

KESWICK METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



St Pierre de Monmatre, Paris. "The beautiful light was streaming in through stained glass windows onto the cross. Flute music was playing softly in the background." (Photo: Brian Moffatt)

*Lent &
Easter 2015*

Minister's Letter



I would think that many of you now know that Keswick Methodist Church has a Facebook page where we can advertise and promote what is happening in our church and encourage people to come and see and be part of it. I wonder how many of you are on Facebook?

I know that some of you are immediately thinking “well I’m not, and I don’t want to be either!” But some of you will know what I mean when I talk about the “status update” feature. It’s a little box at the top of your home page where you tell people what you are doing, have done or will be doing. And when you read them they can be fascinating, funny or superficial!

It seems to me that telling people what you are doing has become more important than ever before in today’s society, but for some people it has caused trouble. They have told everyone that they are doing something when they should be at work, or they’ve told everyone they hate their boss – forgetting that their boss can read what they’ve put!

Still it’s an important question – “What are you doing?” it makes us ask: What are you all about? What is important to you? Who are you?

As you are reading this we are travelling through Lent towards Easter Sunday, we journey with Jesus hopefully discovering more about him, who he really is and who we really are.

Jesus lived in a time when who you were was defined by the family you were born into. If your father was a fisherman then you would be, if he was a carpenter then that’s what you’d be. Jesus was probably about 30, and up to that point he had been a carpenter, that’s all he knew.

Now a new phase of his life begins, and we are told that Jesus goes into the desert for 40 days, away from job and family to find out who he really is and there he is tempted, but it is interesting that each temptation of the devil at the end of the 40 days begins with, ‘If you are the Son of God’

In his response Jesus shows that he knows that he is indeed the Son of God. He had taken off the clothes of a carpenter, to reveal the Son of God. As we draw closer to God, as we travel along this journey of holiness, we too need to lay aside elements of the identity we've made for ourselves to reveal more of God in us, to become more like him.

We know where the story is leading. Jesus is tried, condemned, and dies. I'm sure the disciples wondered what life would be like after that, how could it ever be the same? That's the Easter Saturday moment, the old has gone and something new has to come. It's a hard time, it's unsettling and it's confusing, but it is also full of promise – something new must come.

The disciples don't know until they see the resurrected Jesus, the same as he was before but completely different as well, that he has come through death to new life – transformed, offering that same transformation to all people, again making us ask ourselves the questions, "What are you all about? Who are you?"

And so I wonder where we find ourselves as a church in all of this – we know that things in the life of the church are always changing, - but where are we? Are we at the point of seeing a glimpse of a glorious future? Are we waiting for the new to come – wondering what it will be like? Wherever we are, the story that unites us does not end in death, or in the waiting, but in the great transformation, and we are called to trust that in everything God is at work to bring about that transformation.

Every Blessing, Sue



**On Leprosy Sunday the special collection
for the Leprosy Mission came to a total of
£50 (including a donation from the
church).**

**Thank you to everyone who made a
donation.** *Kath Smith*

Church Family News

We have been both mourning and celebrating with friends over the last few months. Our congratulations go to Norah Walton who celebrated her 102nd birthday in February, to Sylvia McNae who was 80 in December, and to Margaret Shortland who was 90 in February. We were so sorry to hear of Margaret's recent fall and broken hip. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We were also deeply saddened by the deaths of Rev John Dale in November and Rev Eric Baker at the end of December. Both have contributed a great deal to the life of this church since their respective retirements, and John from his time in ministry at this church in the 1970s. Later in the Newsletter I have collected thoughts and memories of this time from people who knew John then.

We also heard of the death at the end of January of Hilda Hindmarsh, one of our housebound members, who was at the Millfield. We give thanks for her life and send our condolences to her family and friends.

Finally, it was with enormous sadness that we heard of the passing of Sally Dixon on 7th February. Sally has been such an important and well-loved member of this church for many years and we know that we shall miss her.

