



# 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

June 2015



**Walking for Every Heartbeat!**

## Minister's Letter

Dear friends

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the annual church meeting so memorable. The photos on the power point presentation made me realise just how big a church we are with groups that aren't even church groups wanting to be included in our annual report. How great is it that they think of our church as their church?

We said our goodbyes to Jean and Elaine who have faithfully served on the leadership team above and beyond their call of duty. They have seen the church through some tough times and then even stayed on to give me some continuity of leadership whilst I settled in – thank you!

We welcomed four new members of the leadership all eager to contribute to the life of our church and serve as we move forward. Thank you to all of those people who volunteered to come onto church council, we are looking forward to serving Marshside Methodist Church alongside you.

How appropriate that this year we had our ACM on Pentecost Sunday because the Holy Spirit really showed up. I was humbled, taken aback and moved by all of you who felt able to come to the front and share how God has been working in your lives for the past twelve months. God is really moving in our church at the moment!

Reflecting on the day I am reminded of one of my favourite Matt Redman songs – 10,000 reasons. Part of it goes like this:

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger

Your name is great, and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

We have 10,000 reasons, and more, to sing God's song, so sing like never before Marshside Road! God has got something great in store for you. **Blessings, Rev Jan**

## **My Personal Journey**

I believe we are all on a personal journey in our faith.

For me this year has been a continuation of where I am today, it all really started in January.

I had received as a gift for Christmas the new album by The Script off my brother. The first time I heard track 6 Flares, I got it.

The week before I was going away in March I had just got myself really stressed, somethings I had done were going wrong, there were several jobs workwise that only I could complete and with being on my own all day it was a 7 pm finish, followed by 5 am start to make sure Mum was ready for the ambulance for early dialysis session before we went away.

The week away gave me time to spend time with Mum, enjoy some long walks with the dogs and catch up on some rest.

The following weekend it had been Messy Church, I could not quite put my finger on it, had enjoyed being part of the event. Afterwards there had been the setting up for J Team for the following morning and sharing of ideas. J Team worked that morning because many of leaders put their talents, time and effort into helping out.

There followed more encouraging meetings and events; a joint BB/GB meeting at the end of March, although I did not say on the evening I was compelled to send an email. Various chats with different people I realised it's the sharing I had been missing out on.

The Church away day was significant in reinforcing my recent findings of the need to share with others, although I was not one of the brave to share myself but felt encouraged by those who did.

BB/GB camp arrived, it was something I had been looking forward too. It was brilliant, I thoroughly enjoyed it and to see all of them get on so well together. I even brought two things back from camp, to find music that inspires me and to use/share your talents, something I am still working on!

It really hit me being part of the children's and youth work is something I love doing. A weekend is not complete without any events. There is amazing support from all the leaders.

Being part of the team is hugely rewarding. Seeing our older teens grow through the years and take on responsibilities themselves; the younger children each with their own characteristics and energy.

Sunday – Pentecost, AGM, unplanned, surprised, overwhelmed, acceptance, calmness, reflection, thanksgiving.

(The very condensed version)

Those of you who attended the Church Away day may remember our task to write down in 60 words our life story. (I could be wrong with the number of words allowed!)

*Christian background. Returned to Church at 23. Involved in Junior Church and Girls' Brigade. Real calling came after prayer over a decision to get involved in a new youth group. At this time I was baptised. I was out of my comfort zone but with God on my side anything could be accomplished.*

**Karen O'Meara**

### **Next Issue**

The next edition of **The Link** is due to be published on the **Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of June**. Thanks, Mike ([MikeOwen10@aol.com](mailto:MikeOwen10@aol.com))

### **Two Sponsored Walks – One Day.**

When Chris came to me and said that he wanted to organise and complete a Sponsored Walk in aid of the British Heart Foundation because of the way they had helped me in my life I was really happy to help him and partake in the Sponsored Walk myself.

For those that don't know, Chris has been volunteering at the BHF shop on Lord Street for some time and wanted to organise the Sponsored Walk as part of his work towards the Boys' Brigade Queen's Badge. His initial thoughts were to walk from Church to the shop on Lord Street and back but I felt that we needed a bit more of a challenge, and so the walk from Church to Formby and back, via the BHF shops in Formby and Southport, started taking shape.

