

FORMBY
METHODIST
CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

APRIL & MAY 2011

SHIP SHAPE

The sea of life presents us
with some currents that confuse
and many "ships" are needed
on a memorable cruise.

ApprenticeSHIP and WorkmanSHIP
can form a worthy crew
LeaderSHIP and StatesmanSHIP
can help to steer us through.

WorSHIP is a FlagSHIP
that is carefully designed
and proper navigation
can leave HardSHIP far behind.

Though the sea of life's uncharted
at times it must be said -
the finest craft is FriendSHIP,
when it steams Full Speed Ahead!

*Syb Miles wanted to share the
above with us which she found on a
recent cruise.*

OUR WORLD IS ONE WORLD

Our world is one world:
What touches one affects us all -
The seas that wash us round about,
The clouds that cover us,
The rains that fall.

Our world is one world:
The thoughts we think affect us all -
The way we build our attitudes,
With love or hate, we make
A bridge - or wall.

Our world is one world:
Its ways of wealth affect us all -
The way we spend, the way we share,
Who are the rich or poor,
Who stand or fall?

Our world is one world,
Just like a ship that bears us all -
Where fear and greed make many
holes,
But where our hearts can hear
A different call.

Cecily Taylor

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



Volume 16vii March 2011

Formby 01704 831439

Dear Friends

I've just come back from a meeting where I was chatting to a friend after the service and she was telling me about one of her friend's experience at the doctor's surgery this morning. During the night the friend's young daughter was ill and the mother decided to take her to the doctors. At the reception she asked for an appointment to see the doctor and was told appointments could only be made over the phone: after trying to reason with the receptionist the mother went into the waiting room adjacent to the reception desk and rang on her mobile; speaking to the receptionist a few feet away she made the necessary arrangements for her daughter to see the doctor. Sounds crazy and defies common sense but we all know people or of people for whom rules are set in stone; regardless of how ridiculous they are.

As we approach Holy Week and Good Friday the narratives about Jesus' final days before the crucifixion emphasise how people can become so caught up in their ritual and routines that the plain truth escapes them. In John 11 we read of Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave where he had been for four days, the religious leaders are so angered that this miracle is causing people to believe in Jesus they plot how they might kill him.

Today for many people Jesus is an irritant. He won't sit comfortably with other faiths, his teaching is awkward for those who want to be fast and loose, why did he have to preach the Sermon on the Mount and tell us how God reckons thoughts as well as actions? John 3:16 is great, why do we have to have 3:18?

To that last question the answer is simple, because it's all true. Many people have become like the religious people in Jesus' day, they can't see the wonderful life, hope and fulfilment Jesus gives to those who trust him because they focus on the familiar and mundane. Let's make sure we don't fall into that trap so that when we hear those familiar words: "Christ is Risen" His Spirit rises within and victoriously shouts: ***"He is risen indeed, Alleluia."***

John

~~~~~

## Church Family News

We begin this month with the happy news of a new granddaughter for Sue and John Ensor. Amy was born to Helen and Tim.

Another happy occasion was the wedding of Winnie and Mark Pickering's daughter Jenny to James. We wish them a very happy future together.

We are sorry to hear that Val Campbell is in hospital. We hope she will soon be well, back home and worshipping in church with us.

As usual our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unable to worship with us for whatever reason. We wish them and all our church family a joyful Easter

Phil Morgan

~~~~~

CHURCH WALKS

APRIL and MAY 2011

The April walk on Saturday 16th is a moderate walk taking in Appley Bridge, Ashurst Beacon and Fairy Glen. Meet at Church at **0900** hours. This is likely to be muddy in places so boots are a must. Don't forget your packed lunch.

The May walk has been changed to Saturday 14th and will be an afternoon walk of about 6 miles ending with a pub meal. Details will be published in the weekly notices.

Lin and Graham

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## Open House

On Tuesday 12th April at 8pm there will be a presentation by Jane Valentine of the Waitrose Supermarket.

