



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

March 2015

Your will be done.....

**....in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
When there is work for me and where there is none;
When I am troubled and when I am at peace.
When I am valued and when I am disregarded;
When I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
When I have all things, and when I have nothing;**

Spring....time to renew your covenant with God?

Minister's Letter

As I write we are still coming to terms with the loss of our much loved superintendent minister Rev Tim Hall who died suddenly on the 31st January in South Africa. His death has been such a shock to us as a circuit but also to his wife Ann and their children and wider family. We continue to hold Ann and their family and friends in our prayers.

Over 800 people came to Leyland Road Methodist church to celebrate the life of Rev'd Timothy Peter Hall. It was a truly uplifting service reflecting Tim's enthusiasm for worship. There were so many people taking part and wanting to pay tribute to Tim that we ran out of time, not leaving for our 12 o'clock appointment at the crematorium till ten past twelve!

When Tim was accredited as a Local preacher his tutor said that "Tim Hall is on fire for Christ and the world will be enriched by watching him burn!" I'm sure we would all agree with this statement. Tim's enthusiasm for the gospel, the saints and the church was an inspiration to all of us who had the privilege of knowing him and sharing in his ministry. His brother in law summed him up thus:

"We all felt privileged to love and be loved by him. He was so exceptionally clever and well-read yet full of grace, humility and genuine compassion. Tim could engage in academic debate yet comfortably sit and listen and talk to the poorest of vulnerable people on the margins of society and make each one feel special and valued. We TRULY saw Christ at work in Tim Hall. Totally transparent, authentic with complete integrity and NEVER judgemental"

Several passages of scripture have been quoted in connection with Tim and his life but this one is perhaps the one that will stay with me and possibly the one that Tim would have us remember:

Ephesians 3:14-21 New International Version (NIV)

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to

know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Friends, if Tim's death has taught us anything it is that life is short, we never know the day it will change forever. I implore you to follow Tim's example and live enthusiastically for the gospel today and every day.

Rev Jan

Church Council Meeting

During the recent Church Council meeting, held on the 22nd of January 2015, the following items were discussed :-

- To prevent breakdown in communication and to ensure that all parties are aware of events planned in the Church, a Church Diary has been created for all known events and will be updated by the Leadership Team. A internal booking form is available in the Church porch and vestry. When planning an event, a booking form needs to be completed and given to a member of the Leadership Team.

In addition to the Church Diary, a series of calendars have been created, one for each room at Church and a combined one. The calendars are available on the Church Website.

- Missions Weekend, on the 5th/6th March 2015, will be supporting the Southport Food Bank.
- Volunteers are required for Christian Aid week commencing 10th May 2015.
- The Leadership team has perused the Social Media Policy which was adopted by Church Council (the main points of the policy are included in this month's Link)
- The Circuit Leadership Team has recognised that Marshside Road does a great deal of youth work and has offered to fund a Pais worker for our Church for a year.
- Due to success of the Parent and Toddler Group and to adhere to Health and Safety considerations, a waiting list has been started. There is also a shortage of space for prams etc.
- David Goldson has volunteered to accept the role of Church Treasurer, to take over from Irene Baxendale (who has done an amazing job with Church accounts). David has had to relinquish his role of Lettings Officer.

- When the audited accounts are available they will need to be approved, Church Council agreed to devolve responsibility to the Finance Group before presentation at the Annual Church Meeting in May.
- The Finance Group have worked out that it will cost £78,476 to run the Church for the year.
- The work on the Church Hall floor has been completed, but the windows need replacing, when funding is available.
- The brilliant work of the Property and Finance Committee was acknowledged and the group has been restructured to allow the excellent work to continue.
- Any notices to be displayed on the Church notice boards should be placed in an “in box” in the Vestry and in the Lounge. The notices will be attached to the boards with a staple gun, as drawing pins should no longer be used to prevent them falling on to the floor and being trodden on.
- The new Circuit Superintendant who will commence in September is Rev Marie Ann Kent. Rev Kent will reside in the Manse in Falkland Road and will be in charge of St Phillip & St Paul with Wesley and St Francis of Assisi.
- John Cass has been appointed Circuit Administrator, he will eventually run the Circuit Office at Liverpool Road.
- The District Testimony service for Rev Patrick Evans will take place at Blundellsands Methodist on the 17th May 2015 at 6.30pm.
- The Methodist Conference will take place in Southport from 26th June to 2 July 2015.
- Representatives of Marshside Road are required to attend Circuit meetings on behalf of the Church. If anyone is interested in being a Circuit representative, please speak to Rev. Jan.
- Heather Barclay has resigned as Communion Steward after 11 years service. Emelia Aspinall and George Merone will join the Communion Stewards.
- Elena Barton has agreed to become a Junior Church Steward, shadowing one of the Stewards and joining the Leadership Team.
- It was agreed to remove the two cloths on the Memorial shelves in the Church as they were considered to be a hazard to small children due to there being a candle on each shelf.
- A request was approved to purchase 6 chairs with arms for the lounge.
- Following the resignation of Bob Owen from being Envelope Secretary, Doreen Gillam will now look after the envelopes as well as being involved as Gift Aid Secretary.
- AGM, 24th May 2015. Next Church Council, 23 June 2015.