We were sorry to hear that Freda Chambers was in hospital in Keswick, having first been in Carlisle with an infection. We send both Freda and Wilf (who is staying with son Kevin in Newton Stewart) our love and prayers for Freda's recovery.

We are pleased to see Margaret Bamber now back on her feet after a difficult time recently and wish her a continued recovery. I know that several of our members have hospital appointments coming up and we wish them all well.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all our housebound members and those in residential care; Bob Burlington, Freda and Wilf Chambers, Greta Grave, Betty Guest (It was lovely to see Betty at the Carol Service at Christmastime), Olive Holland, Sylvia McNae, Adrian Thwaites, Nora Walton, and Eileen and Herbert Witherington.

We wish a Happy and Blessed Easter to all our friends who are unable to worship with us at this present time.



**Address given by
Rev John Carr
at the funeral of
Sally Dixon
on 18th February 2015
at Keswick Methodist
Church**

Sarah Thompson, better known to us as Sally Dixon, was born on 2nd May 1918, at Netherton near Maryport. The family moved to Cockermouth, when Sally was 12 years old. In 1931 Sally was 13 when she laid a foundation stone at Lorton Street Methodist Church.

In 1936, at 18 years of age, Sally went to Dorking in Surrey, to train as a children's nurse. After one year, and being an only child, she had to return to Cockermouth, due to her mother's illness.

Mr Harvey Birkett, approached Sally with a view to becoming manageress in his Confectioners Shop in Station Street, Keswick. This she was allowed to do, with her father's permission, because Birketts did not open on Sundays! She often worked a twelve hour day, nine till nine, and for two years she travelled by train, back and forth, Cockermouth to Keswick. The third year she lived with a friend in Keswick and went home only at weekends.

Sally met her husband to be, Bert Dixon, on Keswick Railway Station. He was waiting for his nephew arriving from London. They fell into conversation, and there began a war-time romance, kept alive by letters to-ing and fro-ing, while Bert was in the army, having been called up. During this period Sally visited Bert at Saltcoates in Scotland, Ramsgate in Kent and Hinkley in Oxford.

They were engaged on 14th November 1941 and married at Lorton Street Methodist Church, Cockermouth, on 14th February 1942 Their honeymoon was at The Olde England Hotel, Windermere. Birkett's made her wedding cake. The marriage was blessed with two lovely children, Rodney and Rona, two treasured grandchildren, Caroline and Becca and four Great grandchildren; Amelia and Jago who live in Bristol and Emily and Jed who live in Kendal. She was immensely proud of them all. Sufficient to say she would have been thrilled to know that her grandchildren read the lesson today. Her Dad died in 1971 (76yrs), five weeks before Bert who died that same year (60yrs). Her mum spent her remaining three years with Sally in the bungalow.

It was after that that Rona died in 1994, and although that was a grievous loss to say the least, she considered herself blessed in her granddaughters.

When she married Bert, Sally moved into Keswick and lived with her mother – in – law. She then lived in the same house in Penrith Road for the next 19 years, before moving into her lovely bungalow in Brandlehow Crescent, a site chosen by her, with a beautiful view. Little wonder that she wanted **Psalm 121** “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills” read at her funeral. Bert’s family had the Keswick Steam Laundry and Sally started there keeping the books. With her work at Birkett’s and the Keswick Steam Laundry, she developed social skills that would stand her in good stead.

Sally was an active member of the community. She was involved in social action with Bert in the early days with PUPS (Pushing Young People) a kind of Round Table. Also with the setting up of MHA Penrith, President of Keswick Abbeyfield Society, and in this connection was invited to meet Diana, Princess of Wales.

Sally’s Dad had a little chapel at Dovenby and afterwards Lorton Street, Cockermouth became her spiritual home until she moved to Keswick. Thereafter Southey Street was her chief area of activity. The Choir, with her love of hymns; Sunday Worship; Sunday night Fellowship; Women’s Fellowship, House-bound teas, and more became her life and her love. Keswick Convention Catering: business life of the church. Welcoming visitors.

