



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk



Priceless, but donations gratefully received

March 2016



**Mother, there can be no other, to replace her special way,
Love her like no other, on this her special day.**

Dear friends

The leadership team continues to meet monthly to reflect upon the mission of the church and deal with day to day practicalities.

Since our last church council we've talked about such things as the notice boards, the pre-school, storage solutions, photocopiers, crèche area, Rev Jan's letter of understanding from the circuit, the annual count, Sunday lunches, communication and where we see ourselves in five years' time.

There was a church wide consultation on the style and format of the notice boards on the 21st and 28th Feb.

A new room has been created off the small coffee lounge to maximise our storage space and the property team have been busy moving the contents of various rooms to make access to item easier and hopefully give us more storage space.

A new photocopier with a cheaper contract has been installed.

After the success of the Sunday lunch after the reception of new members last year we realised that there may be some need for us to eat together more often and to that end we are looking to offer Sunday lunch on the fifth Sunday of the month, when there is one.

We also reflected upon attendance at harvest supper and noted that they aren't as well attended as they have been in previous years. This year we are hoping then to trial having a bring and share lunch after the harvest supper and we are hoping that more people will feel able to engage with this.

Rev Jan's letter of understanding is a document written by the circuit stewards that sets out areas of responsibility that enable the circuit, the churches and Rev Jan to see where her priorities lie. Here are some of the highlights:

Areas of Responsibility

Prepare for, preach and lead worship in the above churches and elsewhere in the Circuit, thereby encouraging congregations, groups and individuals in their faith journeys.

Ensure adequate time, with a minimum of two sessions per week, for non-contact time to support your ministry.

Prepare for and conduct baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Work for one or two sessions per week in your chaplaincy role at Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals.

Act as leader of Messy Church Ministries in the Circuit and as Messy Church coordinator for Southport across the denominations.

Build on existing contacts in local communities, especially schools.

Guide the churches in developing their vision and mission and help them to identify priorities, and focus resources available on them.

Help to develop a shared vision, locally, ecumenically and within the Circuit.
Be responsible, in collaboration with others, for the pastoral care of church members.
Exercise your particular distinctive and God-given gifts on a circuit-wide basis and beyond, including roles within the Liverpool District as required.

Please continue to pray for Rev Jan!

As we were considering where we would like to be in the next five years we were all very excited to look back and see how much we had grown and what we have achieved in the last three years. Amongst the highlights was the immense success of the re decorated hall and just how much that redecoration has positively improved the atmosphere of the hall. With this in mind we started to wonder how we could do the same within our sanctuary. There is no doubt in our minds that we are running out of space for our lively growing church and the sanctuary area could give us that much needed extra space. At the moment the priority for the leadership team is to pray about and research how best to use our worship space.

Leadership team meetings for the next few months are on:

9th March

14th April

9th May

7th June

If there is anything you would like us to consider please bring it up with one of the leadership team who will bring it to our next meeting.

Yours in Christ

Rev. Jan, Stan Rimmer, Pat Rees, Glenn Howard, Tony Rimmer, David Goldson, Richard Cowan, Kirsty Howard, Liz Tomkins, Jayne Barton, Mike Owen, Evelyn Rimmer. (The Leadership Team)

Missions

Thank you to everyone who supported the CBM Project a total of £801.10 was raised for the vital work they do as a Christian Disability outreach, please remember them in your prayers.

Our new missions project supporting Southport Food Bank begins on 1st March, and we will be having a launch on Sunday the 6th, with a Branch on Saturday the 5th to start off the fund raising.

Lin

Melissa's Thought for the Month - March 2016

The way Easter falls this year each Sunday has its own significance which we do well to consider.

First we have Mother's Day. Nowadays it is mainly observed by buying mothers (and probably grandmothers too) a box of special chocolates and/or some other present as well as the ubiquitous cards.