Social Media Policy

The Leadership team, in conjunction with the Safeguarding Officer, have recently derived a Social Media Policy to try to clarify the relationship between this modern means of communication and the Church. The full version of the Policy can be found around the Church and also on the Church Website on the Safeguarding page. The Policy was adopted by the Church Council.

The main points of the policy are included in this month's Link to help in understanding this complex, serious and emotive subject.

Introduction

Social networking through the use of Internet based and other electronic social media tools is integrated into everyday life. Use of Facebook, LinkedIn, Blogging, Micro blogging (twitter, Tumblr), Pinterest (pinning an image to a virtual board) and other social media vehicles are common place.

The lines between work, social life and what happens in church, can become blurred. Generally what people do in their own time is a personal decision. However actions that are deliberately damaging or hurtful to the Church, or to an individual or group within it, or that bring the Church into disrepute are already potentially disciplinary matters, whether they are carried out online or not.

Matter of Trust

Methodist discipline relies on trust, these guidelines therefore as far as possible trust in people's common sense.

- *Social media do not change our understanding of confidentiality or what is or is not acceptable to say.*
- *The Policy should not limit or prevent constructive debate or discussion through social media. There is a wide range of opinion within the Church on some topics, and one of the attractive features about Methodism is our ability to disagree constructively.*
- *There is a fine line between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour online, and this line will move with time. **The aim of the Church should therefore be to foster healthy and active online and social media.***

Share information Carefully

- *With today's technology, one person can now share their thoughts from within a meeting with many.*

- *When a meeting is held, participants are free to use the information received after the end of the meeting, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), may be revealed.*
- *Members of governance bodies should not record and share any photographs, video or audio of other members of the body or guests without their permission.*
- *The minister and others may follow the online activities of others even if they do not contribute themselves. Information that could be useful or should be corrected should be referred to the member of the Team with responsibility for that area or work.*
- *Respect the law, including those laws governing defamation, discrimination, harassment, and copyright.*
- *It would be wrong for anyone with reason to suspect improper behaviour by a member of the Team to raise it via social media in the first instance without allowing the Church to first hold a proper investigation is unfair to the individuals involved and to the Church's processes.*

Benefits to the Methodist Church

The rise of social media has considerable potential benefits to the Church.

- *It can allow us to: spread our messages through our own social media sites; enable a sense of connectedness across the Connexion; and encourage collaborative working amongst people in different parts of the Connexion or even the world.*
- *It also enables us to listen to and participate in online "conversations" that might provide a stronger sense of what really matters to the Church or to groups within it.*
- *Social media are also increasingly the way that young people choose to communicate, or even expect to communicate. For all groups, when well used, social media and other electronic communications can act as levellers – all can participate more equally, regardless of their position in society or the church, their geographical location or any disabilities. It can be a lifeline!*

Risks to the Methodist Church

There are also multiple risks and the major ones include:

- *A member of staff, other employee or someone clearly linked to the Church (e.g. a minister) posts something online that is illegal, defamatory, offensive or*

otherwise damaging to the Church, its reputation or relationships within it or with partners.

