and a new relationship with God in the process!

As I consider these three images of sons I am reminded of just some of the depth of God's love for us. As I am filled with love and pride for my own son and his son I am reminded about how God's heart must swell with love and pride as he looks on us his children. As watch the care, concern and commitment of parents for a son in hospital I am reminded how much God cares for us and how much God is concerned for us when things go wrong for us and how deep God's commitment to us is. And of all this is shown as God takes our place and dies on a cross to show us just how much we are loved by the creator of everything that is seen and everything that is unseen. How can we not stand in awe and worship God for the love that he shown us?

I'll leave you with some words from a Matt Redman song that sum it up for me, 274 Singing the Faith:

“And once again I look upon
The cross where you died,
I’m humbled by your mercy
And I’m broken inside.
Once again I thank you,
Once again I pour out my life.”

Yours in Christ

Rev Jan

Monday Evening Fellowship

We held our last meeting on Monday 14th March by enjoying a Hot Pot Supper followed by a Beetle drive

Sadly we have lost three of our members and several people have health problems, so unfortunately attendances have been down this session. However, we have enjoyed some good meetings with some really excellent speakers. We have watched a fascinating painting demonstration, and enjoyed lots of humour in “Stories from the 20s” and the “Golden Age of Comedy” We also travelled, with slides, to Alaska and Japan and the Rev Alex Galbraith shared the amazing story of James Holman, the blind traveller.

We have also been able to support two charities. After our Christmas Carol Service we collected £68 for riding for the disabled at the Donkey Sanctuary in Manchester. We also gave a donation of £65 to the Mercy Ships. This followed a very moving talk about the work of many volunteers giving hope and healing to some of the world’s poorest people.

We will soon be preparing for the start of the meetings next October. We are a very friendly group and would offer a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us. We have a charge of £1.50 per week, which pays for the speakers’ fees and we meet in the Lounge at 7.30pm. (Please note the new starting time.)

Joan Owen

Hope on the Horizon



8 March 2016

Mrs J Owen
Marshside Road Methodist Church
11 Merepark Drive
Southport
PR9 9FB

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of £65.00 (excluding merchandise sales), received from a recent speaking engagement, to help Mercy Ships deliver hope and healing to some of the world's poorest people.

With your compassionate response, we're moving forward with hundreds of surgeries in Africa – operations that will give new life to people who have suffered greatly until now.

Some have disfiguring tumours on their faces. Some can't smile because of a cleft lip and palate. Some are scarred from severe burns incurred in their childhood. And in many cases, because society has completely rejected them for their disfigurements, some have spent years in virtual hiding.

But now, these completely treatable conditions are being corrected through your support of our doctors and nurses. This means people can start life over! It couldn't happen unless Mercy Ships brought the opportunity to them through your generosity.

So I thank you again for your wonderful expression of compassion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Judy Polkinhorn".

JUDY POLKINHORN (Revd)
Executive Director

Melissa's Thought for the Month - April 2016

I know that you know that I am now "95 years young"! I don't do old! After all why should I? The Duke of Edinburgh is only six months younger than me and the Queen five years. They certainly are still filling their very public roles in Church and Country. I did notice today that there was no mention of the Royal Maundy but if I remember rightly we were told last year of its discontinuation as a public event. After all the changes in the value of money and the coming of the "Welfare State" make a big difference.

At the same time, people are living a great deal longer. Did I gather rightly that the oldest man is now 112 years old? I am sure that David Attenborough was shown on television going deeper in the ocean off the Great Barrier Reef of Australia than anyone has been before. That shows the wonders of modern technology inventing the “submersible”. He is I believe 88!

Being “old” is much more an attitude of mind than anything to do with years. A very long time ago one member of the Church Drama Group to which I then belonged was always “elderly in her approach to everything”. She would actually have been in her thirties, but so set in her approach to everything that there was no room for change or development of ideas.

When Jesus said “You can only enter the Kingdom of God ‘as a child’” I am sure he meant just that every child is asking questions. All my life I have been asking the questions, “What is it?”, “What is it called?”, “What does it do?”, “How does it do it?”, “Why does it?”.

Of course, I am still doing it! I chose to follow the science side in my later education. When I was very young the big question of the day was “Do you believe in Science or Religion?”. Many people stopped going to Church because they could see the way the scientific approach was logical. That was clear enough, what many failed to recognise was that there was no reason to “throw out the baby with the bath water”.

Science discovered gradually more and more about how the created world “worked”. Evolution may well demonstrate how living things developed over time, but it had nothing to say about how things come to be in the first place or where the grand delight of the Universe originated.

