



The Link



The Magazine of

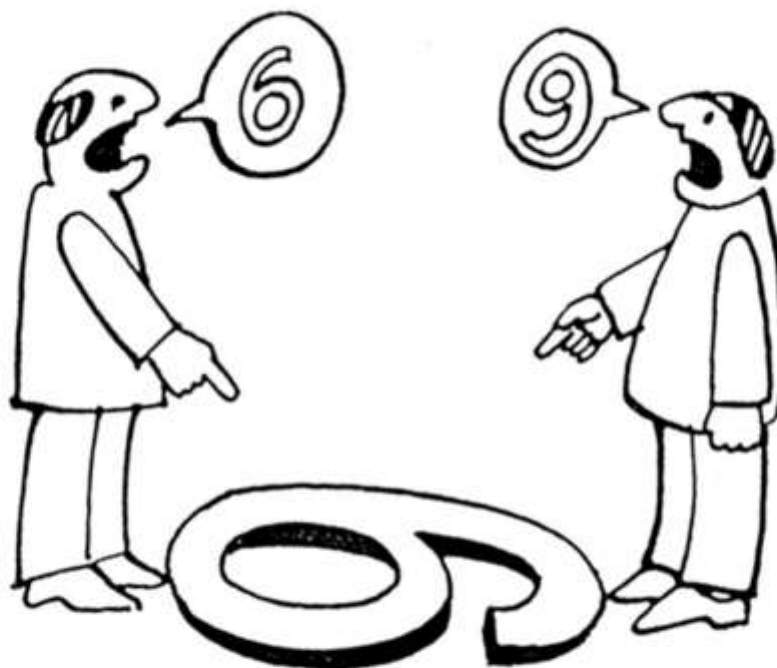
Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

February 2017



Forgive others, despite your different points of view.

Dear Friends,

For this month I'd like to share a statement from Bishop Bruce R. Ough, the President of the Council of Bishops in The United Methodist Church in America, about President's Trump's recent Executive Order banning citizens of several countries from entering America.

Today, I stand with colleagues representing several faith traditions to strongly denounce President Trump's widespread attack on immigrants and refugees. President Trump's reckless, ill-conceived executive orders will divide families, impose a religious test for Muslims facing forced migration, penalize communities providing sanctuary and wall off the United States from our neighbors. These actions are expensive, unnecessary and profoundly antithetical to our values of compassion, dignity and justice for all individuals regardless of nationality, religious affiliation or legal status.

The biblical witness is clear and unambiguous. Walls are unbiblical. Hospitality is biblical. Denying one's neighbor is unbiblical. Welcoming the stranger is biblical. It is not surprising that Judaism, Christianity and Islam teach the reign of God as a banquet to which all peoples are invited. We are to welcome the sojourner, love our neighbor and stand with the most vulnerable among us. These very values from our sacred texts and faith traditions are currently reflected in the mandate of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and must not be usurped by any executive order. Orders, legislation or administrative actions that would have the U.S. State Department disqualify refugees from protection and resettlement based on their nationality or religion are a denial of the very principles this nation was built upon, contradict the legacy of leadership our country has offered the world, and dishonor our shared humanity.

Jesus was explicit in his teachings. In Matthew's gospel Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40).

Refugees and immigrants arrive among us, not only with their needs, but also bearing gifts of energy, resourcefulness, love of liberty and hope. These gifts have always contributed to the renewal of our society and the church.

Above all, these strangers bring to us the Christ. When we welcome a stranger we welcome Jesus, and when we welcome Jesus we welcome our creator. Refugees, immigrants, those yearning to be free-these are the ones whom Jesus spoke about when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

Repeatedly Jesus tells his disciples:

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

The original Greek language is far more poetic, powerful and prophetic. In finer translations of the Greek language, we hear Jesus saying:

"Whoever seeks to build a wall around their soul shall destroy it; whoever tears down the wall (around their soul) shall bring their soul to a living birth."

The very soul of our country is at stake. When we abandon strangers who are at risk of bigotry, xenophobia and violence we not only destroy their hope, we destroy our own souls. When we fail to assist the refugees fleeing danger, we not only place them in harm's way, we do harm to our own souls. When we build walls of concrete, or walls of divisive rhetoric, or walls of fear, or walls of immoral immigration policies, we build a wall around our own souls.

