



Keswick Ministries

HEARING • BECOMING • SERVING

December 2020

Welcome

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners..." (Luke 4:18)

A friend and trustee of Keswick Ministries posted a short extract from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison* on Facebook. Bonhoeffer was a German church leader and theologian who spoke out against Hitler and Nazism, and was imprisoned and then executed.



"Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other—things that are really of no consequence—the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside."

The words resonate well with the current time. In the historic church calendar, this is the season of Advent, when Christians look forward to the return of Christ to rule and reign. And this is also the season of lockdown, when so many of us feel acutely the ongoing restrictions and that the "door is shut, can be opened only from the outside".

It is into this context that the words of Jesus – from his manifesto in Luke's gospel – speak. He comes to "proclaim freedom for the prisoners". And this freedom from sin, from death, from judgement, is something we can experience now, whatever our circumstances. And Advent reminds we look forward to full realisation of it.

James Robson

Ministry Director



Keswick Convention 2021

Meeting together, worshipping together and hearing God's Word together is what makes Keswick Convention so encouraging and such a blessing to many.

The motto of "All one in Christ Jesus" was true in 1875, when the Convention first began, and is still true today.

That is why we are so looking forward to holding Keswick Convention next summer. God willing, the three-week Convention (17 July - 6 August 2021) will go ahead in Keswick and we are looking at best ways to make this happen.

There is value in gathering together. This year many have faced isolation, loneliness, hurt, grief and suffering. We are so thankful that God is working through church communities around the UK, and further afield, to encourage, equip and show God's love in this unprecedented year.

It's been a joy when we've been able to meet again in person in our churches, though of course for many that's not been possible.

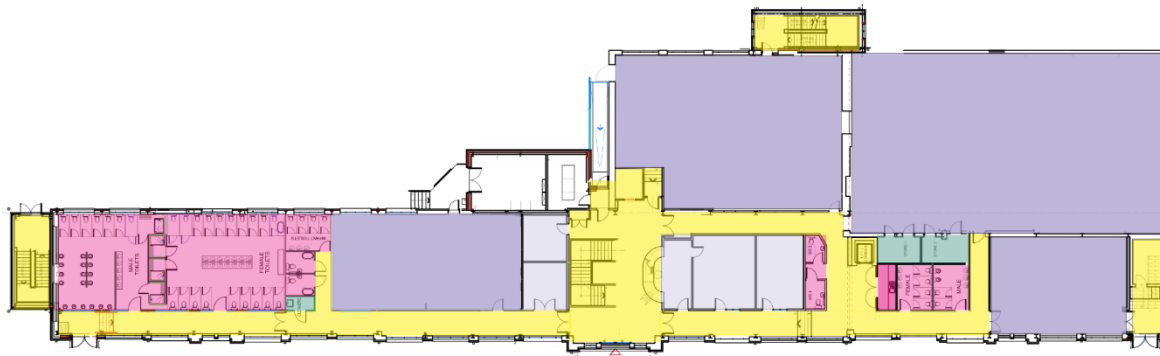
And, Lord willing, Keswick Convention will be a time of celebration as we can all join together again, all one in Christ Jesus. And if we can't all meet in person, We're committed to including those who will join online.

Speakers are looking at the theme of "Faithful". Lots of work is taking place behind the scenes to book speakers and plan the event. Do pray for wisdom for all involved.

There will be the Morning Bible Readings, Seminars, Evening Celebrations and Keswick Lectures as well as programmes for children and youth. More details will be revealed in the New Year.

[Keswick Convention 2021](#)

Derwent Project update: Phase One work starts at Pencil Factory



Contractors have started Phase One of the major transformation of the former Pencil Factory.

Work will include the installation of toilets, meeting rooms, large multi-purpose areas and a reception to the ground floor as well as installing power and heating throughout the building.

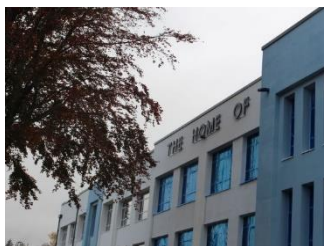
The plan is that this work would be completed in time for next year's summer Convention so that the ground floor can be used during the event.

The aim of the Derwent Project is to be a beacon of spiritual refreshment to give more Christians of all ages opportunities to worship, study God's Word and encourage each other during the Convention and throughout the year. It aims to inspire future generations of children and young people to follow Jesus, to love the Bible and to grow strong in their faith and to ensure that church leaders, mission workers and Christians from all walks of life benefit from more training events and resources developed by Keswick Ministries.