A brief Annual General meeting will follow along with a Finger Buffet, tea/coffee. Suggested speakers for the coming year would be most welcome. We value support from Church members and friends.

Alan Tulley

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THEATRE GROUP

Booking continues for Formby Little Theatre's production of 'NEVILLE'S ISLAND' by Tim Firth (who wrote 'Flint Street Nativity' and 'Calender Girls'). We visit on Thursday 19th May 2011. Tickets £8.00. Curtain up at 7.45pm. Booking will close on Sunday 17th April 2011.

Four out-of-condition businessmen sent off on a team-building exercise to succeed in being the first people ever to be ship wrecked on an island in

Sunday Services

April

3	8.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	10.30am	Rev J Ritson	
	6.30pm	Mr L Baxter	
10	10.30am	Mr B Simmons	
	6.30pm	Miss B Mason	
17	10.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	6.30pm	Rev S Hill	
24	8.30am	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
	10.30am	Mr A Cant	
	6.30pm	Rev J Ritson	CIRCUIT CELEBRATION FORMBY

May

1	10.30am	Mrs C Shanks	
	6.30pm	Worship Leaders	
8	10.30am	Rev J Ritson	
	6.30pm	Rev J Ritson	HOLY COMMUNION
15	10.30am	Rev S Hill	HOLY COMMUNION
	6.30pm	Rev S Prest	Network Circuit Service Moor Lane
22	10.30am	Rev D Bowker	
	6.30pm	Miss B Mason	
29	10.30am	Rev J Ritson	
	6.30pm	Mrs P Johnson	

Derwent Water. Described by one critic as 'having limitless comic invention and indefatigable dramatic surprise'. A wonderful night's entertainment.

Booking also continues for Birkdale Orpheus Society's production of 'HALF A SIXPENCE'. Music and lyrics by David Heneker. We visit Southport Little Theatre on FRIDAY (Yes, FRIDAY) 20th May 2011. Tickets £10.00. Curtain up at 7.30pm. Own Transport Arrangements. Booking will close on Sunday 17th April 2011.

This well known show is not quite the show you are used to. Nearly all the songs are still there, however the show starts with Kipps as a married family man, stepping back into scenes from his past life.

Booking will open on Sunday 24th April 2011 for Southport Amateur Operatic Society's production of 'OUR HOUSE' (A Musical Love Story) written by Tim Firth (who wrote 'Flint Street Nativity' and 'Calendar Girls'). Music & Lyrics by Madness. We visit Southport Little Theatre on Thursday 7th July 2011. Tickets £10.00. Curtain up at 7.30pm. Own transport arrangements.

'OUR HOUSE' follows the trend of 'Mama Mia' and 'We Will Rock You'. It is based on the songs of Madness but it is not a tribute show. It is a stylish classy evening of intelligent story telling. It is in short a great British musical. The show has won both Olivier and Hilton awards for best musical.

If you wish to book for any or all of these shows please see Roy or Jean Allan, Ken Yarnell, Margaret Carleton or David Blundell.

Roy Allan

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### NETWORK NEWS

April 2011 Janet Bowker

This year the envelopes for the Easter Offering will be distributed in Church on Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Your donations to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund will help to support our mission partners working abroad and overseas students in ministry training. It also allows grants to be made to partner Churches for special projects.

The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service this year is being held at Moor Lane, Crosby, on Sunday evening, the 15<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm. The service has been prepared by Judith Simms (Connexional Women's Network President 2008/2009). The theme is 'Seeds of Life - Harvest, Hope and Wholeness for all God's Children' and Rev. Sheila Prest will give the address. Please support this special annual circuit service. Anyone who would like transport to the service please see Janet or Irene.