Christ calls us to tear down the walls around our souls that we might live fully and abundantly. Thus, I call on the Trump administration and the U.S. Congress to rescind the harmful executive orders and save the soul of our country. I call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to see the face of Christ in the refugee. Say "no" to the walling off of our country and our hearts and say "yes" to their hope - our hope - for new life. Let us unite and work together to bring the soul of this country to a living birth!

**Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church
January 30, 2017**

Weekly Church Notice Sheet

Though I have enjoyed compiling the church notice sheet each week for the past 25 years, the time has come when I would really appreciate someone taking over this task. In addition to the compilation of the notice sheet, it has to be photocopied and John, who has undertaken this task for considerably longer than I have been involved, even going back to the days of the old duplicator, also needs to relinquish this role.

This is not an arduous task and it takes between one and two hours each week to compile the notices, plus photocopying time on the church photocopier. Contact details are entered into the circuit directory so that circuit information can be shared, along with other relevant material which comes in and then, of course, it is up to church organisation leaders to pass on their own information for inclusion on the notice sheet.

Please give this some thought. Maybe it is a task which could be shared. I will be more than happy to advise or work with you initially. This is something which could be enjoyed by someone who is not heavily involved with other church matters. Do please contact me for more information.

Thank you.

Dorothy Simpkin

A Tribute to Melissa - Mike Owen

On Tuesday, I joined family and friends to celebrate the life of a wonderful lady, Melissa Woods, and I had the honour of escorting her on the next step of her journey.

Melissa was a true Sandgrounder, born in Southport 96 years ago, she enjoyed travelling all over the world but always thought of Southport as her home. She attended the first Southport Flower Show in her pram and was a loyal supporter leading to her being invited as a VIP guest in 2015. She started Girl Guides at the age of 8 and had an association with the organisation for 81 of its 100 years reaching the rank of District Commissioner.

I only got to know Melissa a few years ago when I took over as Editor of The Link. Every month after the Church service, she would hand me her latest Thought For The Month, perfectly written in her beautiful handwriting, for inclusion in the magazine. Each month she would tackle a different subject, her memory of the trips to far flung places and her knowledge of the Scriptures was amazing.

When she found getting to church more difficult, I would visit her at her flat in Churchtown and we'd spend a few minutes, talking about trips to her (and my) favourite place, The Lake District. She'd offer comfort, advice and empathy when I was going through problems with my heart - she was also struggling with heart problems - she offered support to the work me and Kay do with the young people at Church and most importantly, I'd always leave her flat feeling better about things, even if she was struggling with her own difficulties. With that in mind, the greatest compliment I can pay her is that she reminded me of my Nan.

I've been incredibly lucky to meet some amazing people in my time at Marshside Road Methodist Church and Melissa was one of them. Her faith shone like a beacon, her Christianity inspirational and her example something to aspire to.

During the service, her friend, Sue, read the poem - "Miss Me - But Let Me Go" and during his Eulogy, Cliff Hill said that without doubt Melissa would have met Jesus face to face but in true Melissa style she wouldn't boast about it.

Thank you for your help Melissa - you are now at peace with your Saviour.

Melissa's Thought for the Month

Melissa's "Thought For The Month" articles in The Link were always eagerly anticipated by the readers of the magazine. As a tribute to Melissa, I've chosen one of her contributions to re-publish in this month's Link, titled "My Favourite Things".

As part of her article, she suggests that it would be nice if other people from the Church wrote a short article for inclusion in The Link, whether that is a piece about their favourite Bible reading or hymn or maybe a memorable holiday or a personal Testimony. I'd be delighted to receive any articles to ensure that the Link continues as Melissa's Legacy.

Thanks,

Mike Owen

Melissas's My Favourite Things

This title chose itself for my next "Thought for the Month". It was the start of the blossom season. I saw a beautiful tree full of double white cheery flowers. Strangely it reminded me of my unfavourite trees. I can't say that I really appreciate the very popular Japanese pink cherries which so quickly carpet the ground with their pink "confetti". I am sure I should enjoy seeing them a home in their native country. "At home" they would, to my mind, fit in with the architectural and artistic style. Here I love our native oak and beech as trees and the fruit blossom of apples and pears. In South Africa nothing can compare with an avenue of jacarandas covered in blooms of blue.

