



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

April 2017

Lent & Easter Services

Palm Sunday - 9th April
10.30am

Good Friday - 14th April
10am

Easter Sunday - 16th April
10.30am

Church Open for quiet prayer
15th April : 11am – 1pm



Maranatha! Our Lord is coming!

Dear Friends,

I wonder how much chocolate there will be in your house this Easter? The writer Adrian Plass gives this tongue in cheek definition of Easter Eggs in one of his books – “edible reminders of the resurrection made of chocolate, filled with sweets and wrapped up in shiny coloured paper, just as Our Lord was.” He also defines the Cross – “absurdly sentimentalised instrument of torture and death. Chances of Jesus having a secret hankering to get back to the ‘old rugged cross’ are really rather small. The point is emphasised if we imagine eating hot-garotte buns at Easter time.”¹

Sometimes it can seem a bit bizarre, all the trappings around Easter, the eggs, lambs, bunnies, crosses, flowers. Nowadays the shops that sell homeware and gifts have been trying for ages to tempt us to put up pink and yellow bunting and hang up Easter decorations that were definitely not a part of the Easters of my childhood – you might have painted a hard-boiled egg or made an miniature Easter garden, but that was all. There were chocolate eggs available for a few weeks before, and hot cross buns were only sold around Easter, not all year round like now. And yet, despite the awfulness of the manner of Jesus’ death – one of the worst and most deliberately shameful methods human power has come up with – we are celebrating and commemorating something awe-some in the true sense of the word. We are remembering the ongoing work of redemption of the whole of creation by our God who loves us so much that God sent God’s only son, to be human like us, to live among us, to experience our human life in all its joys and sorrows, its loving relationships and betrayals and its pain and death. We are celebrating that there is ultimate hope in this bruised, battered and broken world – that there is redemption for the worst of our human traits – that we are each of us loved beyond all human imagining.

As you eat your eggs and see the new life of spring around us, be reminded that although the stories of Holy Week involve betrayal and torture and pain and death – the worst we humans can afflict on each other – the story of Easter Sunday, of Jesus being alive once more, is that love triumphs over all of that and even over death itself. It is a great and wonderful mystery.

Please join us on our journey towards Easter morning: Maundy Thursday 13th April 6 for 6.30pm at Crossens Methodist, Good Friday 10am Marshside Road Methodist, Easter Sunday 16th 10.30 am Marshside Road all age worship, 10.45am Crossens Methodist and 4pm Crossens Methodist with tea afterwards.

God Bless and Happy Easter

Rev Jan Fraser

¹ *Bacon Sandwiches and Salvation – An A-Z of the Christian Life*, by Adrian Plass, pub. 2007 Authentic Media

100 Points

A story borrowed from the Parish magazine for St Patrick's & St Marie's Churches (with permission). This came under the heading of 'Church Chuckles' but I thought the ending ties in very well with Rev. Jan's message on Mothering Sunday!

A man arrived at the pearly gates and was met by St Peter who said to him "Now this is how it works. In order to gain entry you have to earn 100 points. Please tell me all the good things you have done in your life and each one will be awarded points." "Well" the man said, "I have been married to my wife for over 50 years. I have always been faithful to her and have never looked at another woman". "Very good" said St Peter, "that earns you two points". Only two, thought the man. This is harder than I thought. "I have attended church regularly and tithed my giving". Very good, said St Peter. One point for that. What else?" "Well, I have cared for the disadvantaged and supported the work of missions." Very good. Two more points. The man scratched his head. "Good gracious" he said, "at this rate, only the grace of God will get me into Heaven!" "You've got it! 100 points! In you go."

Dorothy Simpkin

Remembering Melissa

After reading the tribute to Melissa in February's Link I recalled my memories of Miss Woods, as she was my Guide Captain, we were her first group, at Trinity Methodist Church, Duke Street.

The patrol leaders, I was one, were invited to afternoon tea ever so often to discuss Guiding matters.

We used to always have a wonderful meal. Potted beef on bread rolls, pineapple mousse and fruit cake. We loved going for tea.

Miss Woods, Aunty, used to make it for us, she was a lovely lady. As this was in the early 1950s, it was such a treat.