The refurbishment, costing £10.5 million, will be carried out in three phases and will be completed by 2024.

Work has taken place to restore and reinstate the iconic letters 'The Home of Cumberland Pencils' on the Pencil Factory.

David Sawday, Chief Operating Officer for Keswick Ministries, said: "We are so thankful to the thousands of supporters who have generously made this refurbishment possible. While it will always be "The Home of Cumberland Pencils" we are also looking forward to its new role during next year's Convention and beyond as a centre for Christian teaching, Conferences, events and local uses."



Dear friends,

We are so thankful to the Lord for the many ways in which He has blessed the ministry, in what has been a most difficult and challenging year.

We were fortunate in being able to cancel the physical Convention early enough to avoid much of the cost of putting on that event. However, that also meant missing out on the generous giving during the Convention that we have been blessed with in the past.



Just before Virtually Keswick Convention I intimated that we were facing a likely shortfall this year of £200k. I am delighted to report that, in God's goodness, we are now expecting a small surplus at the year-end. However, there are many challenges, not least financial, facing us next year, as we seek to put on a 'hybrid' Convention, and in getting the Pencil Factory ready for the summer of 2021. Your continued support is much needed and valued.

Thank you so much

Steve Adam

Treasurer



Emerging leaders course

We held an innovative course for emerging leaders in partnership with Forge Leadership Consultancy.

The online course was for those in their 20s and 30s in leadership, and looked at how they could be inspired and better equipped to lead radically and authentically now and in the future. Sessions were led by James Robson, Simon Barrington, Naomi Partridge, Simon Potter and Bishop Emma Ineson.

One participant said: "I have found the course hugely beneficial to me and I have a greater sense of clarity as to what God wants me to do in the place that I am in - that alone has to make it a winner. Thanks to all who have made this possible!"

Everyone said they'd strongly recommend the course to others. Plans are now under way for a second event in 2021. More details to follow.

[Faith in the Second Half online seminar](#)

Faith in the Second Half

Two encouraging workshops have been held online looking at the topic of faith in the second half of life. The sessions were held in partnership with Faith in Later Life.

The session, *Enabling Those in Later Life to Flourish*, is now available online. It is split into four sections: Dr Garry Williams shares some theological reflections on old age; Carl Knightly thinks about how we can empower the ministry of the older person; Debs Fidler shares some ways of giving pastoral support and there is a Q+A with Dr Garry Williams, Carl Knightly and Debs Fidler.



Preaching Workshop delivered with "grace, love & humour"

Preachers have been challenged and helped through two Preaching Workshops held in Keswick.

The aim of the workshops was to equip participants with the communication tools they need to preach the Gospel faithfully and effectively.

Sessions were led by communications expert Richard Garnett and Keswick Ministries' James Robson.

Participant Brian Downie said: "Challenging? Yes. Uncomfortable? Yes. Worth it? Absolutely. This preaching workshop was delivered with grace, love and humour, challenging us all to consider how we more effectively preach the truth about Christ and equipping us all to do so."

While Ian Taylor said: "Richard has a great ability to push you well outside of your comfort zone, whilst also helping you to feel confident and safe."

Plans are in the pipeline for another Preaching Workshop next year.

Coming up in 2021...

Take a look on the Keswick Ministries website for full details about upcoming courses and which will be held online and/ or in person. Courses include:

[Art Retreat, 16-18 April 2021:](#) A weekend exploring what the Bible says about working in art today, and a chance to make art, led by Alastair Gordon, of Morphe Arts. There will be teaching sessions and time to make work in response to the stunning Keswick landscape and surroundings.

[Engaging with Science, 23- 24 April 2021:](#) This conference aims to equip Christians, especially those in leadership, to be able to engage faithfully with challenging ethical and scientific questions. It is being held in partnership with The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion.

[Influential Leadership Workshop, 24 - 28 May 2021:](#) This workshop will help you to become more alive in your role, more secure in your identity, more invested in your character development and more influential in your relationships. It is being held in partnership with Forge Consultancy.



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Looking for Christmas presents?

