

FORMBY
METHODIST
CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

Minister	Rev John Ritson
Senior Stewards	Mr Ron Campbell Mr Mark Pickering Mrs Winnie Pickering
Treasurer	Mrs Wendy Lunt
Property Steward	Mr Colin Domville
Envelope Scheme	Mr Graham Marks
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr Bill Roberts
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Margaret Nicholas
Sunday School Leader	Mrs Margaret Nicholas
Booking Officer	Mrs Edna Gilmour

This Church is in *Covenant Membership* with other Churches of Formby, Altcar and Hightown and with Trinity United Church in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

We give a warm welcome to all visitors worshipping with us. Please make yourselves known to the Church Stewards in the Entrance. The services for the month are listed in the Newsletter. We hope you will take the opportunity to worship with us. Coffee is served in the Hall after the morning service.

Hearing Aid System: An inductive loop system is in operation. This enables you to sit wherever you wish. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position.

Junior Church meets from 10.15 am.

Photocopying Contacts:-

Wendy Lunt
Olva Clayton
Carol Shanks
Gordon Harrison
Margaret Carleton
Mark Pickering
Sue Ensor
Doris Shewring
Susan Howden

Weekly Notices: items can be by phone but **PREFERABLY** by e-mail to Irene Watts by 4.00pm on the Wednesday.



**Formby Methodist Church in covenant with
Trinity United Church, Peterborough, Canada.**



Volume 16ix June 2011

Formby 01704 831439

Dear Friends

June 2nd is Ascension Day, probably one of the least, if not the least, celebrated days in the Christian calendar: but of huge significance to every Christian.

Acts 1:9-11 'After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?"'

It's difficult to imagine anyone making this up. We read of Elijah being taken to Heaven on a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire. Jesus simply ascended, the way it's worded doesn't even sound spectacular: a Sunday afternoon walk and Jesus got to the top of the mountain and carried on.

But his departure prepared the way for the Holy Spirit whose arrival is celebrated at Pentecost, the day we celebrate the birth of the church.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the very person of God indwelling the people of God. At Christmas we remember the words of the prophet who spoke of Immanuel (God with us), at Pentecost the church experienced the reality of 'Immanuel' as the spirit came: He would not come until Jesus departed - Ascended.

But there is something else from the Ascension we shouldn't overlook.

Acts 1:11 " This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Jesus will one day return as he went. For many of us familiarity has bred complacency regarding Christian truth: we have lost the 'Hope' of Scripture. Christian hope isn't the vague notion that we 'hope' for good weather on the day out, or to dry the washing. The hope of 'Faith, Hope and Love' is an assurance that regardless of what we face or the apparent silence of God in the face of adversity or suffering He is Sovereign and is in control.

Jesus ascending to the Father where He intercedes on our behalf, sending the Holy Spirit to be with us to teach, guide and lead into all truth and one day to return when all will see Him as King of Kings: Hallelujah.

Even so Lord Jesus, come soon. Amen

John

Church Family News

Easter now seems such a long time ago, but we remember how meaningful and joyous the whole period was, from Lent through Holy Week to Easter Sunday. We would like our ministers, local preachers, local clergy and Churches Together to know we appreciate their hard work and their talents in delivering the message so well.

It is good to hear that Dave Watts and Eric Almond have had their cataracts removed and are able to see much better. Also that Phil Morgan is recovering well from his recent setback. We were sorry to hear that Margaret Griffiths has broken her wrist and her husband David has had an operation. We trust that both are recovering well. Other members of the church family have not been well. We remember them in our prayers and wish them a speedy recovery. Belated congratulations to Eva Swindells and Phillipa, her granddaughter, who celebrated Eva's 90th birthday and Phillipa's wedding on the same day in Italy. We are pleased to hear that Jean Crompton has moved into her new home and we wish her every happiness there.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Kathy Davies. We send our condolences to Mabel Walsh on the death of her brother-in-law. Sadly Dolly Scott passed away in May. Dolly who would have celebrated her 99th birthday later this year did not worship with us for very long but will be remembered for her enthusiastic singing of hymns on a Sunday morning - she enjoyed the morning services a lot. She also attended the Ladies' Fellowship for a while. Many of you will remember Myrtle Kimber who moved to Taunton. We were sorry to hear of her death from her daughter. She and her late husband, Alan had many friends in Formby. We remember them and their loved ones in our prayers.