- *Confidential information is disclosed, accidentally or deliberately.*
- *An individual within the Church posts comments about colleagues, managers or others that are serious enough to warrant investigation or possible disciplinary action.*
- *Decisions made by governance bodies are undermined or disrespected through continued argument online.*
- *The speed of electronic communications, including social media, makes it easy to say something that is later regretted, but which has become permanently online for all to see.*

Pastoral issues

Comments made online by staff or others could be signs of deeper occupational health issues. An unhappy employee, or volunteer might first show their frustration or sadness in an online comment, and this raises questions about how to respond.

Private space versus public arena

The use of social media significantly blurs the boundary between what is public and private. Especially for the younger generation this boundary may be porous or even non-existent.

Conversations or complaints about work, policy decisions are now played out online, often making them permanently available for all to see .

Respecting confidentiality is challenging in this area. Social media do not change the Church's understanding of confidentiality, but do make it necessary to reiterate.

The Leadership Team and Safeguarding Officer

Shire Horses

When I left the RAF I had one of the more glamorous jobs, I was a Spitfire pilot. I was also privileged to fly the mark X1V which was fitted with the new Griffon engine instead of the Merlin. The Griffon was much larger than the Merlin with an extra thousand horse power and rated at three thousand three hundred HP.

After being demobilized I went back to my old job as a store keeper in a shoe and slipper factory but after about eighteen months I decided that I wanted an outdoor job.

My father was a lorry driver with British Rail and from a boy I had wanted to be a lorry driver so why not follow in his footsteps. I applied for a place at Accrington goods depot

where he worked and was accepted but then the problems started. They still had some Shires working there and before you could be a lorry driver you had to be a carter. The only things I knew about horses was that they had a leg at each corner, they hadn't to go on the pavement and they had a tendency kick at one end and bite at the other but not deterred I decided to have a go

Day one: I worked in the stables doing what you do in stables and the permanent stableman showed me where the various pieces of equipment went on a working horse.

Day two: How to attach a horse into the shafts of a lorry and lead it around without it standing on you feet [I'm sure that the horse knew more about the job than I did] .

Day three: A man came all the way from Manchester to pass me out as a carter. I must be a quick learner because I passed.

Day four: I was out in the streets of Accrington making deliveries and collections.

The point of my story is that I had gone from Three Thousand Three Hundred H P to one HP and managed to survive.

By the way, the name of my horse was CLARENCE.

Peter Proctor

The Fence

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily, gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one." You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It wont matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. Make sure you control your temper the next time you are tempted to say something you will regret later.

Author Unknown (submitted by Roy Horswood)

Melissa's Thought for the Month – March 2015

March traditionally either comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, or vice-versa. When I am writing this it is not yet obvious which way round it will be this year. So far February has been very lamb-like, but we hear of storms on the other side of the Atlantic. Our weather pattern very often follows theirs. On the other hand, we keep seeing patterns of the Jet Stream which can alter things dramatically!

It is interesting how often the lion and the lamb are associated in our thinking. Whenever we visit the Lake District and pass by Grasmere we look up at Helm Crag above the village. There the rocks are so arranged that from one angle, they show a silhouette very like a lion with a lamb lying peacefully by its front paws. If we are viewing it from the Kirkstone Pass this soon changes. We see instead “the man playing the organ”. I just wonder if the tune played could be “sheep may safely graze”?

It is not only the meteorological “weather” which is constantly changing. The relationships between nations are by no means static. All through the ages the Middle East is rather like a cauldron – sometimes merely simmering and at others, threatening to reach boiling point. Recently we have been concerned for people have to leave their homes and look for places of safety. Now the so-called “Islamic State” appears to be starting open hostilities.

Not far away from the troubles in the Eastern Ukraine look likely to arouse the “Russian Bear”. What a heavy burden is carried by political leaders of peace loving countries like U.S.A., Britain and most of the E.U. etc! When and to what extent is any “aid” of intervention called for? Does the lion have any responsibility for quarrelsome lambs?

This year, the whole of March lies within the season of Lent. Once again, I have “given up” my plaything of “Sudoku”. This allows much more time for serious reading and meditation. This has created a new problem; how to choose one thought for the month!

The Lion and the Lamb theme was suggested by two T.V. programmes which I have recently enjoyed. One was the life of a “pride” of lions. It was fascinating to see how the dominant male protected his selected group of females with their young. The other was an edition of “Countryfile” in which Mark was carrying a newly born white lamb casually hanging from his strong hands. One pair of its little legs was dangling on each side of that safe grip.