Happy memories,

Evelyn Rimmer.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Foundation Module for everyone new in role is on Sat 13th May 9 for 9.30am until 12.30pm at Leyland Road

Safeguarding Refresher Courses for those who did Module A five or more years ago :-

Wed 17th May 4.30pm-7.30pm at Liverpool Road Church

Tues 27th June 9.30am-12.30pm at Liverpool Road Church

Tues 4th July 2pm-5pm at Liverpool Road church

Please forward names to Lin Mayor to book.

Bible Study Fellowship

If you haven't yet been along to the Bible Study Fellowship which meets in the lounge alternate Tuesday mornings at 10-45am (with coffee from 10-30am), you really should try it if you are able.

The warmth of the fellowship is very special with an attendance of between 20 & 30 with friends from many different churches and denominations. In regular attendance, as well as from Marshside Road we have friends from St Cuthbert's; St Patrick's; Ainsdale Methodist; Holy Trinity; Crossens Methodist; Elim; Leyland Road; & All Saints.

Together we enjoy studying God's word presented to us by an excellent variety of speakers. A great deal of thought and planning goes into making the programme inspiring and meaningful and there is always a warm welcome from Dorothy Taylor who so ably leads the group. Do come along if you are able. We meet next on 25th April after the Easter break and we are currently studying the gospel of John.

Dorothy Simpkin

Len's Last Message

It was Len's wish that this, his last message, be read out at this, his Memorial Service and included in this edition of the Link.

"Ever since receiving the call in November 1937 to become a preacher of the gospel message, this has been my greatest love.

Unfortunately, this was extremely limited in my latter years.

However, I am now taking the opportunity to preach my final *mini* sermon (through the kindness of one of my friends).

This is aimed especially to every member of my family, although this message is intended for all of you who are present at this Memorial Service.

In order for there to be any possibility of renewing fellowship with loved ones who have gone before you, one thing is essential, and that is that you, personally, *must* become a born again Christian.

If you are ever going to be able to enter into Christ's kingdom, then a change must take place in *your* life. Religion without a personal encounter with Jesus will not save you. He alone is the way.

You are, at this very moment, face to face with Christ, who loves you, who died on the cross so that you may receive forgiveness for your sins, and he is the only one who can save you.

He alone can give to you a new purpose and meaning to your life. If you are unsure of your eternal home, come now, in penitence, and confess your sinful life to God, and ask him to forgive you through the atoning death of Jesus, for you, on Calvary's cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for all and everybody's sin. Your part is to ask Jesus to come and live in your heart as your Saviour and Lord.

If you truly wish to do so, then pray the following words in your own heart:

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner and that I can do nothing to earn eternal life.

I believe that you love me and that you sent your Son to pay the penalty for my sin on the cross.

I now, in true repentance, put my faith in you, and trust completely in Jesus Christ to save me.

I want to turn from my sin and let you control my life now and forever.

Amen.

For me, this is the best way in which you can celebrate this Memorial Service, and will bring the greatest joy to God, myself, and my Christian friends.

This is especially true if you do it before the close of this service, and I plead with you that you will do so.

May God richly bless you all until, God willing, we meet again when Jesus returns again to this earth.

Maranatha!

Our Lord is coming!"

George Phillips

Thank You

Jeanne, Wendy and Andrew would like to thank everyone for their help, kind words, cards and donations.

Special thanks to Rev Jan for two wonderful services and to all who were present to make it a day I am sure Dad would have loved.

Jeanne, Wendy and Andrew

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 7th of May 2017**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 30th of April**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

reImagine forum

a day for those interested in
revitalising + starting churches

Exploring
different ways
of being church
for the 21st
century?

Need some
practical
support to move
from ideas into
action?

Passionate
about
innovation,
inclusion and
risk-taking?

Nothing in organised religion works the way it used to. Real change requires more than doing conventional things better. We're interested in cultivating new models and equipping leaders who can serve creatively and flexibly amidst seismic cultural shifts.

Bring a team of people from your church for a **panel of diverse practitioners**, facilitated break-out **groups for your ministry's next steps**, and a **keynote address** by Trey Hall, pioneer, writer and Birmingham Mission Advisor.