Her Dad brought her to the Convention when she was a little girl. She had a great love of the Convention-counted it a privilege to read the lesson in the Big Tent; truly Ecumenical – Baptists, Pentecostals, St John’s C/E, Crosthwaite C/E were equally embraced. She considered herself privileged to be chosen to ‘tell her story’ on Songs of Praise in September 1997. The Convention crowds, all were made welcome at Southey Street, there was no distinction in Sally’s eyes. If they loved the Lord, well enough!

Sally was ever grateful for the care she received from Mill field Retirement Home-busier than a Doctor’s Reception room – and Keswick Hospital and not least Rodney & Anne for their love, support and concern over the years.

Sally’s prayer hymn:

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled and strivings cease,
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.



LENT LUNCHES 2015

Soup and roll, cheese and biscuits, tea and coffee
Thursdays 12.00 noon - 1.15 pm. at St Herbert's Centre
Suggested donation: £4.00 to the Christian Aid Ebola Appeal

February 19 Rev David Hasson

David is a retired Methodist Minister living in Keswick. He helped to set up the Carlisle Street Pastors who are on duty overnight on Saturday nights in the Botchergate area of Carlisle. He will talk about their work.

February 26 Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Boys Cambiata Choir

The choir is for young men with changing voices. A small group will perform a short piece before giving a talk on their experiences in London last summer when they took part in the Warhorse Prom at the Albert Hall.

March 5 Father Tom Singleton

Father Tom, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Lake in Keswick, will talk about the contribution which the Argentinian Pope Frances has made to the life of the church since he was elected in March 2013.

March 12 Rev Cameron Butland

How did the first Christians in Britain pray? Is there anything distinctive about the spiritual tradition of the English Church? Rev Butland, Rector of Grasmere and Diocesan Spiritual Adviser, will explore these questions.

March 19 Mary Elliott

Keeping the theatre accessible for all. Mary is House Manager at Theatre by the Lake. She will talk about their pilot project 'Living Well With Dementia' and how they are working towards becoming dementia friendly.

March 26 Moses John

Moses is the Church and Family Worker at the Methodist Church. He will tell us about growing up in India, his move to the UK and about the charity which his father set up to help some of the poorest children in Tamil Nadu.



Women's World Day of Prayer

United service at
Keswick Methodist Church (Southey Street)
Friday 6 March 2015

*“Do you know what I have done
to you?”*

**Morning service 10.30 am.
Informal service 7.30pm - preceded by a light supper.**

The Day of Prayer service for 2015 has been written by the Christian Women of the Bahamas. The Bahamas is an expanse of water with scattered islands covering approximately 100,000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean

Although written by women, all are invited. Increasingly men and children are participating.

Over 36 hours, 170 countries will have taken part. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland over 5000 services will be held focusing on the theme of ‘Jesus said to them: “Do you know what I have done to you?” John 13 : 1-17.’

All are welcome

St John's Church : Lent Meditations

Prayer for All Seasons: Reflections on the Psalms

During Lent, there will be 4 evening meditation sessions reflecting
on the Psalms;
all led by Revd Helen Marshall.

These will be held on Monday evenings at St John's Church,
7-8pm.

The evenings will all follow a similar format:
some input on the Psalms,
followed by a period of silence together,
an opportunity for individual reflection
and
concluding with the short service of Night Prayer.

Monday 23rd February: God Knows Us: Psalm 139

**Monday 2nd March: In The Ups and Downs of Life:
Psalms 42-43**

Monday 9th March: In the Depths: Psalm 88

Monday 16th March: Jesus in the Psalms: Psalm 22

Everyone is welcome

Circuit Website

www.kcmethodists.org.uk

There is a section for each of the churches, including
Keswick. Do log on and see for yourself

Monday Night Group

Our March meeting, on Monday March 16th, will be a very special one.