Which is the centre of our Faith – the Lion of Judah or the Lamb of God? Surely this is a false antithesis. The God of Abraham in the Old Testament is the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is His spirit (the Holy Spirit) which alone can guide us in our search for truth and in that very ordinary choices of our daily human lives. In fact Jesus came to earth simply to show us how it could be done!

Melissa.



Church Family News

It may be cold but spring is on the way. Already we have daffodils, crocuses & snowdrops out in the garden and today I saw newborn lambs for the first time this year. How faithful our God is in His care and provision for us.

As a church family, there is always something to celebrate and this month we thank God that **Rod and Chris Wright** have a second little grand-daughter. Baby **April** was born to **Anna** earlier in February and we send Anna and her husband our congratulations and best wishes.

As we celebrate the arrival of a new baby, we also look forward to celebrating the 100th birthday of our most senior church member, **Reg Cheshire** on 24th March. Reg's family hope that friends will drop into the church lounge between 3pm & 5pm to greet Reg on his special day and share refreshments with him.

Darren has been unwell again & had to go into hospital but thankfully he is now out of hospital and recovering at home. You have to be fit for your fund-raising night on March 28th Darren. It should be a brilliant occasion as all the tickets are sold already.

Several of our church family have been unwell recently, many as a result of the nasty virus. I hope you won't mind if I do not mention everyone by name because that way, I am sure to leave someone out, but we do hope you will all soon be feeling much better. From what I hear, the after effects are quite debilitating. **Sue Taylor** is currently suffering with knee pain and is unable to get out. We send you our love and best wishes Sue. Once again we send our love and best wishes to **Peggy Headley** and **Melissa Wood** who are still not well enough to worship with us. We hope all of you who are unwell will know how much we miss you and that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

It is lovely to see our young people growing up in the church and taking on responsibilities. On the 25th of February, **Steph Law** celebrated her 18th Birthday. It is good to see the contribution **Chris, Jake & Sam** make to our worship on the sound desk and the audio-visual system. They do a brilliant job along with Mike. **Elena** has commenced her duties as a Junior Church Steward and it was lovely to see **Millie** assisting with communion on Sunday. **Caitlin & Millie** are members of Church council and most of the young people assist with J team and the Brigades. God bless you all in all your service for Him. We thank God for you and for all our children and young people.

As a Circuit, we are all suffering heartache on the loss of our much loved Superintendent, **Tim**. Many from our church attended the inspiring service of thanksgiving for Tim and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Ann and all the family. Please will you pray for the Circuit at this time. Tim's passing has left a great hole which it would be difficult for anyone to fill. Please pray especially for our ministers, the **Revd's Peter Hughes, Peter Knight, Jan & Patrick** as the next few months are going to be particularly difficult.

God Bless,

Dorothy Simpkin

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** is due to be published on the **Sunday the 5th of April 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 29th of March 2015**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

Things to Ponder

- You chose to attack me, I chose not to retaliate, who's in control?
- In times of weakness and need, people turn to the strong person in their lives, but who do the strong people turn to in their hour of need?

Do they turn to their car, their house or their bank balance? Maybe. Or do they turn to their strong friends, family or dog – both forward and backward? Or do they turn to their inner strength that comes from all four?

- Are the things you are passionate about purely random, or are they your calling?
- Do situations in life keep repeating until you learn your lesson?
- When someone treats you nastily or treats you poorly, what does it say about them?
- Should you be worried when someone argues with you, or when they stop and have nothing left to fight for?
- Does life become simpler when you've been shown the Big Picture?

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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 Carol Drury (226830)
	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)
	Wednesday Group - every 4 th Wednesday		Miss Heather Jackson (532977)
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)
	Church Stewards	Rev Jan Fraser (227296)
	Cradle Roll	Mrs Margaret Boston (211548)
	Magazine/Website Editor	Mr Mike Owen (225126)
	Action for Children Co-ordinator	Mrs Dilys Stead (211342)
	Pastoral Committee	Mrs Joan Owen (220436)
	Premises Letting Officer	Mr David Goldson (514390)
	World Missions	Mrs Lin Mayor (212059)

Disclaimer :

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