



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

July/August 2015



Sharing the Love of God and Jesus with everybody!

Minister's Letter

You may have noticed that the Methodist Conference has been in town. I've not gone as a delegate but I've managed to go to the memorial service, the ordination service at Leyland road and helped out on the heritage walks that took place on Tuesday afternoon. It's been good to see so many people from our circuit taking part as stewards and of course every time I went to the conference centre I met so many people from around the connexion that I was able to catch up, some that I haven't seen for quite a while.

It's been interesting to talk to those who have gone to conference for the first time. On the whole they have been given a deeper understanding of how connected we are as a national church and concerned that some people don't have a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Connexional church.

The promise of mutual support is a strength of Methodism, this is expressed in one way as when we become members and we are allocated a pastoral visitor who is responsible for visiting and offering spiritual support, encouragement and challenge. However we also become members of the wider Methodist church which expresses itself in the connexion. "Holiness is not achieved except in community. Methodism has a strong sense of community, which is expressed in the way it is organised. It calls itself a Connexion" The Methodist Church believes that the whole people of God shares the same calling and that ordained ministers do not have a different calling from the rest of God's people; which is why lay leadership is one of the greatest strengths of Methodism. Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets once a year to discuss and decide on policy and the way forward for the church. The great beauty of the conference is that all people, lay or ordained are given the opportunity to have a say in the way the church is going.

At Marshside we are fortunate that a lot of our members are already involved in leadership within the local church but my question for you to ponder over the summer is how would you be better helped to understand the joys, privileges and challenges of belonging to a Connexional church?

I'll leave the last word to Charles Wesley:

"He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's
Glorious hope
We hand in hand go on"

608 Singing the faith

Blessings, Rev Jan

Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Marshside Road,

Brenda and I would like to say a very big thank to everyone who has sent us cards, called us on the phone and expressed your love and prayers for us in so many different ways. We have felt upheld in a sea of prayer, and the Lord has indeed been very close during this time.

Times like this often give us opportunities to think about life and its purpose. 'What a friend we have in Jesus', comes to mind as we know and feel his presence every moment.

It was during this time that Brenda felt led by the Holy Spirit to put pen to paper, and this is what she wrote:

What is our church for?

To show love and to support one another;
To open our hearts to the needs of the community;
To care for both our young and our old;
To encourage one another and be of one mind.

What is our aim in all this?

Not just to have numbers of people on pews;
Not to have all the money we need;
But to have changed lives;
To know the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way;
To feel his presence in our lives , and
To share it with others.
Then we are indeed blessed!

With our love in Jesus for you all,

Brenda and George

Methodist Conference Southport 2015

I suppose I am a Methodist because my parents were Methodists and their parents before them. I have, however, never felt that Methodism has the monopoly on sharing the Christian faith and have often enjoyed worshipping with other denominations. Yet the Methodist Church has been my support on my Christian journey and it was in the Methodist Church that I accepted the challenge to commit my life to Christ – a decision which has meant everything to me. So, I am first of all a Christian, by the grace of God

and secondly a Methodist. This week has been one of those times when I have been so glad to be a Methodist, having spent the week, along with John & Chris Purcell as a volunteer steward at the Methodist Conference.

First of all, everything is organised so well. So much hard work (and finance) has to be poured into such an event. As volunteers, our timetables were meticulously prepared so we knew exactly where and when we were on duty, what time to take coffee and lunch etc. This was organised by Carole Booth, the wife of our previous Chair of District, Rev. Jim Booth. This is a role she has undertaken for many years – and it shows! Secondly, the venue buzzed with hundreds of delegates, some old hands to conference and many coming along for the first time. It was great to be a part of such a big event. Some faces were familiar & it was especially good to meet up again with Rev. Margaret Barnes (who sends her greetings to friends at Marshside Road)

The weekend was especially memorable. On Friday afternoon, a short memorial service was held at which those ministers who had died during the past year were remembered and their names were read. There were many and three of them known to us. Rev. Tim Hall, our Superintendent who died in January, Rev. James Gartside, a past minister here at Marshside Road, and Rev. Maurice Johnson, born and brought up in Marshside, and it was from Marshside Road Church that he entered the ministry. It was a very moving service. On Saturday afternoon, the new President, Rev. Steve Wilde and Vice President, Dr Jill Barber, were inducted during a special ceremony.