It will take place in the lounge of Homethwaite House on Eskin Street at 7.30 pm when Mike Angelo will show us his beautiful film entitled Lakeland Seasons, with breath-taking photography accompanied by lovely music. We are inviting any interested residents of Homethwaite House to join us for that evening. The film lasts about 50 minutes. Transport will be arranged as always for those who need it.

Because of the annual conflict of Easter and holidays in April there won't be an April meeting, but details of our May evening will be in the next magazine.

For transport contact Joan on 75142.

Joan Boothroyd

Dates for your Diary

23 Feb - 8 March	FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
3 March 7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Brigham
6 March 10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer Service
6.45pm	Light meal followed by 7.30pm service
8 March 6pm	Churches Together Fairtrade Service at our church
24 March 2pm	Midweek Fellowship
25 April	Synod at Kendal Auction Mart



**Churches Together
Website**

www.ctik.org.uk

Thoughts for Fairtrade Fortnight 23 Feb-8 March



**Do you buy
Fairtrade
chocolate?**



During Fairtrade Fortnight – 23rd February to the 8th March – a cocoa farmer will be visiting Cumbria. His produce comes from the seed of the cacao tree and it has brought pleasure, medicine and food for ritual for the past 4,000 years. Today 38 million tons of cocoa beans are harvested each year and between 40 and 50 million people depend upon it for their livelihood.

The delicate, flower-covered cacao trees need much tending and, when farmed using sustainable methods, grow in harmony in tropical forests beneath other cash crops such as bananas, rubber or hardwood trees. But for all this hard work, most cocoa farmers gain very little from a very profitable global cocoa trade: their incomes fail to keep up with rising production costs and household expenses. Fairtrade helps to make cocoa farming more sustainable through payment of a minimum price and an additional premium which is spent on community projects so farmers can better provide for themselves and their communities.

The farmer who is coming to Cumbria belongs to the Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA). The cooperative is located in the Toledo region of Belize, which is the poorest district in the country. The cooperative was formed in 1986 in order to yield higher prices, improve living conditions, and help farmers increase the quality of their cocoa. TCGA's cocoa is grown organically and under a canopy of shade trees. Farmers use sustainable methods such as composting and typically grow a diversity of other food crops among their cocoa. Until the early 1990s TCGA's farmers earned enough from their cocoa to provide for basic necessities and a variety of foods. Then the price of cocoa was suddenly cut in half between 1992 and 1993, falling below the cost of production. Cayetano Ico, chairman of the TCGA in 1999, recalls: "the price we could get for our cocoa was so low it was not worth harvesting. Many of us abandoned our trees. Some farmers went off in search of work on plantations. It was a very difficult time for us."

This was when Green & Black's offered a long-term contract for a stable supply of quality cocoa. The company's Maya Gold was the first official Fairtrade product to go on sale in Britain 20 years ago. Their full range of chocolate bars are now Fairtrade certified. In May 2005, Cadbury plc bought Green & Black's and pledged to run the company as a separate business. On January 19, 2010, Cadbury was taken over by Kraft Foods. So far, this new ownership does not seem to have impacted on Green & Black's commitment to Fairtrade. However, it is incumbent on us as buyers of chocolate to ensure that this continues to be the case.

Jo Alberti, on behalf of the Keswick and District Fair Trade Campaigns

Rev John Dale

The Rev John Dale, who died in December, had a very special place in this church. Not only was he an active member here since he retired to Portinscale with his wife, Mavis, in 2002 but he was minister of this church from 1973 to 1978. When John became the Superintendent of the Keswick and Cockermouth Circuit he was the youngest minister in the Connexion to hold that office.

He came as a young minister, with a young family, very different to the previous ministers of the church who tended to be more mature in their ministry. John came with fresh ideas and welcome energy and inspired the congregation to explore new ways of ministry and outreach.