After sorting the route and a few weeks of relative stress-free organising; me, Chris and my dog Coco met on the Church Car Park on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May at 8am and set off down Radnor Drive towards the old Sea Cop. Knowing we had 26 miles ahead of us, and conscious not to set off too fast, the initial pace was steady as we headed across Hesketh Golf Course to Hesketh Road and the beach.

After stopping at the newly formed "Lost and Found" tree at the top of Hesketh Road, a shrine to all things that shouldn't be on the beach, we headed west towards the pier.

After a short stop at the pier, to collect a donation from a very generous passer-by and have a drink and some chocolate, we went passed Weld Road Roundabout and across the Ainsdale Sand Dunes to the Lido.

With the temperature rising and the sand zapping our strength, we rested at the Lido and took the opportunity for a brief comfort break before walking passed Pontins, across some more sand dunes, skirted the outskirts of Formby golf course before ending up at the Fishermen's Path from Freshfield to the beach. Cutting through the pine woods and joining the beach just before the Squirrel Reserve Car Park, we walked along the beach until we reached Formby point and our "destination".

The 2 miles into Formby were very warm and sunny as we made our way down Elbow Lane with the Methodist Church on the right before turning into Formby town centre and the meeting point at Formby BHF shop. Waiting for us at the shop were Kay, Karen (and Tess the dog), Reece, Reece's mum Lisa, her partner Chris and John Howard a photographer from JDH Photography in Formby. John had given up his time, free of charge, to come and take some photos outside the BHF shop (see the photo on the front cover). John is currently running a fundraising event, where he has agreed to donate 100% of the money he makes from Portrait sittings between now and the 10th of June to the BHF (John can be contacted on 07944 966 711 if you are interested in booking a sitting).

After a quick bite to eat, we set off, with our new recruits, to Freshfield station and then walked alongside the railway, through the pinewoods and passed Reece's school, Shoreside, to Ainsdale station. Then we began the long trek (it doesn't seem that far when you are driving) down Liverpool Road, Waterloo Road and Lord Street to the BHF shop where we were welcomed with a cheer and a round of applause by Chris's special guests - David Lonsdale (of Heartbeat fame), Southport MP John Pugh, Chris's mum and dad (and friends), Jayne Barton, Steph, Elena, Sam, Caitlin and Sarah.

After a few photos and interviews with Ollie Cowan from the Champion and the presentation of the cheque for £900 to the shop, Chris decided to accept a lift from his mum and dad as the 24 miles had taken its toll on his feet. Kay, Karen, Reece, Lisa and Chris also made their way back to Church in cars and on the bus while me and Coco (and unbeknown to me, Jayne) walked the last 2 miles back to Church for tea and cakes supplied by Kirsty.

After a drink and cake we left the Church exhausted but happy to have finished the walk and raise nearly £1,000 for a charity that has helped me and many millions of other people live an active life despite the problems caused by Heart Disease.

On behalf of Chris and myself, I'd like to thank you for all your support.

## **Mike Owen, Chris Purcell and Coco the Dog.**

P.S. I also finished another Sponsored Walk on May the 30th. Since the beginning of June 2014, I've been using an app on my phone to monitor how many miles I've been walking with Coco and set myself a target of completing 3,000 in a year. I started off the year relatively slowly (as I recovered from some heart problems in April/May 2014) but as the longer days arrived in 2015 I was averaging 12 miles of walking a day and thanks to the 26 mile walk for the BHF I passed my target just before the year had elapsed.

As 2015 had been designated by Darren Wright as a year of fundraising for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, I decided to set up a Just Giving page to raise money during my walk. My initial target was £100 but by the end of the year I'd raise a grand total of £465 for this very worthwhile charity.

### **To God.Com**

Dear God every single evening, as I'm lying here in bed  
This tiny little prayer keeps running through my head.  
God Bless all my family wherever they may be  
Keep them warm and safe from harm, for they mean so much to me.

And God there is one more thing I wish that You could do  
Hope You don't mind me asking, please Bless my computer too  
Now I know that it's unusual to bless a motherboard  
But listen just a second, while I explain it Lord.

