



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

December 2016/January 2017

Advent at Marshside Road Methodist Church

December 11th
Nativity Service 10.30am

December 17th
Christmas Messy Church 4.00pm

December 18th
Traditional Carol Service 4.00pm

Christmas Eve
Communion Service 11.30pm

Christmas Day
Family Service 11.00am

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk

*"The hopes and fears
Of all the years
Are met in thee tonight"
O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Joy to the World!

Dear Friends,

For this month of Advent, I'd like to share this heart-warming Christmas story with you all. Jesus in the centre of the Nativity scene is an image we can all take into the Christmas period and the New Year.

The Camel Had Wandered by Janet Eyestone Buck

Our family has always enjoyed a Christmas tradition of setting out a ceramic nativity scene--complete with wise men, camels, shepherds, sheep, and of course, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. Each season the nativity scene was the same.

One year when my children were young, I carefully unwrapped each piece and set up an artistic display representing the first Christmas. The children gathered around to watch. We talked about the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds and Magi. I then cautioned the children, as always, not to touch the pieces, explaining that they were fragile and easily broken.

This year, however, the temptation was too great for my two-year old daughter, Elizabeth. The day we set up the nativity scene, I noticed several times, with some irritation, that a camel had wandered from its appointed place or a sheep had strayed from the watchful care of the shepherd. Each time, I returned the piece to its rightful place, and then tracked down the culprit and admonished her to leave things alone.

The next morning, Elizabeth awoke and went downstairs before I did. When I walked into the living room I noticed right away that the manger scene had been disturbed again. All the pieces were clumped together in a mass, as tightly as they could be fitted together.

Impatiently, I stepped forward to put things right; but I stopped short as I realized that some thought had gone into this new arrangement. All twenty three figures were grouped in a circle, facing inward, pushed together as if to get the best view possible of the figure resting in the centre of them all—the Baby Jesus.

The spirit touched my soul as I pondered the insight of a two-year old. Certainly, Christ should be the centre of our holiday celebrations. If we all could draw in' around our Saviour—not only during the Christmas season but during each day—what a better perspective we would have. The love He offers to each of us would be easily shared with others who have not ventured so close.

I left the nativity arranged according to Elizabeth's design that year. It served as a poignant reminder during the rest of the season of what Christmas is all about.

Every blessing,

The Editor

Thank You and Good Luck

Glenn, thank you for all your dedicated service playing the organ so magnificently and leading the choir as the Church's Musical Director. Your talents will be sorely missed and we wish you well in your new adventure at St Michael's in Aughton.

Good luck and don't forget to come back and visit.

With Love from **Everyone at Marshside Road Methodist Church.**

A Message from June Aughton

I would like to thank everyone including Jan and Martin for the prayers, cards, flowers and visits both while I was in hospital and at home during the last difficult 12 months. It has mean't so much to myself and family, I cannot express how much your support has helped and continues to do so. I felt and still do that I have 'something solid' backing me.

I have now finished chemo and will continue to see the consultant at 3 monthly intervals.

Hopefully I will be able to attend evening fellowship and thought for the day soon and see everyone.

Thank you once again for your love and support, and wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.

June Aughton

Shoe Boxes

The Monday Evening Fellowship wish to say a big thank you to all who supported our shoe box collection.

On Monday November 27th Fred & Dorothy transported 46 shoe boxes to the International Aid Trust at Longton. They were amazed at the number of boxes waiting to be transported around the world. Altogether 60,000 shoe boxes are taken from Longton to many other countries. They were told that on Tuesday a shipment was setting off to Cuba and on Wednesday another was going to Eastern Ukraine and Central Ukraine.

We hope to have another shoe box collection next year and we look forward to your support once again.

Many thanks, **Dorothy & Joan.**

Here is a letter from Julie Rowlandson who works with the International Aid Trust.



Dear Monday evening fellowship and all
at Marshside road Methodist

A huge thankyou on behalf of all at International Aid
Trust for filling so many shoeboxes with gifts for needy
people overseas.

Your kindness and generosity will be a huge
practical help to people in very difficult circumstances,
as well as letting them know they're loved by God and
he will provide for them.

All shoeboxes are given out through IAT's local staff
and local churches to ensure they get to the people who
need them most.

Thank you so much again!

God bless
love from Julie



Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 5th of February 2016**.
Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 29th
of January**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

Southport Meols Rotary Club

Invite you to their



Annual Community Carol Service

- Tuesday 20th December 2016 at 7pm
- Marshside Rd Methodist Church (by the traffic lights)

Including:-

The Salvation Army Junior Band

Churchtown Primary School Choir

Coffee and Mince Pies after the Service





Queenscourt Hospice

Central Support Group

(Reg. Charity No. 518801)

&

Marshside Brass Band with Roundelay Choir

Would like to invite you to a

Concert with Christmas Music

Thursday 15th December 2016 - 7:30pm

At

Marshside Road Methodist Church

Refreshments will be served

Collection will be taken on the evening.

Thank you for your continued and very much appreciated support, on behalf of The Central Support Group, band & choir members may we wish you all a very happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2017.



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)
Wednesday	Knit & Craft Club, see website for details	13:00 – 16:00	Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (228430)
	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)
	Wednesday Group - every 4 th Wednesday		Mrs Sheila Jones (227661)
Thursday	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)
	Choir Practice	19:30 – 21:00	Mr Glenn Howard (840485)
Friday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Mai-Ling Duckworth (509944)
	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)
	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.