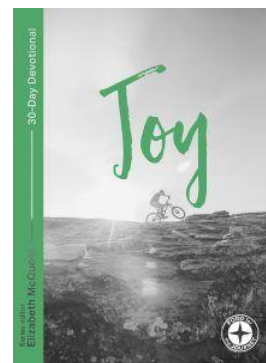
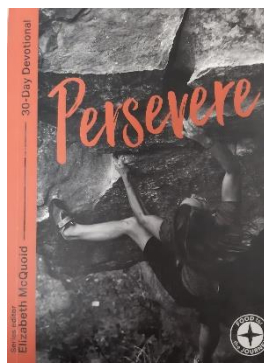
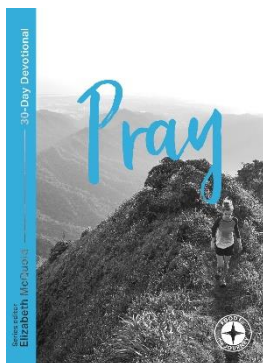
If you're looking for Christmas presents, do take a look at the selection of Keswick Ministries' books.

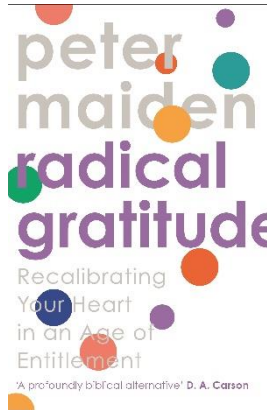
There's an expanding range of material to help you grow in your relationship with God, with Bible studies, theme books, year books and Food for the Journey devotionals. We've highlighted some of our latest resources below.

Pray, Persevere and Joy, Food for the Journey devotionals

These daily devotionals help you study the Scriptures with a Keswick teacher by your side. They are packed with Gospel truths, encouraging messages and thoughtful reflections.

"Whatever the source of hardships, we can hold on to the truth that we are never beyond God's sovereign care; the situation is never out of control." - Extract from Persevere





Radical Gratitude by Peter Maiden

This is the last book penned by our dear friend and colleague, Peter Maiden, before he went to be with the Lord.

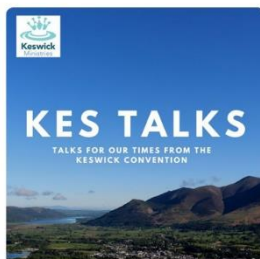
Peter was a man of great integrity. He lived out what Keswick holds dear: Hearing God's word, his was a life shaped by God's word; becoming like God's son, his was a life characterised by a desire to become more like Jesus; serving God's mission, his passion was for reaching the lost across the world.

His latest - and final book- delves into what gratitude is. He looks at choosing gratitude, disciplined gratitude, gratitude and sovereignty as well as gratitude and lament and finally radical gratitude in action.

Friend Jonathan Lamb, minister-at-large for Keswick Ministries, has commended the book, saying: "Through moving personal testimony and lively biblical examples, Peter points us to a way of life that rejoices in God's fatherly care, trusts his sovereign control and, daily, enjoys his gracious provision. A hugely refreshing, encouraging and life-changing read."

Take a look at the publications page for more details.

Publications



Thousands listen to podcasts

The Keswick Convention Podcast and Kes Talks Podcast have been downloaded around 14,000 times since their launch earlier this year.

You can enjoy interviews with guests and speakers from the forthcoming Convention in the summer on The Keswick Convention Podcast. Presented by James Cary and Rachel Redeemed, the podcast is a mix of testimony, theology and reflection. Guests in this latest season include Olly Knight, Simon Manchester, Colin Webster and Phil Moore.

The Kes Talks Podcast are talks for our times, given over the past 25 years at the Keswick Convention. Season 2 features talks from John Risbridger, Jonathan Lamb and Bill Bygroves. The latest episode brings something a bit different to the usual podcast. You will hear Garry Williams' talk from the Faith in the Second Half online seminar.

To listen to both podcasts, search for them on podcasting apps or listen via our website.

Online events



Keep an eye on the Keswick Fellowship web page to find out what events are taking place in your area and online.

It's been a turbulent year, and many groups under the Keswick Fellowship banner have looked at ways to hold events.

Recently there has been a Keswick Fellowship update meeting and prayer time via Zoom. This was a great time for people from all over the UK to meet together, encourage one another and pray about the plans ahead.



Keswick Fellowship

Raise money for the Derwent Project while you shop

Online shopping from your sofa? You could also be helping The Derwent Project raise much needed funds for free!

Over 4,000 online retailers including John Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay and M&S are ready to give a free donation every time you shop online. Just get the App or sign up on the website. Please also share to help us raise even more! Thank you!

easyfundraising | £33M Raised
feel good shopping

Help us raise **FREE** donations when you do your Christmas online shopping.

ebay | John Lewis | M&S | Groupon | Boots | Argos | moonpig | Booking.com

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