When I go on to think about other favourite things it is more difficult, I enjoy life in all its variety. The quotation of my title comes, of course, from what I think is my favourite show – "The Sound of Music". I have seen and heard it with great pleasure more than once. The Swiss scenery, the music, the positive attitude to life which it portrays gives a lift which is so helpful in facing up to everyday affairs with their many minor problems.

I ask myself if I have favourite colours. Certainly if I look in my wardrobe it suggests that blue and green predominate. Is that because they are such good background colour in the natural world? The green of healthy leaves and the blue of the sky and its reflection in ponds, lakes and seas. They are both "cool" colours both in the artistic and the current uses of the word.

I know I have favourite authors whose works I have re-read many times. At the moment my selection is Dorothy Sayers for mental stimulation and Jane Austen for a quieter mood at bed time. Among more modern writers time alone will tell if Billy Hopkins, Alan Titchmarsh, Wilbur Smith etc have the enduring quality.

When I consider my weekly food order I realise my preference for fish, chicken

and turkey. Perhaps it is because I eat little or no red meat that I have to take iron tablets (my only regular medication). I enjoy liver and bacon or liver and onion so that too helps to balance the diet. I have written before about the importance of 'balance' and proportion in everything.

I am going to suggest that many more of you who do not feel like making longer contributions to the Link might submit a paragraph on your favourite hymn or Bible passage with a brief note about why you like it or find it helpful. Some of these might build up a series month by month even if it meant that your "bit" did not appear in the next edition!

I remember well what was my Aunt's favourite hymn – "My heart and voice I raise" to the tune Ascalon (Hymns and Psalms 268). Her unfavourite was "When we walk with the Lord" (Hymns and Psalms 687) – not because of the sentiments expressed but because of the chorus. I am afraid I am a bit like her because I do not like repeating the same words over and over again.

It is not easy for me to choose a favourite from the more modern hymns, but "How great Thou art" comes to mind. "In awesome wonder" so justly describes the only fitting response to the one who created this marvellous universe and who revealed Himself in Jesus. A God able and willing to experience what it felt like to be human. He Himself knows the joys, the sorrows, fun and despair, success and failure as well as suffering and death – all parts of human life "Hands which threw stars into space" nailed to a wooden cross.

Melissa.

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 5th of March 2017**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 26th of February**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

Monday Evening Fellowship

We are now in the second half of our Fellowship Meetings. Before Christmas our talks included 'Experiences of Bargain Hunt' BBC T.V. 'The Gift of Memory', and 'The Life and Times of a Butler'. We also shared an evening doing Origami which was very entertaining.

In November we collected nearly 50 shoe boxes for International Aid and at our Carol Service we collected £60.00 for the Southport Branch of Gideons International. We were pleased to be able to support these charities even though we are quite a small group.

We now look forward to other talks including The “Real” Robinson Crusoe and a Visit to Kenya on behalf of the Gideons

Our meetings finish on the 13th March with a hot pot supper and begin again on October 2nd 2017.

If you haven't tried our meetings you are welcome to come along on a Monday Evening at 7.30pm in the Church Lounge. You will receive a warm welcome. We charge £1.50 per night to cover the speakers' fees.

Bob Owen

Bob Owen,
Treasurer,
Monday Evening Fellowship,
Marshside Road Methodist Church,
Southport



12th January 2107

Dear Bob,

Please find enclosed receipt for your very generous donation at Christmas. £60 will purchase approximately 80 Testaments for Schools or 50 Bibles for Hotels.

The Southport Branch of Gideons International in the British Isles send you their thanks for your support on this occasion. It helped us reach our target for scripture distribution for 2016.

George Phillips
pp. Southport Branch

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Executive Director
Ian J. Hux

The Gideons International
in the British Isles is a
Registered Charity in
England and Wales (221605)
and in Scotland (SC029224)



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

MWiB Coffee Morning

MWiB Circuit Coffee Morning will be held at Leyland Road Methodist Church on Saturday, 25th January 2017 10:00 until 12:00. It will be held in the Coffee Lounge at Leyland Road and the proceeds will be for the Liverpool District Project, Mary's Meals. There will be a Cake Stall. Everyone is welcome so please come and support this event. It will be a chance to meet others from the Circuit.