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Wednesday Morning Coffee

6 April Cancelled
20 April At the home of Mabel Walsh,
4 May At the home of Vicky Jenions,
18 May At the home of Norah Peel,
1 June At the home of Susan Howden,

~~~~~

*The next Annual Church Meeting will take place after Sunday Service in the Church Hall on Sunday, 17th April after Coffee.*

*The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on the 25th April, 2010, are printed here.*

*Margaret Nicholas*

*Church Council Secretary*

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING of FORMBY  
METHODIST CHURCH held on Sunday, 25th April, 2010.**

The meeting was held in Church after Morning Service. The Rev. John Ritson was in the Chair and opened proceedings with a prayer .

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on the 29th March, 2009, had been printed in the June 2009, newsletter. These were taken as read.

John started the proceedings by saying that the prime business of this meeting is to elect stewards for the coming year and representatives to Church Council, and also to raise any issues of which we should be aware—it is an open meeting to discuss anything.

Nominations for stewards—Brian and Susan Howden have been nominated and the Church Meeting agreed and they were welcomed. John thanked Diane and Roger Watson for their three years work and especially the last year as senior stewards. Alan Tripp and Hector Shanks are the new senior stewards. Stewards who have completed their three years are entitled to serve on the Church Council for a further three years.

Representatives to Church Council. David Parsons and Brian Bentley have left the area and Carol Shanks, Janet Bowker and Christina Clarke have completed their 2nd term. Carol was co-opted back on to Council as representative of the Worship Group and Liz Morris, Val Moore and Doris Shewring have been nominated to join the Church Council and this was agreed by the meeting. John thanked Carol, Janet and Christina for their service.

Mapping the Way Forward. John informed the meeting that at Synod the previous day, this had been discussed. The hope there had been that a vote would be taken for the Crosby Circuit to be joined with Llverpool North and Linacre and amalgamate in September. We, in Formby, want to talk to Southport but we are getting nowhere. We had a discussion with Rod Hill and there was a joint Circuit meeting when it was decided that Circuit would reject the proposal because we want to talk to Southport. We need more time to discuss with Southport and see what the options are. There is a promise to do this and we need to know what the options are before we make a decision to amalgamate. We are not going forward in 2011 but 2012. This is

not just for our Circuit but for others as well. Banks, as a Circuit, has asked to join with Lancs and they have agreed. For 15-20 years they have withheld their assessment which now amounts to £33,000 and this will need sorting before a move is made.

The position of Formby going on its own to Southport is a Circuit matter - Southport and Crosby are natural partners.

John thanked the people who prepared the Annual Report—there were no questions thereon.

Roger thanked John for his Ministry and leading in the Church and Kathryn for her support. He also thanked the other stewards for making their term of office a good time.

Alan expressed appreciation to John and Kathryn and the other stewards for their support for him over the last two years and included Mary for her help and encouragement.

Wendy reported on what we have done since the start of the Millennium—we have opened the Maple Leaf Room, new windows, re-pointed the Church and the refurbishment. We may have a Gift Day in line with a commitment to give a percentage of the money raised for the refurbishment to charity. Gift Aid—since 2001 we have recouped £98,704. This coming financial year we should receive back £12,000. Wendy thanked the congregation for their giving.

Norah Peel suggested that the white lines in the car park needed to be repainted—Colin will find out the cost of this work.

John said that people from outside our Church talk about our refurbishment and admire it but he warned about us getting too comfortable. We have to reach out into the community and bring in new people. We have a lot to thank God for—in a few months the debts will be fully paid.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

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Appeal

If you have received flowers from Church over the past few months, could I ask you to have a look and see whether you still have the container that they came in. In particular, we are missing a 'boat' shaped cream container, and a cream round container. If, for any reason, you have it at home but are unable to bring it to Church, please give me a ring, and I will be happy to come and collect it.

Many thanks

Vicky Jenions

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8

## Thank you

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who supported our coffee on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. As a result, we have been able to give £35 to The Alzheimer's Society.

Vicky and Bob