This was a 'ticket only' event but we were privileged to be able to watch it on cctv. It would be almost impossible to put into words the sincerity and commitment of both the president and vice president, so I would urge you to read their inaugural addresses which are printed in full in the Methodist Recorder.

On Sunday morning, the Ordinands were received into full Connexion at a most thrilling and inspiring service in the Southport Theatre. The singing of 'O happy day' and 'And can it be' (along with other inspiring hymns) raised the roof. At the end of the service, we volunteers were asked to form a guard of honour as the Ordinands left the service. The joy of the occasion was so special. The Ordinands then went to various churches and cathedrals for their ordination and our own Rev. Patrick Evans was ordained at Leyland Road.

Fringe events included the beach labyrinth and Firefest was once more held in the Marquee on Mornington Road to celebrate 130 years of the Southport Holiness Convention.

I think we were all pretty tired by the time conference ended but nevertheless felt a touch of sadness. Though conference is about the governance and organisation of the Methodist Church and many serious and pressing issues have to be discussed, the atmosphere of joy amongst so many people who were there because of their

commitment to the Lord and his church was so memorable. We would certainly recommend that next time conference is in Southport, those who have not volunteered to help before may feel able to do so and I am sure you will find it as uplifting and fulfilling as we did.

Dorothy Simpkin

P.S. If anyone would like to borrow a copy of the Methodist Recorder in which the President & Vice President's inaugural addresses are printed, please see me.

Editor : You can also watch videos from the conference on the Methodist Church Website. Go to www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2015, click on the Programme link, the date of the video you would like to watch and then the video.

Melissa's Thought for the Month – July/August 2015

I have no doubt that many of you, like me, watch some of the interesting sets of programmes broadcast on television. Recently I have enjoyed "The Natural World" with Professor Brian Cox and "The Greatest Generation". This last is of course my generation – it may have been "The Greatest" though not all of us as individuals can claim that distinction! As I watched it though, I recalled so many events and personalities of my life time.

In particular, I have always been conscious of the procession of "The First Women Who...." many of us found ourselves pioneers in different ways. I know I have written for The Link previously of what it was like being the first woman in the pulpit in many small rural and even some better known Methodist Churches.

Thinking back this second and much greater emancipation of women was to a very large extent the direct result of World War II. I know that when Britain was "standing alone" after the Nazi Party had over run most of continental Europe and even Scandinavia had a Quisling Government whose leaders were appointed by The Party. German U-Boats (Undersea boats, i.e. Submarines) threatened ships attempting to bring us supplies from our colonies and overseas dominions. Those were still the days when "The sun never set on the British Empire."

When we were "standing along" it was inevitable that the majority of men were involved in the war but so were the women. Had I not been training at the time for a "reserved occupation" in teaching, I should have been "called up". It would have been into the A.T.S., the W.R.E.N.S., the W.A.A.F. or the Land Army.

It was also meant that we "weak females" had the choice in many other spheres. We had women bus conductors and railway guards as well as women's wear and baby clothes. In the professions, women could become medical doctors and lawyers of all

types as well as Ministers of religion. It is intriguing that the Anglican Church has only just reached the point of consecrating women bishops. I suppose our equivalent would be Chair of District and I imagine that dizzy height was passed long ago!

Royalty have always been “ahead of the game”! Elizabeth I was the first woman to occupy the throne in her own right. Clearly she was fully accepted.

The other television series I, of course, enjoyed very much. Nature study and its more “advanced” branches have been favourite of mine from childhood. If you also watched it I wonder if you were struck as I was by the concluding remarks of Professor Cox. He “expressed” to wondering if there could be a “personality” behind the origin of our Universe and any others which might exist!?!

