



# The Link



The Magazine of

**Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport**

[www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk](http://www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk)



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

February 2016



**Autism Awareness and Sensory Perception Course,  
reaching out to Church Members and the local Community.**

## Dear friends

It was my turn to lead bible study the day after David Bowie had died. I think it's fair to say that most of us were a bit put out by the amount of news coverage his death had received the previous day. And it wasn't just David Bowie that died in January, amongst others there was Alan Rickman of Harry Potter fame and Glenn Frey from the Eagles; all of them reported in the media. I'm not going to go into the rights and wrongs of their deaths seeming to be more important than others, clearly to their families their loss is huge and it is to their families that my sympathy goes. I just don't know why some sections of our society imagine that celebrities will live forever because they are celebrities! It seems that even their celebrity status couldn't protect them from death. Because, guess what, death comes to us all, eventually! Even Jesus had to die.

Speaking of which we are coming up to that time in the church's calendar when we remember the death of Jesus on Good Friday and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday and it got me to thinking that we could never have experienced the resurrection without the death of Jesus first. It's always concerned me when people think that they can have Easter day without going through the agony of Good Friday because if the Easter experience teaches us anything it's that good things can come out of very bad experiences. Death has to happen before we can experience resurrection and new life.

We are about to enter the period of lent, a time when we traditionally give things up, the president of conference is urging those of us who drink alcohol to consider joining him in giving alcohol up for lent. I'll let you decide if you are joining him. The practice of giving things up for lent is symbolic of our commitment to penitence and self-denial in that we can observe the time of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection with great devotion. I would like to suggest to you that self-denial, penitence and death that leads to new life should be things that we are engaged in all of the time not just during lent. My question for you to ponder during lent is this: What things in our own lives, in our church life and in the life of the world do we need to repent of, deny ourselves, allow to die in order that new life may be formed, in our lives, the church and the world?

I'll leave you with the words of Paul in the letter to the Philippians:

*<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.*

*And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth*

*and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:4-11).*

**Yours in Christ, Rev Jan**

### ***The Misunderstood Child***

I am the child that looks healthy and fine.  
I was born with ten fingers and toes.  
But something is different, somewhere in my mind.  
And what it is, nobody knows.

I am the child who struggles in school.  
Though they say I'm perfectly smart.  
They tell me I'm lazy - can learn if I try -  
But I don't seem to know where to start.

I am the child that won't wear the clothes  
Which hurt me or bother my feet.  
I dread sudden noises, can't handle most smells,  
And tastes - there are few foods I'll eat.

I am the child that can't catch the ball  
And runs with an awkward gait.  
I am the one chosen last on the team  
And cringe as I stand there and wait.

I am the child with whom no one will play -  
The one that gets bullied and teased.  
I try to fit in and I want to be liked,  
But nothing I do seems to please.

I am the child that tantrums and freaks  
Over things that seem petty and trite.  
You'll never know how I panic inside,  
When I'm lost in my anger and fright.

I am the child that fidgets and squirms  
Though I'm told to sit still and be good  
Do you think that I choose to be out of control?  
Do you think that I would if I could?

I am the child with the broken heart  
Though I act like I really don't care.  
Perhaps there is a reason God made me this way -  
Some message he sent me to share.

For I am the child that needs to be loved  
and accepted and valued too.

I am the child that is misunderstood,

I am different - but look just like you.

***By Kathy Winters - 2003 Mother of a Child who has Autism***

## **Melissa's Thought for the Month – February 2016**

There are many thoughts suggested to me by the month of February. The one which stands out in my mind concerns the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February which “always” has been “Thinking Day”. Those of you who have any connection with the Scout & Guide movement will have heard that it is the birth date of both Lord and Lady Baden Powell. They did not want us to think of them particularly on that day but to remember all the members of the Movement all over the world.

I can think of many occasions when we have been to special gatherings. Sometimes we have had a meal. Frequently this included a suitably decorated birthday cake. Always we had a speaker with knowledge of or better still experience of our world wide links.

At Marshside Road we are very fortunate to have such able and willing leaders of the work among young people. I have very great admiration of the leaders of both Boys' and Girls' Brigade. We do not forget that they too are part of a global organisation. Kay's recent visit to Thailand is a very clear reminder of that fact.

The Brigades are very definitely associated with the Christian Church. It is always an inspiration to see them in uniform in Church on Parade Sundays. I have no doubt that their leaders wish, as we used to do with our Guides, that their families were with us every Sunday and that more still were there on the day. There is always a larger number who turn up to the weekday events. No doubt some belong to other churches which do not have the weeknight activities.

We can be very thankful that they do come. For others it may well be their only real experience of organised Christianity. This is where real “missionary” work is being done. Interest, curiosity and maybe gratitude for what their young people are receiving brings them along. The hope is that they find here real welcome and friendliness to say nothing of life changing inspiration.

The differences between the two movements are clearly subtle rather than obvious. Baden Powell envisaged a movement which was not more work for adults (except of course for the leaders!) but really as a game (mainly outdoors) for boys and girls.