~~~~~

Flower Distribution Margaret Tate

April

3	Margaret Tate	876542	8	Janet Bowker	832630
10	Janet Bowker	832630	15	Christine Clarke	834082
17	Christine Clarke	834082	22	Ron Taylor	871011
24	Ron Taylor	871011	29	Margaret Tate	876542

May

1 Margaret Tate 876542

June

5 Janet Bowker 832630

Flower Rota Vicky Jenions

April

3	Mr & Mrs Swain	Eve	8	Ms Carleton	Margaret
10	Mr & Mrs Shanks	Margaret	15	Mr & Mrs Allan	Vicky
17	Mr & Mrs Domville	Vicky	22	Mr & Mrs Broughton	Barbara
24	Mrs Tripp	Barbara	29	Mrs Lawson	Eve

May

1 Mr & Mrs Tulley Eve

June

5 Mr Taylor Margaret

Sunday Morning Crèche Rota

April

3	Sybil & Kari	8	Margaret & Jenny
10	Janet & Jenny	15	Lynda & Mo
17	Lynda & Mo	22	Karen & Kari
24	Karen & Kari	29	Janet & Sybil

May

1 Janet & Sybil

June

5 Margaret & Jenny

Sunday Refreshments

Margaret Carleton

Door Duty

Roy Allan

April

- 3 Theatre Group
- 10 J Horne, I Douglas, V Hawgood
- 17 JMA (N Williams)
- 24 E Morris and V Moore

May

- 1 Choir
- 8 L & S Gee, B Davenport, K Yarnell
- 15 Christian Aid (B Howden)
- 22 K & J Huntley and A Tulley
- 29 B & T Broughton and B Hodson

June

- 5 Open House

April

- 10 Keith and Val Ellard
- 17 Ken and Barbara Giles
- 24 Jean Horne and Brenda Horton

May

- 1 Trevor and Chris Hanson
- 8 Brian Howden and Mary Tripp
- 15 Roger and Diane Watson
- 22 Ken Yarnell and Liz Morris
- 29 Jack and Marion Bromiley

June

- 5 Brian and Pam Ashworth

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FORMBY, ALTCAR & HIGHTOWN

LENT PROGRAMME

re-discover mission - re-imagine church

This year we have a 6 week course for everyone interested in developing mission in Formby. Encouraging and inspiring, it should help us work together to build on our outreach to Formby.

Thursday evening sessions combining story, teaching, discussion and reflection will start at 7.30pm and finish by 9.30pm each evening.

The course will be led by the Anglican Diocesan Church Growth Team and will ask us to think about the following three big questions.

1. How we proclaim the Good News of Jesus in what we say and do.
2. How we "kindle our love for God and our neighbours, serve our community and grow?"
3. How we "re-capture the dynamic of the New Testament Church and make Church a daily reality in the lives of every person in Formby?"