Sheila Jones

Catering

If you take out the last Tea, Coffee or Sugar and if there are only 4 packets of Biscuits left in the cupboard please let Sheila, Lin or Avril know as soon as possible so that stocks can be replenished. Thank you.

Sheila Jones

Missions

The Missions Meeting is on the 7th February at 2pm at 57 Marshside Road. Any one interested in the work of missions will be welcome. We will be discussing the launch of our new project commencing in March on World Mission Weekend, Supporting the Dalit Solidarity. Joanna Simpson proposed that we as a church support this worthwhile cause for 12 months.

As you all know we have been supporting the Food Bank over the last 12 months, saving 5ps and Donations and Brunches etc, this project will finish at the end of February, and so far we have sent a staggering £1550 from Marshside Road during the last 12 months. (that does not include all the food etc donations) so if any one has any 5ps saved for this project please forward them to Lin Mayor before the end of February.

Thank you to everyone that helps make the work of missions possible.

Lin

Safeguarding Refresher - Foundation Module Refresher 2016 Edition

The Methodist Church has developed refresher safeguarding training for those undertaking various roles and responsibilities in the Methodist Church, who completed the Foundation Module between 2011 and 2016.

The Creating Safer Space Foundation Module Refresher 2016 Edition training aims to:

- remind you that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and integral to being church
- refresh your understanding of good safeguarding practice within the Methodist Church
- learn from the Past Cases Review and note the current national context
- identify how to tackle potential obstacles to responding well within the Church
- reflect on your responsibility for sharing concerns about a child or vulnerable adult
- recognise emerging forms of abuse

- consider the needs of survivors.

The first of these courses will be held on Saturday 18th March 2017 at Marshside Road in the church lounge, 9.30 am. Coffee and Bacon butties will be served from 9am and we will finish by 12.30 pm.

Attendance at this course is mandatory for all whose Module A Training took place FIVE years ago. Those who did their training in the past 4 years do not need to attend YET, but will need to over the coming months.

If you are unsure if you need to attend please ask Lin Mayor 212059.

Please let me know if you will be attending as soon as possible.

Lin

Brunch for BB & GB

On the 25th of February, there will be a brunch in the Church Lounge to raise funds to support the work of the Boy's and Girls' Brigade. Bacon, sausage and egg butties, "Today's Specials", toasted teacakes etc on offer as well as tea and coffee. I hope you can join us.

BB & GB Annual Display

On Saturday the 6th of May at 6.30pm, the Brigades will be holding their annual display. This is always a great opportunity to see what boys and girls have been working towards throughout the year. We are delighted to announce that the Inspecting Officer for this year's Display will be the Reverend George Barton, we are really looking forward to welcoming Rev. Barton back to Marshside Methodist Church for the Display. I would be great to see as many people at the Display as possible, to encourage the boys, girls, Officers and helpers.

Thanks, Kay Owen and Heather Jackson



(CHURCHES TOGETHER IN NORTH MEOLS)

***"All of you are Christ's body; and each one is a part of it."
[1 Corinthians 12:27]***

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – 2016/ 2017

All meetings take place at **St Cuthbert's C of E Church.**

The meetings, on the second Tuesday of each month, start at 7.30p.m. and normally last for around an hour.

Date	Church to lead
11 th October	Crossens Methodist
8 th November	Marshside Rd Methodist
13 th December	St Cuthbert's Community Carol Service
2017	
18 th January	Ecumenical Service – <i>see below</i>
	(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
14 th February	St Patrick's
14 th March	Crossens Methodist
11 th April	St John's
9 th May	Churchtown United Reformed Church
13 th June	Marshside Rd Methodist
11 th July	St Cuthbert's
	SUMMER BREAK
12 th September	St Patrick's

**The meetings are very informal and very friendly, with a real sense of
'One-ness in Christ.'
If you've not been before, why not give it a try.**

NEXUS

Churches Together in North Meols

Our next meeting will be:

Tuesday, 14th February 2016

7.30 p.m.

at St Cuthbert's C of E Church

Everyone is very welcome!

The meeting will be led by:

St Patrick's RC Church

"Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."

[1 Corinthians 1: 106]