If we are to retain the child-like approach we need to keep on asking questions! I know that I still do. I still find new discoveries in space and in nuclear fusion are exciting. In the same way I am constantly learning more depth for the wonder of the love of the God we worship. It is good at the end of every day to be able to ask “What new aspect have I glimpsed today?” Our knowledge, our experience of God should grow a little every day or we should be asking “Why not?”.

Melissa.

District Newsletter for Easter 2016

The name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin probably does not mean very much to you. There is no reason why it should. However, during his day he was as powerful a man as there was on earth. As a Russian Communist leader he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution in

1917, later he was editor of the Soviet newspaper Pravda, a leading theorist of the Communist movement, and a full member of the Politburo. He was an educated, forceful and dedicated ideologist. An atheist and an academic, his works on economics and political science are still read today.

There is a story told about his appearance in Kiev in 1930 to speak to a huge rally on the subject of atheism. Addressing the crowd for over an hour, he targeted his superior intellect at Christianity, marshalling insults, argument, and proof against it. His reasoning was coherent and persuasive. He spoke with authority and passion. Christianity was a religion for weaklings, morally flawed, scientifically preposterous and a tool of capitalist oppression. No one in the gathered crowd booed or heckled. People seemed quiet, attentive, hanging on his words. When he had finished he asked if there were any questions. Silence filled the auditorium. Then an Orthodox priest got up and asked permission to speak. He approached the rostrum and gave the Easter greeting of the Russian Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The crowd arose as one and the response came thundering back: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

This is a great story and one often repeated by Christians, although the facts of it have never been established. Nevertheless, the idea underlying it is very powerful, as it appeals to the part of our understanding that recognises our faith as being infinitely more complex than simply assenting to a set of propositions. Although the Christian faith may not be rational in the scientific sense, it is reasonable, and it engages our hearts and minds in ways that help us to make sense of human nature and the human condition. Our human relationships; our awareness of death and our yearning for transcendence; our sense of transience and our need for meaning; every hope, dream, vision, ideal, desire and fear: all of these are woven into an intricate pattern of experience, belief and knowledge to which our faith provides a key. Christ is the lens through which we view life, the universe and everything. Consequently, there are things that we know, as part of our lived experience of faith, which are not readily defeated by the arguments of materialism or rationalism.

The name Gus Speth probably doesn't mean much to you either. He is a United States scientist and was environmental advisor to Presidents Carter and Clinton. He has also been administrator of the U.N. Development Programme, dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and is now a professor at Vermont Law School. He says, "I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, apathy... and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation – and we scientists don't know how to do that."

We Christians think that we might know how to do that. Christ is risen, sin is defeated and the world can be transformed. We know this to be true, not scientifically, but intuitively. So it seems that Christians might have a significant contribution to make at this time in the world's history.

This Eastertide may you know the risen Christ, and may you experience in your own life the spiritual and cultural transformation that the world so desperately needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peggy', with a horizontal line underneath.

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 8th of May 2016**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 1st of March**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

CELEBRATING ATTRACTIVE FAITH

Experience an evening of praise and fellowship, sharing
and exploring our faith in Jesus in all its new-life attraction!

Special guest speaker – President of the Methodist Conference
Revd. Steve Wild

Worship • Live music/singing • Presentations • Conversation, coffee'n'cake

Friday 8th April 2016, from 7.15pm

Trinity Methodist Church, Ellesmere Port CH65 0AB

trinityellesmereport.org.uk



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, Carer & Toddler Group	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Margaret Boston (211548)
	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Monday Evening Fellowship	20:00 –	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
Tuesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Bible Study Fellowship	10:45 –	Mrs Dorothy Taylor (211643)
	Prayer Fellowship	19:00 – 20:00	Mrs Pat Wright (213647)
	Knit & Craft Club, see website for details	13:00 – 16:00	Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (228430)
Wednesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade	18:30 – 21:30	Mrs Kay Owen (225126) Miss Heather Jackson (532977)
Thursday	Wednesday Group - every 4 th Wednesday		Mrs Sheila Jones (227661)
	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	Thought for the Day	10:15 –	Mr George Phillips (514795)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
Friday	Choir Practice	19:30 – 21:00	Mr Glenn Howard (840485)
	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
Saturday	Chris Wright's School of Dance & Drama	16:00 – 19:15	Miss Alison Wright (0773 4305348)
	Chris Wright's School of Dance & Drama	09:15 – 15:00	Miss Alison Wright (0773 4305348)
	Monthly Messy Church (see Website)	16:00 – 18:00	See the Church Website for details
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 :

The views and opinions expressed in this Church Magazine are solely those of the author of the individual article and not necessarily the views of the Church, Leadership Team or Minister.