One of the first was to find someone to start a Junior Choir, which proved both popular and successful. It was led by Aileen Cookson, helped by Sally Dixon, and brought many young people into the church.

John also started a Friday afternoon meeting for people who could not get out. People with cars volunteered to collect them and many friends from the Catholic Church assisted with this. It proved a very popular afternoon and many in the church were involved with baking for it.

Another of his innovations was to start offering food and drinks, coffee and lunches for the Convention when it came to Keswick in July. (This was later developed by John Carr). The church was able to continue this service up until 2013. It was always greatly appreciated by those attending the Convention and significant amounts of money were raised for different charities over the years.

One year there was an American exchange of ministers and this was followed by a visit of a choir came from Tennessee. The American minister was Rev Richard Looney who became a bishop in the Methodist church in America.

In all his work he was ably supported by Mavis, who I understand, amongst other things started an exercise class!

Joyce Ellis

SUNDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP

Spring Programme 2015

7pm at 38 Briar Rigg

PRAISE HIM – SONGS OF PRAISE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

This is a 5 week course, which we started doing fortnightly up until Easter. It is an ecumenical course and the contributors are: Dr Paula Goodyear, Archbishop Justin Welby, Sr Wendy Beckett, David Suchet and Moira Sleight (who is the editor of the Methodist Recorder).

Date	Subject	
January 18 th	<i>Gratitude</i> - Ephesians 1 : 3-14	Joyce Ellis
February 1 st	<i>Image of God</i> - Colossians 1:15-20	Sue Edwards
February 15 th	<i>Humility</i> – Philippians 2 : 5-11	Roy Ellis
March 1 st	<i>New Birth</i> – 1 Peter 1 : 3-12	David Hasson
March 15 th	<i>Word made Flesh</i> – John 1 : 1-14	Marion Beckham
March 29 th	Palm Sunday : 6.30pm Crosthwaite Church <i>Stainer's Crucifixion</i> – Churches Together Choir	
April 5 th	6.30am <i>Early morning sunrise service at the Lake</i>	
April 19 th	Informal Evening	

All are welcome to any or all of our meetings

Joyce Ellis

Midweek 'drop in'

Jubi-latte!

Thursdays

10.15am – 11.30am



Keswick Methodist Church on the Internet

Having a good “presence” in cyberspace is essential for churches today. We need to communicate the Gospel in more ways than ever! Part of our mission is to share the good news not only within our church but also with our local community, the wider church and as a contact point to the many visitors that we get every year. The new website is to be found at:

www.keswickmethodistchurch.org.uk

Bookmark it as one of your “favourites” so that you can find information quickly. The website is starting “small” but will grow with the annual events and the key information that we need to communicate. It will also connect widely in such a way as to ensure that everyone knows that we’re here and working hard in our community.

For a church in a major tourist area, it will enable us to be a contact point to encourage more holiday makers to visit us.

Social media is the modern way to connect to a much wider network. Here we have constructed a [facebook](#) page where we can share the work of the church with your friends, other churches and local Keswick organisations. There are plenty of photographs here to illustrate what’s going on. To find the page, just search for “Keswick Methodist Church” in the search bar. Please “Like” the page to follow any updates. You can also send through information and images for posting.

The Internet is the fastest growing communications medium in history. For Methodist local churches with a Gospel to proclaim, it represents an exciting new opportunity to tell their story.

Christians in every age have been at the forefront of the development of new media for communications. Many of the early pioneers of printing, radio and television were Christians, enthused with a desire to tell others about the Christian Good News.

About 700 million people world-wide have access to the internet - and the number is still growing fast. In Britain in 2014, 84% of all households had internet access.

Regularly one of the most popular areas of www.methodist.org.uk is the [Other Websites](#) section, where thousands of people go to look for the websites of districts, circuits or local churches. They may be looking for contact details, or maybe they are new to an area and want to find what the local Methodist Church has to offer. Maybe they are just making tentative steps in investigating the Christian faith...