We also remember those in residential care or at home who find it difficult to come to church - you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

It was wonderful to see the lovely photograph of the 6th Methodist Brownies from our Church on the front page of the April 27th Champion Newspaper. The picture was taken with Tony Higginson (of Pritchard's Bookshop) who helped the Brownies with their Royal Wedding Challenge badge. All of us who have been in the Circle Room recently have admired the wonderful display they have done.

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## Welcome

In the Sunday Morning crèche we are so pleased to welcome Zoe and Amy, the two delightful daughters of Tim and Helen Andrews, who have recently moved to Formby from Edinburgh.

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Sunday Services

June

5	8.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	10.30am	Rev K Briddock	
	6.30pm	Mr B Simmons	
12	10.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	6.30pm	Rev J Ritson	
19	10.30am	Miss M Shanks	
	6.30pm	Altcar	Summer Evensong at St Michael's
26	10.30am	Mr A Lovelady	
	6.30pm	Mr H Shanks	

July

3	8.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	10.30am	Rev D Bowker	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PARADE SERVICE
	6.30pm	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION

Thank you

We would like to say how uplifting Lent and Easter have been this year - our lent meetings, Olivet to Calvary, all the services from Maundy Thursday to Songs of Praise on Easter Sunday not forgetting the Service at the Pool on Good Friday. Thanks then to John, Alan, our organists, stewards and Churches Together for making it so.

Eileen and Phil Morgan

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### Church Anniversary 3 July 2011

Rev D Bowker will be introducing the No Strings Puppet Ministry from Altrincham Methodist Church. Following morning worship there will be a lunch, to which all are welcome.

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Thank you

A big thank you to Elbow Lane for your prayers and care for me, Eileen and our family after my recent illness. I am much blessed, our God is surely good. The prayer from the Belfast District of the Methodist Prayer

Handbook expresses my thoughts very well if I may quote it:-

"O God, thank you for the privilege of being part of a family and for all the relationships that enrich family life.

Thank you for the experience of being loved and of being able to love others. Thank you for those who care for us when we are hurting.

Heavenly Father, sustain the broken-hearted and give strength to the weary.

May we notice when each other hurts and show we care in your name. Amen"

I have two such lovely families and thank God.

Much love to all,

Phil

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## **THEATRE GROUP**

Booking closes, today, Sunday 5th June 2011 for Southport Operatic Society's production of 'OUR HOUSE NW1' written by Tim Firth (who also wrote Flint Street Nativity and Calendar Girls, and also the last Formby Theatre show Neville's Island). Music and lyrics by Madness. We visit Southport Little Theatre on Thursday 7th July 2011. Tickets (now confirmed) £12.00. Curtain up at 7.30pm. Own transport arrangements.

"Our House" is an epic, passionate and fast moving romantic comedy that begins one summer's evening in North London. It is a story of London by Joe Casey who, on his sixteenth birthday is faced with a life changing decision - to take the good path or the bad path. That night he commits a petty crime to impress the girl he loves. When the police arrive, young Joe is faced with one of those crossroad choices we all face at points in our lives - stay or run?! "Our House" follows the two courses Joe's life would have taken had he stayed to face the music, or dodged the law and made a run for it! Featuring the music of MADNESS, one of the UK's biggest selling single bands. This is a laugh-out-loud, spectacular night out. A 'must see' British musical of the decade.

If you wish to book for this production, please see Roy or Jean Allan, Ken Yarnell, Margaret Carleton or David Blundell.

Roy Allan

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NETWORK NEWS

June 2011

The Circuit Easter Offering Service was held at Moor Lane on Sunday Evening, 15th May. It was well attended and we appreciated Rev. Sheila Prest's excellent message. It was good to see her again. The total collected

this year was £834.00, an increase of £32 on last year's total. Unfortunately the service coincided with the Christian Aid united service held in Formby. We will endeavour to avoid this happening again.