Camp for us meant just that – living in a tent (mainly for a week) in a farmer's field. There had to be “solid shelter” available in case the field flooded or the wind was so strong that the guyropes pulled the tent pegs out of the ground. I have experienced both! I also know that the ground is much more easy on the hips than any floor boards. It is possible to wriggle an indentation to fit underneath the waterproof ground sheet. We, of course, at first made our bed of blankets, there were no sleeping bags used and one learned how to fold our bedding to fit. **Melissa.**

## **Methodist Women in Britain**

MWiB Circuit Coffee Morning will be held here, at Marshside Road Church in the Lounge on Friday, 5th February 2016 from 10:00 until 11:30. Coffee/ tea and cake will be £1 and there will be a Bring & Buy stall. Proceeds will be for Twinkle House in

Skelmersdale, the current MWiB Liverpool District Project. Twinkle House aims to improve the quality of life of children and young people with Disabilities and Additional Needs and their carers in West Lancashire, Liverpool and Sefton. Everyone welcome to come along for a chat and to support this worthy cause.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

**Sheila Jones**

### **Creating Safer Space Foundation Course**

The next foundation course for Creating Safer Space is on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. This course is for anyone with any voluntary (or paid) role in the Methodist church. If you are new in post and have not yet attended please let Lin Mayor know. Tel:212059 or e-mail mayor4750@btinternet.com.

Many thanks

**Lin Mayor**

### **Missions**

The 1p per meal / snack, jars that people have been saving from Harvest to Christmas for World Missions, are now due to be collected. Please hand in to Lin Mayor, if they are too heavy Lin will collect. Also the World mission boxes are also due to be collected, so please hand in to Lin.

The Missions project that as a church we have been supporting since last March, CBM finishes at the end of February. So far we have raised a total of £712.05. Please continue to save those 5p coins, last year we managed to raise over £1200, will we reach that amount again?

There is to be a Missions Brunch on the 5th March so please keep the date free, this is normally to raise funds for our next Mission project which from March 2016 is to be the Southport Food Bank.

**Thanks,**

**Lin Mayor**

### **Next Issue**

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2016**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February**. Thanks, Mike ([MikeOwen10@aol.com](mailto:MikeOwen10@aol.com))

#### ***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.*

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Methodist  
relief and  
development

1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Dear Mrs Mayor,

I'm writing with my heartfelt thanks for Marshside Road Methodist Church's generous support of our work over this last year.

I've enclosed a copy of our new Annual Review so you can find out more about how your involvement with All We Can has changed lives.

You've helped over 343,000 people to enjoy a better quality of life, provided emergency assistance to a further 73,000 men, women and children, and enabled us to campaign and challenge some of the structural causes of global poverty, like climate change and crippling national debts.

Our story is your story; we could not do this work without Marshside Road Methodist Church's backing and financial contributions, so thank you for your continued generosity and understanding.

We've called our review 'Walking in Partnership', as at the heart of our approach is a belief in the power of partnership. Over this last year, we have walked alongside 27 community-based development partners in 11 countries. As you will read, our support, combined with their local knowledge and hard work, is helping to bring about remarkable changes in some of the world's poorest communities - for the long term.

#### Will you help us to do more?

Our Inspirational Women Appeal earlier this year proved so popular that we are doing it again! Churches are invited to dedicate Mothering Sunday, or any other Sunday in Lent in 2016, to celebrating inspirational women while raising money for our partners' work. Free resources, including engaging worship materials, a poster and a short film, are available to pre-order for delivery in January. Visit [www.allwecan.org.uk/inspirational](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/inspirational) or call 020 7467 5132 to find out more.

On behalf of All We Can's staff, trustees and partners, we thank you again for your commitment, and wish you a joyful Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Adams".

Maurice Adams  
Chief Executive

P.S. It is not too late to make your Christmas extraordinary this year! If you haven't already seen our catalogue of practical presents that really do change lives, please visit [www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/gifts) or call Rebecca on 020 7224 4814.

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Personal reference no: 2045

All We Can is the operating name of the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691



Marshside Methodist Church  
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24<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Mr Owen,

Many, many thanks for the amazing donation of £68 towards our charity, it will be a huge help towards our work and we really appreciate the kindness and generosity you have shown to us. May I also apologise for the delayed response in getting this thank you letter over to you.

It's been a busy time here at the centre; our brilliant Father Christmas was extremely busy in December and gave out over 600 presents to children that visit for their therapy sessions. The donkeys thoroughly enjoy the party season as it's a chance to get extra treats and get a bit spoilt by all.

Once again many thanks for your generosity without people like yourselves we would not be able to continue the very worthwhile work that we do here at the centre.

I have enclosed a certificate for you to put up to show everyone our appreciation for the wonderful donation you have given us.

Many thanks for your generosity, please feel free to pop down to the centre to watch the wonderful work our donkey do. Looking forward to forging links with you again in the future.

Yours sincerely

*Lindsey*

Lindsey Blay  
Centre Coordinator

Please reply to:  
The Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre,  
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The Donkey Sanctuary (registered charity number 264428) is not its sole corporate trustee. The Donkey Sanctuary Trustee Limited (company number 07110088) took over their registered office at Stable House Farm, Silmouth, EX10 0NU.  
Incorporating The Elizabethan Society Trust for Children and Donkeys (SCS), The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT)

WORKING WORLDWIDE