Melissa.

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** is due to be published on the **Sunday the 6th of September 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 30th of August**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)



Southport seems to have been pretty busy this week. Thankfully, there are still those who enjoy coming to Southport on holiday and I think the numbers of visitors were increased by delegates and their families to the Methodist Conference. It was lovely to have some sunshine so that Southport could be seen at it's best. Some of our church family have already been on holiday and if you have, I hope you had a good time. If you are due to go, hope you too have a lovely and refreshing break.

Many congratulations to **Rachael (Cowan)** and Terry on the birth of their baby son, Jack. Congratulations also to proud grandparents, **Richard and Elaine**.

There are some birthdays this month. Happy Birthday to **Millie Aspinall** who celebrated her 16th birthday this week. Special birthday wishes to **Nita Howard & Ruth Stirling** who will be celebrating 90+ birthdays this month and **Joyce Walker** who will be celebrating hers at the beginning of August. We hope you all have a lovely day. A little bird has also told me that **Marion Halpin** celebrated her 80th birthday recently. Congratulation Marion. Hope you had a lovely day.

It hasn't been plain sailing for some of our church family this month. **Colin Hickson** became unwell whilst on holiday. He is now improving at home and we hope to see him

out and about again soon. **Francis Thomas** had to return to hospital following her surgery and is still an in-patient. We are thinking of you, Frances, and send you our love. **Ruth Stirling** had a nasty fall and was admitted to hospital. Fortunately, nothing was broken and she was transferred to Chase Heyes for a period of convalescence. Hope you are feeling stronger now, Ruth. Take care and God bless you. **Brian & Pam Flatt** have also been going through a rough time recently. Our thoughts and our love are with you both and please be assured of our prayers.

We think also of **Jane Biggs**, whose husband is currently in hospital. Normally he is cared for at Henshaws but is poorly at present. We are thinking of you and Jim and remembering you both in our prayers.

As always, I am conscious of all those who are not able to share with us in worship through age or infirmity but I just would like to mention **Melissa Woods** and to say a big 'thank you' for the wonderful contributions to our church magazine each month. We all look forward to your articles, Melissa and you prove a point that everyone has a contribution to make to the life of the church, even if not able to attend. Maybe not everyone has the gift of writing, but all contributions are greatly valued, the most important of which is prayer. God bless you all.

On 19th July, we look forward to our young people's anniversary. We so look forward to the contribution they make to our church life and it is great to see so many of them taking a full and active part in the church. Our very best wishes to **Jake Owen** for his visit to Thailand where he will be working as a volunteer for two weeks. Our love and prayers are with you, Jake. We are so proud of you.

God Bless you all,
Dorothy Simpkin

Young People's Anniversary.

The Annual Young People's Annivesary Service will be held this year on the 19th of July 2015. The theme for this year is "Prayer" and the service will include items from J-Team and Teenscene and will explore different times/ways to pray, what we pray for and how God answers our prayers in his own way.

The service will also include Holy Communion and a presentation of the cheque to the British Heart Foundation for the money raised by Chris Purcell's Sponsored Walk at the end of May.

Hope to see you there, **Mike Owen**

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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 & Toddler Group	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Margaret Boston (211548)
	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Monday Evening Fellowship	20:00 –	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
Tuesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Bible Study Fellowship	10:45 –	Mrs Dorothy Taylor (211643)
	Prayer Fellowship	19:00 – 20:00	Mrs Pat Wright (213647)
Wednesday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	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 Chris Alsop (506544)
	Thought for the Day	10:15 –	Mr George Phillips (514795)
	Playgroup	12:50 – 14:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	Choir Practice	19:30 – 21:00	Mr Glenn Howard (840485)
Friday	Preschool	09:15 – 11:45	Mrs Chris Alsop (506544)
	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)
	Badminton Social Night	19:00 – 22:00	Mr Mike Owen (01704 225126)

Other Contacts :	Church Notices	Mrs Dorothy Simpkin (229987)
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	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.