



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

June 2016



**The advancement of Christ's kingdom and the promotion of
Obedience, Reverence, Discipline and Self-respect.**

Dear Friends,

This last month I was privileged to attend the first international Messy Church conference. There were 220 delegates from 12 countries representing a wide range of denominations attending the conference, all eager to share how they do Messy Church in their context.

There was so much packed into the conference that I hardly know where to begin. I think some people may have thought that we were there to learn how to make even more things that can be covered in glitter; that couldn't have been further from the truth. The conference was rich in deep theological reflection. Workshops included conversations on the Messy Church values, Messy and traditional church: ways to be church together, valuing the spirituality of older people through messy church, encouraging faith at home, Messy Church and men, worship songs that work with all ages and Messy discipleship. All of these interspersed with times of reflection together, two Messy Church sessions and two seminars lead by George Lings. I have written a more detailed report on the conference and if you would like a copy please ask me.

One of the things that challenged me during the conference was the reminder that Messy Church has as part of its DNA five core values: all age, hospitality, creative, celebration and Christ centred. And George Lings reminded us that these are the things that are important and that what we do whether it be craft activity, what food we have or what songs we sing are all underpinned by these five values. The five values are more important than what we do. I was challenged not to do things at Messy Church because this is what we've always done; our values are more important than our structure.

There was an interesting conversation about what Messy Church is asking traditional Church, what traditional Church is asking Messy Church and what common ground do we share. We were reminded that the Church is the body of Christ and one part of the body cannot say to the other part I don't need you.

For me the key thing that came out of the conference was the need to develop disciples, not only in Messy Church but in all forms of Church. How do we do that in Messy Church has been a question asked a lot recently but I also want to ask traditional church how do we make disciples? As I've reflected upon this question and talked it over with others it seems to me that our relationships are so important.

Last Sunday I was blessed to be able to Baptise my grandson, it was so special and I was able to go to the do afterwards! When we have a baptism in church the church is usually full of people from the "missing generation" that we are so keen to engage with and last Sunday was no exception. Can I just say a massive thank you to everyone who made them feel so welcome and point out that the

"missing generation" had their eyes opened as to how different church was to the church of their imaginations and sometime experience?

The thing is, though, I spent time with these young people during the rest of the day and as a result of my being with them I had so many conversations about God, faith and

religion that I was quite taken aback. Conversations that would never have taken place otherwise. Conversations that would never have happened if I hadn't gone into their world, conversations that would never have happened if I hadn't been released by Crossens to spend the day with them and not have to rush back to do an evening service.

It seems to me that if our relationships are to be one of the ways that we grow disciples we should be asking ourselves how does the church equip and release us to be able to invest our time and energy in our relationships?

Yours in Christ

Rev Jan

JESUS' DAY OFF by Nicholas Allan (Supplied by George Phillips)

Jesus is God's Son.

He had 12 special friends – They were called disciples

He told marvellous stories for free.

Each day He worked hard to make everything around Him beautiful, until one day He woke up exhausted from saving the world.

That day the miracles didn't go quite so well, nor did His stories.

He went to the doctor's and, after examining Him, the doctor advised :-

“Take the day off, Jesus. Relax and enjoy yourself. Sit in the sun”.

So Jesus told His friends what the doctor had ordered and then went out for a walk in the desert.

It was a lovely cloudless day.

First of all He did cartwheels right across the desert!

Then He played 'catch' with his halo.

Then He had a picnic.

After that He had a refreshing swim in the lake.

And finally He went for a long donkey ride – something He always enjoyed.

It had been a wonderful day, but, towards the end, as He sat in the sun, Jesus suddenly felt sad.

For really the day had been wasted, and He had helped no one!

In fact, He felt so bad, He decided to tell His Dad about it.

Jesus loved His Dad very much.

Dad knew everything, and always had the right thing to say.

When Jesus told Him about His day off, his Dad said;

“Look down there a minute, son”.

So Jesus looked down.

“Where you did your cartwheels, fountains of water appeared in the desert.”

“Where you threw your halo in the air and ate your picnic, the trees bloomed with fruit.”

When you went swimming in the lake, the fishermen had lots of luck.”

“So you see, when you are feeling better yourself, you can only make others feel better, too.” Jesus knew that, as usual, His father was right!

“Thanks, Dad,” He said.

When Jesus got home, His friends were so happy to see him looking so well, they cooked him a delicious supper.

That night, after He had said His prayers, Jesus slept soundly.

The next morning He was glad he had taken a rest. He had this funny feeling there was a lot more good work to be done!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We continue to meet every Thursday morning at 10.15am when we spend the first 45 minutes enjoying coffee and biscuits and chat while also visiting Joyce’s stall. We all believed it was a miracle when Diane and Tony joined us and offered to help Joyce with her stall, which enables us to give generously to our church and other needy causes. At 11am, one of our list of 15 speakers (see list below), leads us in a 30 minute ‘Thought for the Day’.