Hosted by the LIVERPOOL METHODIST DISTRICT

MAGHULL METHODIST CHURCH

LIVERPOOL ROAD NORTH MAGHULL L31 2HP

SATURDAY 10 JUNE

10:00am - 4:00pm

FREE EVENT + LUNCH PROVIDED, BUT BOOKING IS REQUIRED:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reimagine-forum-liverpool-tickets-](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reimagine-forum-liverpool-tickets-32881183505)

32881183505 or on 07442 164690



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

The **Methodist** Church 



Southport foodbank
Lakeside Christian Centre
North Promenade
Southport
PR9 0LA

T 01704 544419
E foodbank@lakesidecc.org.uk
www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

10th March 2017

Rev Jan Fraser
Marshside Road Methodist Church
Marshside
Southport
PR9 9TL

Dear Rev Jan,

We write to thank the congregation of Marshside Road Methodist Church for the donation of £164.00 to the Southport Foodbank. I understand from Carol Drury that this is the final instalment of a total £1,595 that has been donated to us as the Church's Mission Project. Your support over the last year, both in terms of food and donations of money, has been invaluable in helping us to continue our work with families in crisis.

Since we opened our doors in April 2013 we have helped 16,400 people, including almost 6,300 children, who have been suffering from food poverty within the Borough

Once again, thank you for your continuing support.

With best wishes,

Colin Avery, Administrator,
For Southport Foodbank

Your Supporter Number is: 99328181

02 March 2017



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 £693.93 you and your Box Holders came together to raise.

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.

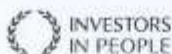
Heartfelt thanks to all involved in the collection, for all your time and support.

Yours sincerely

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

actionforchildren.org.uk



Patron: HM The Queen • Action for Children, previously NCH, was founded in 1869
Registered charity nos. 1007940/SC038092 • Company no. 4764232
Registered Office: 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 8AG • Telephone: 0300 123 2112



23 March 2017



The Church of Scotland

The Methodist Church



Exploring the future of the UK after the EU referendum

In readiness for the impending trigger of Article 50, four of the UK's largest Christian Churches, representing three quarters of a million members, are inviting their congregations to take part in discussions across the UK to explore what kind of society we should be seeking to create.

At a time when the UK is moving towards exiting the EU, there is naturally uncertainty about what our future as a country will look like, whichever way people voted in the referendum. Churches are being invited to take part in constructive conversations about the sort of society we would wish to live in, and hope to leave to future generations. Talking about things where people disagree can be difficult, so a pack - "Conversation Welcome" - has been provided to help.

The conversations will be held by local Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed and Church of Scotland Churches. They are being promoted by the Joint Public Issues Team, through which the four Churches work together on issues of justice and inequality.

Baptist Minister, Revd Phil Jump, who is coordinating the initiative and an adviser to the Joint Public Issues Team, commented: "Conversations are important at any time but the extraordinary recent political events have made the need more pressing. The EU Referendum campaign has left some mourning the loss of an important identity, while others are delighted by the opportunities that lie ahead.

"The process of leaving the European Union means making many important decisions that will shape the UK for years to come. By taking part in these conversations, people will discuss a vital underlying question - What kind of society should we be seeking to create?"

The Conversation Welcome discussion will suggest four questions to explore:

What sort of society do we want to leave for future generations?

How should we treat others?

How should we use our resources?

How should we make decisions?

The conversations can be held in any group size and the resources include prayers, reflections and videos.

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 – Term time only	09:15 – 11:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	Playgroup – Term time only	12:50 – 14:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	Monday Evening Fellowship	20:00 –	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
Tuesday	Preschool – Term time only	09:15 – 11:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	Playgroup – Term time only	12:50 – 14:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	Bible Study Fellowship	10:45 –	Mrs Dorothy Taylor (211643)
	Prayer Fellowship	19:00 – 20:00	Mrs Pat Wright (213647)
Wednesday	Knit & Craft Club, see website for details	13:00 – 16:00	Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (228430)
	Preschool – Term time only	09:15 – 11:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	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 – Term time only	09:15 – 11:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
	Thought for the Day	10:15 –	Mr George Phillips (514795)
	Playgroup – Term time only	12:50 – 14:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
Friday	Choir Practice	19:30 – 21:00	Mr Glenn Howard (840485)
	Preschool – Term time only	09:15 – 11:45	Kaarina Mynott (07955 799980)
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 Bob Rowlandson (224689)	
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.