In July the Methodist Conference in Southport is holding a special service for the inauguration of 'Methodist Women in Britain' (MWiB) which is replacing Network. Baroness Kathleen Richardson is the speaker. However, due to the limited space, only a few tickets are allocated for each District, so for those of us without tickets, Lord Street West United Church, Southport, is hosting an Open Afternoon from 3 pm - 7 pm on Friday 1st July. There will be displays and refreshments and the opportunity to meet the VIPs and the new Connexional Office Holders. Lord Street West Church is on a direct bus route from Formby. Anyone who would like to go and needs transport please see me.

On Thursday afternoon, 7th July, is our annual Strawberry Tea in aid of the District Network Project - this year money is being raised to help train community nurses in Sierra Leone. We will be holding this event in the 'Circle Room' at Church and everyone is most welcome.

Janet Bowker

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### Wednesday Morning Coffee

There will be no meetings during the months of June, July and August.

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Churches Together Free Family Fun Day

Duke Street Park 12 noon - 4 .00 p.m. Saturday 13th August 2011

PLEASE COULD YOU HELP WITH THE RECYCLING COLLECTION?

As you may know, everything is free for the children at the Fun Day, so we need to gather in and recycle as much stuff as possible. Please could you, or your family and friends, donate any of these items? **Old Buggie/golf trolleys etc (wheels needed for making go-karts), coffee jar lids, cuddly toys, complete games; MacDonald's type give-away toys; adults' and children's old jewellery; dried/artificial flowers; small prizes for games eg. Plastic jewellery, toy cars, party bag leftovers; bubbles etc.** Please leave your donations in the box in church.

Thank you very much.

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## Action for Children Spring Fair

We were delighted to be able to send £477.20 to Action for Children following the very successful Spring Fair. It will be used for the Liverpool Junior Mentoring Project.

This project is designed to improve the lives of children aged 5-11 by offering them individually adapted one to one mentoring with a carefully screened, supervised and trained adult volunteer. Early intervention often prevents criminal and anti-social behaviour later in life. If anyone would like more information about the scheme please see me or ring.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. We couldn't be more grateful to you all.

Mo and Norman.

P.S. A further £125.00 has been donated to us by Paul Gorman who every Saturday sells plants in aid of charities outside Holy Trinity Workshop.

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AUCTION 2011

The Auction this year will be on **Saturday 8 October**, so please start looking for unwanted but quality goods suitable to be auctioned. Again we are limiting items to those that can be carried by one person.

This will be our 34th auction and funds are needed towards the refurbishment of the Church Hall.

Promise forms will soon be available in the porch and will be in the Newsletter for July/August.

To arrange for goods to be collected, please ring Peter Warren - 874064.

Maureen Simpson

Auction Working Group

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## History of Formby Methodist Church

Do you have a copy of Derek Hanson's book on the History of Formby Methodist Church? If so could we please borrow it?

Many thanks

Margaret Carleton

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Self Help Africa

Rev Geoff and Mrs Audry Barnard are holding an Open Day on Saturday 11th June from 10.00am until late. All donations to Self Help Africa (previously known as Harvest Help). If you would like to attend please contact Mo Swain for further details.

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## "What's happening in the World?"

One of Tearfund's projects.

### **Independant South Sudan faces challenges.**

In two month's time Africa will see the birth of its newest nation following the decision of South Sudan to separate from the North. The move comes after a referendum in January resulted in an overwhelming 99% vote in favour of independence.

The referendum took place under the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended two decades of civil war between north and south.

The new South Sudan State is due to come into existence on the 9th July. Big challenges await the new government which will preside over a country with little infrastructure in terms of schools, health facilities and roads.

Another pressure will be a big influx of returnees from North Sudan who are coming to start a new life in the South. Tearfund, which has a long association with Sudan, is looking to step up its work to help the returnees.

They have been working in the south since 1998 undertaking projects to improve water and sanitation and food security, and to promote health. More than 500,000 people are being assisted. Tearfund has been operating in Darfur, in Sudan's north - west, since 2004, providing water, sanitation, nutritional support and health education.