You see that little metal box holds more than odds and ends  
Inside its small compartments rests many of my friends.  
I know so much, about them by the kindness that they give  
This little scrap of metal takes me in to Where they live,

By Faith is how I know them much the same as You  
We share in what life brings us, from that our friendship grew.  
Please take an extra minute from Your duties up above  
To Bless those in my Address Book that's filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach, to each and every friend  
Bless each email inbox and each person who hits send.  
When You update Your Heavenly list on Your own great CDROM  
Bless everyone who says this prayer sent up to GOD. COM

## Melissa's Thought for the Month – June 2015

When you read this, we shall have passed the Day of Pentecost and celebrated once more the gift of the Spirit. I said I would hopefully offer you more of my thoughts on that subject.

When we wish to find out what St Paul has to say about it we cannot do better than read again the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of his first letter to the Christians in Corinth. In the final verse he gives his selection of the three most valuable gifts faith, hope and love, the greatest of which is love.

As I have said before, I never learned Greek but I have picked up somewhere that they had three different words which are all translated as “love” in English. The three are eros, philia and agape.

At the centre of Piccadilly Circus in London is the statue of Eros with his bow and arrow. In English literature, he is more often called Cupid from the Latin rather than the Greek name. Clearly the love he represents is sexual love – the word erotic has the same connotation. The darts of Cupid give a similar impression. “Cupidity” on the other hand is more a general desire to own something (or someone).

Philia appears in Philanthropy as a general willingness to care for other people's needs. It is specifically the philanthropy which we use in connection with charitable giving. Unfortunately that has overtones of the “Lady Bountiful” idea. Those on the receiving end can have the feeling that there is an element of conscious superiority and condescension which can easily be relented. Who wants to feel they are being treated as inferior? We all have our human pride.

Human pride can be a good thing or a bad thing. It is good when it leads us to do our very best in every situation. It is bad when we congratulate ourselves. Probably it is at it's worst when it becomes spiritual pride. This is the most likely to be our besetting sin as Christians. I know it is the one with which I have battled all my life. Our only hope is if we recognise it and acknowledge our need for forgiveness; both by God and our neighbours.

The third and final word is agape.

This is used here by St Paul (I have checked by using my Grandmother's Testament and Lexicon combined with my own knowledge of the Greek alphabet!). It is only recently that I found out, from my BRF – Bible Reading Fellowship – daily readings, that there is a branch of the Christian Church which refers to the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Agape. This is what was meant – and intentionally so – by those who said “See how these Christians love one another!” It was not being ironic!

It might be so in the case of all of us at times, “Oh Lord, forgive and renew your agape within us and our Community”.

By the way, I never forget what I owe to so many Christian friends at Marshside Road. I nearly did forget though, to remind you that the Link could do with your contributions. Single paragraphs about your outings, holidays, friends etc would be enough!

**Melissa.**



Many congratulations to **Chris Purcell** for the tremendous amount he raised doing his sponsored walk from Southport to Formby & back. To date he has raised over £900 for the British Heart Foundation as part of his BB Queen's award. Chris was accompanied by **Mike** who has raised an incredible amount over the past few months for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Well done both of you. We are very proud of you.

On Saturday (6th June), little **Nicholas Thomas Bielas-Barnes** is to be baptised at St Maria Goretti Church in Preston. Nicholas is the son of Andrew, one of our Boys' Brigade Officers and we love to see him in church on a Sunday morning.

On Sunday, 7th June, the baptism will take place here in our own church of little **Gracie Rae Elena**, daughter of Katie & Paul and grand-daughter of George & Avril. We pray God's richest blessing on both these little ones and their families.

We have missed **Win Johnson & Ken** from the choir over the past weeks. Win has been quite poorly in hospital and recovery is slow. She and Ken are presently being cared for at Lyndale Nursing Home and we continue to pray for Win's recovery and that she and Ken will be receiving all the help and care they need.

We were sorry to hear that little **Joshua Howard** had to spend several days in hospital recently. This must have been a very worrying time for Glenn and Nicola. Our love to all of you as we remember Joshua in our prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with **Frances Thomas** who is in hospital having undergone surgery. We send you our love, Frances and pray that you will make a speedy recovery.

For many weeks now, we have been praying for **Bill Sutton** and his wife, Pat. Bill has been suffering from an illness which has been debilitating and most distressing. Sadly,



Bill passed away today. Our love, thoughts and prayers are with Pat and sons Mark and Kevin and daughter in law and grandchildren as they come to terms with their loss. There are so many happy memories of Bill which many of us have been able to share over the years and we pray that these will be a tremendous comfort to Pat and the family in the days to come.