For churches with something to say, the internet is an opportunity to say it, in their own words.

Many churches who have ventured onto the internet have reported that some of the biggest benefits have been in focusing their mission and helping them to assess where they are and where they want to go. The first step in designing a local church website is to ask the question, **"What about our church is interesting and meaningful to others?"** Of such thoughts is the beginning of effective mission...

Browsing through these pages you will also read the experiences of some local churches. They are all listed in the [Other Websites](#) section of www.methodist.org.uk and have volunteered their stories to help encourage others to get a website. It could be less difficult, and more worthwhile than you think...

Richard North



Demonstrating the Christian values
of compassion, love & hope

Supporting our Community since July 2009

Many thanks to all who continue to support the Foodbank week by week. The need seems to be greater than ever.

Roy Ellis



Methodist Women in Britain

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is a movement within the Methodist Church, led by a group of volunteers and funded by donations, which aims to connect women with an interest in creative spirituality and a passion for global social justice. MWiB holds day conferences and residential events, produces printed and online resources and engages in social justice campaigns. MWiB is about more than Methodism, more than women and more than Britain – it has strong links with the World Church and is part of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Within Cumbria MWiB aims to link women in Methodism whether or not they are members of a Network or Women's Fellowship. It has regular get-together days to which all women are welcome. The next two are:

- MWiB District Spring Day Thursday 12 March
Grange over Sands Methodist Church
10.15 Coffee | 10.45 Council Meeting | 12.45 Lunch | 1.45am Angie Mills from Capernwray : "Running on Empty?"
Bring a packed lunch. Coffee and tea available. Refreshments to follow at 3.15pm.
- MWiB Fellowship Day Wednesday 13 May
Wigton Road Methodist Church, Carlisle
10.15 Coffee | 10.45 Creativity & Craft | 12.45 Lunch | 1.45am "Days for Girls"
Bring a packed lunch. Coffee and tea available. Refreshments to follow at 3.15pm.

Cumbria District MWiB also produces a newsletter, full of interesting articles and the latest edition (Winter 2014/15) is now available at church. Please take one, read it and pass it on or bring it back to church for someone else to read.

Cumbria MWiB is also online on the District website at www.cumbriamethodistdistrict.org.uk/methodistwomeninbritain. If you'd like to know anything else about MWiB or would like transport to any of the District events please do contact me.

Anne Hasson (017687 75818)

Services for March and April 2015

March 1	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards	Holy Communion	Lent 2
March 8	10.45am	Dr Martyn Evans		Lent 3
	6.00pm	Rev Sue Edwards	Churches Together Fairtrade Service	
March 15	10.45am	Rev Keith Rushton		Lent 4
March 22	10.45am	Rev David Hasson		Lent 5
March 29	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards		Palm Sunday
	6.30pm	Stainer's <i>Crucifixion</i>	@ Crosthwaite	
April 5	10.45am	Rev Joyce Ellis		Easter Day
			Holy Communion	
April 12	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards		
	6.00pm	Rev Joyce Ellis	Healing Service	
April 19	10.45am	Rev David Hasson		
April 26	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards		

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday	29 March	10.45am	Rev Sue Edwards
Palm Sunday evening (see below)			<i>Stainer's Crucifixion</i>
Maunder Thursday	April 2nd	7pm	The Last Supper & Tenebrae An informal communion -
Good Friday	April 3 rd	11.00am	Churches Together Walk of Witness - meet at Wishing Well by Theatre Car Park
Easter Day	April 5 th	6.30am	Sunrise Service at Crow Park - followed by tea/coffee
		10.45am	Easter Holy Communion Rev Joyce Ellis

STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION - 6.30pm Palm Sunday at Crosthwaite Church by a choir drawn from Churches Together in Keswick and friends.

Minister: Rev Sue Edwards 01900 823273 susan_edwards@hotmail.com
Circuit Church & Family Worker: Moses John 017687 72379

