



The Link



The Magazine of

Marshside Road Methodist Church Southport

www.marshside-methodist-southport.org.uk

Worship
Fellowship
Nurture

**Marshside Road
Methodist Church**

Fulfilling God's vision in the local Community

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November 2015



We Will Remember Them.....

The Old Man

The old man with white hair walks slowly now, but he casts a long shadow. Look closely at that shadow and you may see the boy of seventeen that he was, full of life, his gait straight and steady, his arms swinging in cadence to the beat of his boots. A boy who left home to go to war.

Yes, he walks slowly now, slightly bent and worn from the weight of the years and the memories that flood his thoughts. Memories of friends lost, lives unfulfilled and the horrors of war. Yet the old man does not complain, he doesn't brag, but if you ask him, he might tell you, as if recounting a story, in a matter-of-fact sort of way, what it was like to be a soldier in a time of war.

He'll tell you of his first trip on the ocean with thousands of other boys and how he spent most of his time by the rail. He'll tell you of leaving England a wide-eyed boy, not old enough to go to a pub, yet somehow old enough to go to war. He'll tell you of places with strange-sounding names, such as Dieppe, Juno Beach, Apeldoorn, Arnhem, Ortona and many more.

He'll simply say that his country called and all he did was answer that call... "For King and country". He did his duty, nothing more. He's not a hero, for all the heroes are still 'over there', but the medals on his chest tell a different story. A story of courage and valour, of a duty well done!

As the old man gets closer and the crowd applauds its thanks, look closely at his shadow and you may see the boy of seventeen that he was, full of life, his gait straight and steady, his arms swinging in cadence to the beat of his boots. A boy who left home to go to war and came home a man.

On November 11th, see the old men, but look closely at the shadows...

André Ouellette

A Poem for Remembrance Day – supplied by Diane Parkinson

"The inquisitive mind of a child"

Why are they selling poppies, Mummy?

Selling poppies in town today.

The poppies, child, are flowers of love.

For the men who marched away.

But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy?

Why not a beautiful rose?

Because my child, men fought and died
In the fields where the poppies grow.
But why are the poppies so red, Mummy?
Why are the poppies so red?
Red is the colour of blood, my child.
The blood that our soldiers shed.
The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy.
Why does it have to be black?
Black, my child, is the symbol of grief.
For the men who never came back.
But why, Mummy are you crying so?
Your tears are giving you pain.
My tears are my fears for you my child.
For the world is forgetting again.

Author Unknown

Melissa's Thought for the Month – November 2015

Each of my Saturday newspapers in October seem to have been leading me to the theme of migration. Every week there is something fresh on the subject.

In my childhood migrants were always birds which arrived in Spring and left again in the Autumn. We looked for the first swallow and listened for the first cuckoo. Later I learned to recognise the house martin – very similar to the swallow but having a white rump and no long tail “streamers”.

Particularly since Sir Peter Scott opened the Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre at Martin Mere we have been watching for the Autumn arrival of the V shaped skeins of pink footed geese. We either see them and/or hear them flying over night and mornings to and from their Martin Mere roosts and their feeding ground on our coastal marshes.

This year some excellent TV programmes have shown us many more birds, fish and mammal migrations over both longer and shorter routes. All these movements follow their equally mobile food supplies.

Human migration is something else though it too is led by a desire for a better life. Some groups are genuinely evading persecution – either cultural or religious. For others it is the lure of economic advantage. In the olden days, folk had the idea that “The streets of London were paved with gold.” Now the attraction of the UK is our systems of

benefits, pensions and the National Health Service. Some of these people have no idea that most of us have had to work hard to earn and to save in order to receive these advantages.

Legal immigrants know that they have to work here for a certain length of time before they are eligible to receive them. The illegal enter the country in unorthodox ways – hitching through the Channel Tunnel (some of us realised this potential at the time of its opening and had serious doubts about its wisdom). Others arrive by boat or ‘plane at unexpected parts of the country.

What should be our attitude to this situation from a Christian point of view? We know that every single human being is one for whom our Saviour died.

My personal view is influenced by my experience of having visited relations in different parts of the world. One Canadian friend commented that the trouble with our towns and cities is that we live in a land of “wall to wall people”. In Australia (the Big Country), they are concerned about migration not from Near East but from the Near North – Japan too is a group of overcrowded islands like ours.

Our Creator Father God knows the whole picture. Not one sparrow falls to the ground without him and we are of more value. His plan is perfect but we cannot know it all.

Melissa.

Petition to stop cuts to Merseyside Police

Hundreds of people have signed a petition urging the Government to end the cuts to Merseyside Police.

Merseyside’s Police Commissioner Jane Kennedy and the Merseyside Police Federation have started the joint petition on the UK Government and Parliament petitions website calling upon the Prime Minister David Cameron to put an end to the budget cuts.

Jane Kennedy is currently considering making all Merseyside Police PCSOs redundant, disbanding the mounted section and the basic command unit structure which has served the Force for 40 years. This will mean a loss of a further 1,400 people by 2018/19.

If the petition receives 10,000 signatures it will receive a government response and if it receives 100,000 it will be considered for debate in Parliament.

The Commissioner is now urging people across the region to help Merseyside Police by signing the petition at www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110893 . They intend to

submit the final petition to the Government before November 25 when the Chancellor will announce the funding for the police for the next three years.