Originally, of course, it was the day on which the girls who worked as domestic servants had their one day off in the year. This was in order to visit their families - hence the traditional name of Mothering Sunday.

The following week is Passion Sunday. This is most likely to have been the day on which Jesus set His face "steadfastly" to go to Jerusalem. Clearly He knew what awaited Him there. It was not a decision to be taken lightly. He was truly human and this was the day which presaged the agony and the cross.

Next we have Palm Sunday. The cheering crowd waving palm fronds in greeting must have seemed ironic to Him though the warmth of their appreciation would not have been lost on Him. The branches of "pussy willow" which we display in our Churches do not really recapture the scene. Why we call them "palm" I do not know. Perhaps we should ask Susie Dent to include in her "Origins of Words" which many enjoy on the BBC programme "Pointless".

Finally, the climax of the month is Easter Sunday. Again many people think mainly of Easter Eggs and fluffy yellow "chicks". What is forgotten is the symbolism.

An egg is not just a very useful part of our diet whether eaten separately or used in cooking and baking. It is first visible signs of new life coming into the bird world. On the surface of the yolk is an invisible speck which will develop into the new chicken when it has absorbed the excellent food stored for it in the yolk and the white of the egg.

In the same way a very small act - or even a thought or a prayer - can develop and eventually bring forth new and/or more abundant life to a human spirit. This can prove as attractive in the world as a newly hatched chicken.

A very Happy Easter to you all when "the time is fully come".

Melissa.

Time For a Cuppa

On Saturday the 19th of March, we will be holding a brunch in aid of Dementia UK'S Time For A Cuppa fundraiser in memory of Gerry Fagan. Usual menu of bacon, sausage, egg butties, soup, 'Toda/s Specials" and a cake stall. Please come along and support this very worthwhile cause while enjoying good food and good fellowship. **Tracey Lynwode and family.**

Planting Seeds of the Spirit

When a mommy hugs her children
She plants a seed of **love**
And all her wonderful kisses
Come from God above.

When a mommy laughs and giggles
She plants a seed of **joy**
Like when she tickles your funny bone
Or plays with your favorite toy

When a mommy tucks you in at night
She plants a seed of **peace**
She prays for God to bless you
With a sweet and restful sleep

When a mommy asks you to wait for things
A seed of **patience** is what she sows
For all the really good things in life
Take some time to grow

When a mommy makes your favorite food
She plants a seed so **kind**
She knows when chicken soup is good for you
Or when you have cookies on your mind

When a mommy washes all your clothes
Seeds of **goodness** she plants
She works so hard to scrub and scrub
So you will have clean shirts and pants

When a mommy takes care of you all day
Faithfulness is the seed she sows
She makes sure you have all you need
Like lots of good food and shoes on your toes

When a mommy rocks you in her arms
A **gentle** seed is planted deep
Sometimes she'll sing you a little song
While in her arms you cry or sleep

When a mommy tells you, “No, no, no.”
She plants a seed of **self-control**
For she knows not all things are good for you
So make sure you listen to what you are told

But the greatest seed that a mommy plants
Is the seed of God's great **love**
She wants you to know him just like she does
So that one day you both will live in Heaven above.

Scripturelady.com

For everyone struggling with something.....from me to you.....

Do you know my story, my journey to today,
The pain and the suffering that would not go away?
Do you know my story, my journey to this place,
The trials and tribulation edged upon my face?
Do you know my story, my journey to happiness
Did you celebrate with me, my joy and success?
If you know my story, and helped me on my path,
Thank you for being there, for encouraging me to laugh
If you know my story but hindered or did me wrong,
Please accept my forgiveness you're one reason I'm so strong!

Mike Owen

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 3rd of April 2016**.
Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 27th of March**. Thanks, Mike (MikeOwen10@aol.com)

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www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk

Ministers : Revd. Jan Fraser

Tel : 01704 227296

Email : revjanfraser@hotmail.co.uk

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