Our average attendance is over 40, although, on occasions, we top the 50 mark! Members come not only from our own church, but from Crossens too, and some from further afield – Preston and Birkdale.

Liz, our pianist, with help from Jeanne, leads our singing from either the MHB, H&P, SofF or MP.

Avril is my faithful assistant and Alan Wood our trusted Treasurer.

The fellowship we share each Thursday needs to be experienced to realise how much we all look forward to our Thursday mornings together.

Come and join us whenever you can. You will be made very welcome.

George Phillips

Secretary

Speakers

Rev Jan Fraser; Rev Len Cook; Carol Drury; Duncan Wood; Eileen Garfitt; Margaret Boston; Heather Barclay; Avril Merone; Doreen Gillam; Deborah Jones; Pam O’Malley; Cynthia May; Stan Rimmer; Tony Rimmer; and Susan Carpenter.

Queen’s Badge Presentation and Royal Garden Party.

On the 15th of May, Jake and Chris were presented with their Queen’s Badges at Linacre Missions Church in Litherland. The service was opened by the North West District

President, Alan McLoughlin and led by the Chaplain of the Liverpool Battalion, Nicola Langton-Miller.

After the colours were received (with Jake in the colour party), a rousing rendition of the Boy's Brigade hymn, "Will Your Anchor Hold", and a short sermon from the Battalion Chaplain about the Good Samaritan, the 24 young people, 19 boys and 5 girls, each received their awards from the Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE. One of the new Queen's Men, from the 1st Elworth Company near Sandbach, read a vote of thanks to the dignitaries, outlining the work that had to be completed to gain the award and benefits he had attained from working towards the badge.

Dame Lorna responded with an address to the boys, girls and their friends and family. She made the point that the young people should be very proud of their achievements, as should the officers and family members that had supported the young people in their work. She also dismissed news paper articles that paint a negative picture of young people in the country and she highlighted the invaluable work that thousands of volunteers, that she meets on daily basis through her role, perform that also goes unrecognised by the media outlets.

At the end of the service, the colours were returned and everyone stood to sing the National Anthem before refreshments were served to all those present.

Everyone who attended had a really enjoyable afternoon and it was lovely to see the hard work that had been completed by the young people and their supporters recognised in such a appreciative way.

Jake and Chris were chosen from the 24 young people to attend the Royal Garden Party on the 19th of May at Buckingham Palace.

Jake and Chris, together with Chris's Dad, Mark, made their way to London on the Wednesday afternoon and stayed over night at Mark's Aunties in Woodgreen before making their way to Buckingham Palace on the Thursday morning. Although they didn't get chance to meet the Queen, they did see Prince Charles and both Jake and Chris thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it was just reward for their hard work.

A DVD of the Garden Party is being produced on behalf of the Royal Family and a copy has been ordered. When the DVD has been delivered, an evening will be arranged to show the DVD in the Church Lounge for everyone who is interested.

Kay Owen

Boys' and Girls' Brigade Display

It was lovely to see so many people supporting the boys, girls and officers in the Church Hall at their Annual Display on the 21st of May.

After Fall In, March On The Colours and General Salute played on the bugle by Sam Owen, we all sang the Boys' Brigade Hymn "Will Your Anchor Hold" before the Inspecting Officer, Rob Campbell inspected the boys and girls. The opening part of the display was completed by singing "Oh Jesus I have Promised" before March Off The Colours was played.

The boys then played their drums in the style of the Swiss Secret Drum Corp that were recently seen at the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, this also included a short performance of Morris Drumming.

There then followed a few games, Jumbo Os and Xs and Rats and Rabbits for Juniors followed by Top Swaps with the Anchors.

The Company Section's drill item was based on a Dad's Army Sketch called, The Mail Must Get Through, which saw Andrew Barnes play a very convincing Captain Mainwaring and Reece play Pike.

The Anchor boys retold the story of David and Goliath, which starred a chef, a Policeman and lot of sheep.

Rob Campbell, a member of the 10th Southport Company in the 1970s, kindly made a very generous donation two years ago and we used some of the money to purchase a giant connect 4 game, this was used for the Company Section game.

The Juniors then made Pizza as Kirsty described how the pizza is like Jesus, the foundation behind everything that we do, the sauce is like the Bible, full of good things for us and the toppings can be varied and different, like Children and the people of God.

Sam Owen played the Last Post and Reveille as part of a Remembrance Service for the Epilogue before the awards were presented and Rev Jan closed the display with the blessing.

Kay Owen

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 3rd of July 2016**.

Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 26th of June**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

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Ministers : Revd. Jan Fraser

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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, 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)
	Knit & Craft Club, see website for details	13:00 – 16:00	Mrs Dorothy Mitchell (228430)
Wednesday	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.