Tearfund thanks people for their prayers during the referendum which passed off peacefully and ask us for prayers for the challenges which lie ahead for the Sudanese people in the north and south.

Phil Morgan

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Sunday Morning Crèche Rota		
	12	Lynda & Mo
June	19	Karen & Kari
5	26	Janet & Sybil
Margaret & Jenny		

Flower Distribution

Margaret Tate

June

- 5 Janet Bowker
- 12 Christina
- 19 Ron Taylor
- 26 Margaret

July

- 3 Janet

Sunday Refreshments

Margaret Carleton

June

- 5 Open House
- 12 M & T Simpson and C Shanks
- 19 Leprosy Mission
(R & D honour)
- 26 V Moore and E Morris

July

- 3 Church Anniversary Lunch

Flower Rota

Vicky Jenions

June

- | | | |
|----|---------------|----------|
| 5 | Mr Taylor | Margaret |
| 12 | Mrs Davenport | Vicky |
| 19 | Mr Warren | Barbara |
| 26 | Mrs Horton | Eve |

July

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|
| 3 | Mrs Hawgood | Margaret |
|---|-------------|----------|

Door Duty

Roy Allan

June

- 12 Jean & Roy Allan
- 19 Janet Bowker & Brenda Hodson
- 26 Janet Ashton & Brenda Domville

July

- 3 David Blundell & Ken Yarnell

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published on **SUNDAY 3 JULY**. Items to the news team by **MONDAY 20 JUNE**. This will be a double issue for **July and August**. Please include with each item submitted for publication your name and telephone number.

Newsletter Contribution E-mail:

Newsletter@formbymethodistchurch.org.uk

Items, for inclusion in the next issue on the Sunday prior to the deadline may be given to Brenda Horton, Jean Horne or Olva Clayton.

N.B. Each newsletter costs AT LEAST 32p PLEASE TAKE AN ENVELOPE AND BECOME A SUBSCRIBER. Thank you.

June		Church Diary Edna Gilmour	
Monday	6	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	7	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)</i>
Wednesday	8	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	9	9.30-11.30am	<i>Toddlers (Hall & Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Local Preachers' Mtg (Choir Vestry)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Allotments Mtg (SMR)</i>
Saturday	11	1.30-4.30pm	<i>Taekwon-Do (Hall)</i>
Monday	13	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	14	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)</i>
Wednesday	15	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	16	9.30-11.30am	<i>Toddlers (Hall & Circle)</i>
		8.00pm	<i>Cub Meeting (SMR)</i>
Saturday	18	1.30-4.30pm	<i>Taekwon-Do (Hall)</i>
Monday	20	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	21	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)</i>
Wednesday	22	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	23	9.30-11.30am	<i>Toddlers (Hall & Circle)</i>
Saturday	25		<i>Stamp Fair</i>

Monday	27	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	28	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)</i>
Wednesday	29	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	30	9.30-11.30am	<i>Toddlers (Hall & Circle)</i>
July			
Friday	1	6.00pm	<i>Brownie Sleepover until 2pm-2nd June (MLR)</i>
Saturday	2	1.30-4.30pm	<i>Taekwon-Do (Hall)</i>

Have you unlocked your Bible?

"I can recommend buying a copy of 'Unlocking the Bible', by David Pawson, to help anyone to understand." So states Janet Bowker and also submits the following poem.

Yes I thought I knew my Bible
 Reading piecemeal, hit or miss
 Now a part of John or Matthew
 Then a bit of Genesis

You who like to play at Bible
 Dip and dabble here and there
 Just before you kneel all weary
 Yawning through a hurried prayer.

Certain chapters of Isaiah
 Certain Psalms, the twenty-third.
 First of Proverbs, twelfth of Romans
 Yes, I thought I knew the Word

You who treat this crown of writings
 As you treat no other book
 Just a paragraph disjointed
 Just a crude impatient look.

But I found that thorough reading
 Was a different thing to do
 And the way was unfamiliar
 When I read my Bible through.

Try a worthier procedure
 Try a broad and steady view;
 You will kneel in awesome wonder
 When you read the Bible through.

Author unknown