Jane Kennedy said: “There was an overwhelming response to the open letter I put out to the public of Merseyside last week and I am grateful for all the messages of support and understanding which I received.

“Now I am urging the people of Merseyside to help the police by asking the Prime Minister to bring these cuts an end.

“The Chief Constable and I have worked really hard to make the police as efficient as they can be. We have streamlined every process. We have improved communications and equipment. It is no longer a case of improving efficiency; if the cuts are to be made next year we will have to fundamentally change the way policing is delivered to the detriment of everyone who lives here.

“The sad reality is that our police service will not be able to provide the really effective crime prevention, community safety and victim support services it has done in recent years. The danger is it will become an emergency only response to 999 calls.

“From all the messages, emails and letters I have received, I don’t believe this is what people on Merseyside want from their police service and the Federation and I are standing together to ask Merseysiders for their help.”

Merseyside Police has seen its budget cut by £77 million since 2010, with a further £48 million worth of cuts already being demanded by the Government the end of the financial year 2018/2019. This means they must cut the strength of the Force from 7,300 in 2010 to 4,400 by 2019.

This position looks even bleaker now the Government has revealed its proposed new funding formula for policing, which may see a further 2.2% cut from the budget. It is also anticipated that the savings required in the Chancellor’s Comprehensive Spending Review will also be worse than expected when it is announced in November.

In the joint petition, the Commissioner and the Federation urge the Prime Minister to “end the damaging cuts to the budget of Merseyside Police” saying: “If the cuts don’t stop now, Merseyside Police will lose all PCSOs, the entire mounted section and will be forced to cut 1,000 more police officers and staff.

“Further cuts will affect the teams which fight serious and organised crime, investigate rape and sexual violence and tackle hate crime. They will also affect the Force’s ability to provide neighbourhood policing to Merseyside’s communities, as it is depleted from a strength of more than 7,300 in 2010 to less than 4,500 in 2019.”

They warn him that the cuts may “seriously weaken Merseyside Police’s ability to keep us safe from harm.”

Police and Crime Panel Chair Cllr Christina O’Hare said: “The Police and Crime Panel met last week and discussed with the Commissioner the potential impact of the massive cuts being imposed on Merseyside Police Force.

“As a Panel, we share the concerns about the effect this might have on the communities of Merseyside and fully support the joint petition by the Commissioner and the Police Federation to bring this to the attention of the public and the Government.”

People can help the police by signing the petition at www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110893



Church Family News

This weekend we will be remembering those who have given their lives, not only in the two world wars but in other and more recent conflicts. We can never repay the sacrifice that not only they, but their families have made in pursuit of peace and freedom and yet, throughout the world today, there are thousands upon thousands of people who do not and may never have known the freedom we here in this country enjoy. We have so much to thank God for. I pray we will never take our freedom for granted.

Closer to home this month, we have lost two of our faithful, elderly friends. **Bob Gardner**, who worshipped here for many years and served in recent years as senior church steward, passed away following a long period of illness. His funeral was held on Monday, 2nd November and our thoughts and prayers have been with his wife and daughters at this sad time. At the grand old age of 100, our dear friend, **Reg Cheshire** passed away in the nursing home where he has been a resident for some time. Reg was a Local Preacher well into his eighties and regularly led Bible studies here at Marshside Road. His commitment to his Lord and his faithfulness in prayer right up to the end of his life are an inspiration to us all. Again, we remember Reg’s two daughters and their families in our prayers.

We are pleased to hear that **Freda Wood** is home and recovering from her recent knee surgery. Take care Freda and we hope it won’t be too long before you are out and about again. **Ron Rimmer** is still awaiting surgery since his operation had to be postponed last week. Hope you will not have to wait too long, Ron & that you will soon be feeling the benefit of your operation. Awaiting surgery for a hip replacement is Jane Biggs. We are

thinking of you and praying for you, Jane, that all will go well so that you will find your mobility a little easier.

Fred Mitchell is suffering at the moment with a painful shoulder and we were sorry to learn that our dear friend, **Betty Andrew** had had a fall. Our love and prayers are with you both.

On Sunday, 1st November, it was a joy to welcome babies **Ella May (Woodward) & Elsie Nicola (Williamson)** into our church family. It was a great occasion and lovely to see so many friends and family supporting these little ones. On Sunday, 22nd November, baby **Madelaine Caslake** will also be received into the church family in infant baptism. Please pray for all these little ones and for their homes and families, that they will grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus.

We send our very best wishes to **Kathleen Wright**, mum of Elaine Evans, who will be celebrating at 90+ birthday on November 8th. Kathleen isn't able to get out these days but we want you to know, Kathleen, that you are always in our thoughts.

Finally, our young people are very special to us and we are always pleased to hear of their achievements. At the end of October, **Scarlett Aspinall** took part in the Liverpool & District swimming gala. She was competing against girls up to the age of 17 (Scarlett had only celebrated her 13th birthday two days before)! She was 'crowned' Regional Champion and brought home a shield which she holds for a year. Well done Scarlett. We are very proud of you.

As I conclude almost every Family News page with the same words, I make no apology for saying again – please keep me informed of all family news to share. Everyone in our church family is special.

God bless.

Dorothy Simpkin.

Next Issue

The next edition of **The Link** will be published on the **Sunday the 6th of December 2015**. Therefore, items for inclusion in the next edition need to reach me by **Sunday the 29th of November**. 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 :

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