United Reformed Church Hall 7 April

Elbow Lane Methodist Church Hall 14 April

April		Church Diary Edna Gilmour	
Monday	4	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	5	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
		7.00pm	Badminton (Hall)
		7.30pm	<i>Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)</i>
Wednesday	6	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		1.45-4.45pm	<i>Sefton PCT Creative Alternatives (MLR)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	7	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Circle)
Monday	11	11.00-5.30pm	<i>Best Price Jewellers (MLR)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	12	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>
		8.00pm	Open House A.G.M & Waitrose Presentation (MLR)
Wednesday	13	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		1.45-4.45pm	<i>Sefton PCT Creative Alternatives (MLR)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Thursday	14	2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Circle)
Saturday	16		<i>Stamp Fair</i>
		9.00am	Church Walk
Monday	18	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
		8.00pm	Sports Club AGM (Circle)
Tuesday	19	1.30-3.30pm	<i>Jewellery Making (Circle)</i>
		1.30-3.30pm	<i>Flower Arranging (MLR)</i>
Wednesday	20	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	21	9.30-11.30am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Church)
Tuesday	26	1.30-3.30pm	Jewellery Making (Circle)
		1.30-3.30pm	Flower Arranging (MLR)
		7.30pm	Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)
Wednesday	27	12.00-2.00pm	Getting Started (Circle)
		3.00-6.00pm	Kumon (Circle)
		7.30pm	Emotions Anon (SMR)
Thursday	28	9.30-11.30am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
		8.00pm	Cub meeting (SMR)
Saturday	30	1.30-4.30pm	Taekwon-Do (Hall)
May			
Tuesday	3	1.30-3.30pm	Jewellery Making (Circle)
		1.30-3.30pm	Flower Arranging (MLR)
		7.30pm	Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)
Wednesday	4	12.00-2.00pm	Getting Started (Circle)
		3.00-6.00pm	Kumon (Circle)
		7.30pm	Emotions Anon (SMR)
Thursday	5	9.30-11.30am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Circle)
Saturday	7	1.30-4.30pm	Taekwon-Do (Hall)
Tuesday	10	1.30-3.30pm	Jewellery Making (Circle)
		1.30-3.30pm	Flower Arranging (MLR)
		7.30pm	Sefton Ladies Choir (Circle)
Wednesday	11	12.00-2.00pm	Getting Started (Circle)
		3.00-6.00pm	Kumon (Circle)
		7.30pm	Emotions Anon (SMR)
Thursday	12	9.30-11.30am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Circle)
Saturday	14	10.-12.00noon	Action for Children Spring Fair
		1.30-4.30pm	Taekwon-Do (Hall)
			Church Walk
Monday	16	3.00-6.00pm	Kumon (Circle)
		6.00-9.00pm	Easylearn Music School (MLR)
		8.00pm	District Scout Meeting (SMR)

Tuesday	17	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	18	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	19	9.30-11.3am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
		2.30pm	Ladies Fellowship (Circle)
		7.30pm	Circuit Meeting (MLR)
		7.45pm	Theatre group visit to FLT - 'Nevilles Island'
Friday	20	7.30pm	Theatre group visit to SLT - 'Half a Sixpence'
Saturday	21	1.30-4.30pm	<i>Taekwon-Do (Hall)</i>
Monday	23	3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		6.00-9.00pm	<i>Easylearn Music School (MLR)</i>
Tuesday	24	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	25	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	26	9.30-11.30am	Toddlers (Hall & Circle)
Tuesday	31	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>
June			
Wednesday	1	12.00-2.00pm	<i>Getting Started (Circle)</i>
		3.00-6.00pm	<i>Kumon (Circle)</i>
		7.30pm	<i>Emotions Anon (SMR)</i>
Saturday	4		Church Walk
		1.30-4.30pm	<i>Taekwon-Do (Hall)</i>
		7.30pm	Concert by the Lyric Singers

Minister	Rev John Ritson
Senior Stewards	Mr Hector Shanks
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.

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 17th April 2011

Nominations for Church Stewards:

All those in membership of the Methodist Church are entitled to nominate, or be nominated, as stewards and members of the Church Council. Please ensure that you obtain the permission of the person concerned.

Elected Members of Church Council

2nd Term of Office: Kathryn Ritson has completed her 1st Term in Office and, if willing, is eligible to stand for a 2nd Term in Office. Proposed by the Chair. Secunder needed.

Nominations for Representatives to Church Council

John Huntley and Eileen Morgan have completed their second term of office and therefore under the 6 year rule retire from Church Council this year. There are 3 nominations needed in order to complete the full quota of 15 elected Council Members and to make sure we do not lose any members from the Additional Persons list.

If you can nominate anyone as a future Council Member please inform John Ritson or Margaret Nicholas as soon as possible.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published on **SUNDAY 5 JUNE**. Items to the news team by **MONDAY 24 MAY**. 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.

FORMBY METHODIST CHURCH

Olivet to Calvary

HERE

Tuesday 19 April

7.30pm