This is the time of the year when many young people are looking to the future with exams, applications to university, looking forward to employment etc. We have several young people here at Marshside Road currently sitting GCSE & A Level exams. Please pray for them. This can be a very stressful time and we pray that they will achieve whatever they have set their heart on as they plan for their future.

On May the 23<sup>rd</sup> **Kayleigh Ryan** celebrated her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and **Elena Barton** will be 18 on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to two wonderful young ladies, it has been a pleasure to watch you grow over the years.

Finally, since our church AGM, there have been some changes in our Leadership Team. **Elaine Evans & Jean Howard** have stepped down after serving the church in this capacity for many years. Those of us who have worked with them in the vestry know of their deep commitment and I know they will go on serving the church in other ways. Thank you both. Joining the team is **Richard Cowan, Liz Tomkins, Kirsty Howard & Glenn Howard**. Please pray for the Leadership Team and in fact for all who work so hard for their Lord here at Marshside Road.

God bless.

## **Dorothy Simpkin**

### **The Haircut**

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut he asked about his bill and the barber replied, "I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week". The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next day there was a "thank you" card and a dozen roses at his door.

Later a cop comes in for a haircut and when he tries to pay his bill the barber again replied "I cannot accept money for service, I am doing community service this week". The cop was happy and left the shop.

When the barber next opened his shop there was a tin of doughnuts waiting for him at the door.

Then an M. P. came in for a haircut and when he asked for the bill. Again the barber replied "I cannot accept money for service this week because I am doing community service." The M. P. went away very happy.

The next morning when the barber went to open up there were a dozen MPs waiting for a free haircut.

And that my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

## **The Garden Party**

The Annual Church and Community Garden Party will be held on Saturday 20th June.

The procession led by Marshside Brass Band will leave Paul's Lane (at the Fleetwood Road end of Radnor Drive) at 1.45 pm and the Garden Party will be opened by Mr Gary Bevin (Headmaster of St. Patrick's Primary School) at 2pm. Chris Wright's School of Dance and Drama will be performing a series of dances and there will be a games, a bouncy castle, refreshments, stalls and a Tombola.

Help is required to set up the Garden Party on the Saturday morning and to tidy up afterwards and also to run the stalls during the Gardern Party, please speak to Mike Owen, Stan Rimmer or a member of the Leadership Team if you are available to help.

Any donations for the Tombola can be passed to a member of Leadership Team or brought on the day along with cakes for the refreshments tent. There is als a request for toys in good condition for the craft/toy stall, including cuddly toys. Please hand to Mrs Joyce Smith or leave in the Vestry.

There will also be a brunch on Saturday the 13th of June from 10am until 1pm to raise funds to help cover the costs for the Garden Party. The usual fare will be on offer, e.g. bacon, sausage, egg butties, soup, toasted teacakes etc.

Many Thanks and we look forward to another brilliant day at the Garden Party for our Church and local Community.

## **The Leadership Team**

## Wise Words from Zeb Reiver

“True friendships never die, they may go quiet, they may become distant, they may even hang by a thread but they never die.”

“Internal strength makes us feel strong but we all need external love to feel that we belong.”

“Love that is unprompted and unexpected is love that is undeniable and unquestionable.”

“Sometimes the only person who can sort your head out, is you!”

“It’s ironic that a little bit of wire can stop the most expensive, powerful and gadget-laden car in its tracks and plunge the most lavish, expansive and hi-tech mansion into darkness. Remember, it’s not what you own, but the light you shine that counts.”

“Even if it’s painful, relive special memories you had with special people. Time does not devalue them, they are eternally priceless!”

“A true friend just wants their friends to be safe, no matter the circumstances and distance that may keep them apart.”

“That moment when the penny drops and you realise that it’s not all about money!”

“They might not admit it and you might not think it but sometimes even the strong need a hand to get along!”

“Sometimes even unconditional love needs a bit of conditioning.”

“Forgiveness is an art, some find it easy while others need practice. Some will see its beauty, others will not. Don’t be dismayed, keep practicing for the real beauty lies in the eyes of the artist!”

“Don’t be envious and jealous of the possessions of others, be happy and satisfied that you have made a success of your choice to take a different path and chose different priorities”

“Don’t drain my generosity without helping me refuel!”

# Marshside Road Methodist Church, Southport, PR9 9TL

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

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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 <sup>th</sup> 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)
	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 :**

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