



Keswick Ministries

HEARING • BECOMING • SERVING

February 2021

Welcome

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).



Apps for smartphones are being developed all the time. One that I keep coming across is called "What Three Words". In it, a world map is divided up into a grid of 3x3 metre squares. Each square is uniquely defined by a combination of three different words. The idea is that anyone with those three words can navigate accurately to that square, wherever you are, in whatever terrain.

I wonder what three words you would use to describe yourself and how you're feeling as you're reading this. Where would you be on the map?

Covid-19 has impacted everyone. Though all of us have unique experiences and perspectives, I'd imagine there are some words that would keep recurring: "sad", because of the pain of bereavement; "anxious", with concerns over health, finances or relationships; "frustrated", because of perceived poor decisions in government and knock-on effects; "hopeful", because of news about the vaccine, or, beyond that, because of hope in the gospel.

In my conversations, the word that occurs most often is "weary": weary of lockdown, weary of home-schooling, weary of having to make endless adjustments at work, weary of making plans when everything is uncertain, weary of being confined to home, weary of bad news on TV, weary of Zoom, weary of physical isolation, without hugs or singing together in church.

Very rarely does Jesus give a window into himself. But we can find hope and comfort and strength in him, in the words he uses to describe himself: "I am gentle and humble (or lowly) in heart". Because of his tenderness, he gives a beautiful invitation,

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened." And he makes the most wonderful promise to those who come to him, "... and I will give you rest."



James Robson

Ministry Director



Effrem Buckle



Anne Zaki



Adrian Reynolds



Convention 2021 plans

Speakers are booked and the programme is planned for this summer's Convention (17 July - 6 August).

God willing, the three-week event will go ahead in Keswick and we're looking at the best ways to make this happen.

Morning Bible Readings, Seminars, Evening Celebrations and Keswick Lectures will be held as well as programmes for children and youth, all based on the theme of Faithful.

Seminars will focus on a range of topics. In Week One, Andy Ollerton will give an overview of the Bible, Steve Smith and Matthew Skirton will help us engage with global mission, and Andrew Sach will take us deeper into God's faithfulness to his word in 1 and 2 Kings.

There will be a series, within the seminar stream, called "Faithful when life isn't what I want it to be": Sharon Hastings will speak about mental health, Alasdair Paine about sickness, Sonia Crossley about broken relationships, and Efrem Buckle will focus on "when life (including Covid-19) happens".

Week Two will see Rico Tice speak about faithful witness, of churches in evangelism, and of leaders in life and ministry; Anne Zaki will encourage us to develop personal patterns of gratitude in prayer; Dan Strange will look at the theme of living faithfully in our culture; Matthew and Karen Sleeman will focus on faithfulness and the next generation; and Helen Thorne will help us, as Christians, deal with anxiety.

In the final week's seminars, Andy Robinson will reflect on leadership and weakness, while David and Maura Baldwin will teach us and encourage us to be involved with the cross-cultural mission in our own communities; Pete Nicholas will guide us in handling questions millennials are asking. In a series on "Faithfulness in the home", Adrian and Celia Reynolds will focus on faithfulness in marriage, Inonge Siluka on faithfulness for women and girls, and Andy Prime on faithfulness for men and boys and. Rico Villanueva will unpack the raw, but trusting, Lamentations in the School of Biblical Studies seminars.

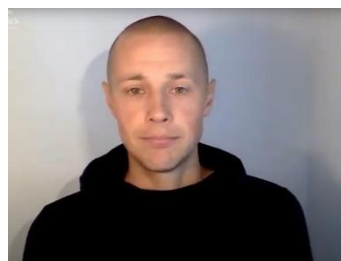
Look out for more details about this year's programme in upcoming newsletters and also on the website. We look forward to seeing you in Keswick in July.

During the Convention, Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations will be livestreamed and available for catch up. For the first time, seminars will be also available for catch up.

Covid and 2021: You will appreciate that we are wrestling with the implications of Covid. We are hopeful that many of the restrictions will have eased by the summer, and are mindful that some, e.g. social distancing, may still be in place. So we are planning with caution, flexibility and optimism. We are exploring whether we need to introduce registration, and perhaps booking for individual sessions. We'll keep you posted on what's planned and what you need to do if you're planning to join us in Keswick. Registration for children and youth is expected to operate in the usual way and to open from Easter. Rest assured that we'll be following government guidance and best practice to ensure everyone is kept safe.

A Q&A page about Convention 2021 will be available shortly on the Keswick Ministries website. Keep a look out for updates to your most asked questions.

Keswick Convention 2021



**Sharon Hastings,
seminar speaker
Week One:**

"Loneliness, confinement, fear... Pandemic has had a huge impact on our mental health. So where do we turn? Depression and psychosis devastated my medical career, but – while wrestling with my thoughts – I encountered the faithfulness of God. I want to encourage fellow sufferers and those who walk alongside to look to Him for whom darkness is as light (Psalm 139:12)."

**Rico Tice, Seminar and
Evening Celebration
speaker, Week Two:**

"It is such a thrill to be learning lessons about evangelism at my local church all year and then to be able to come to Keswick and share those lessons with so many dedicated brothers and sisters, who are longing to return to their home churches with fresh material that will inspire evangelism. I'm just so humbled by the opportunity and can't wait to be with you."

**Andy Prime, Seminar
and Evening
Celebration speaker,
Week Three:**

"At a time when Christians everywhere are facing the same trial, I'm looking forward to the opportunity through Keswick to enjoy and express a togetherness with believers across the UK as we gather to hear the Word of God. And in trying circumstances, what better truth to behold and be bolstered by than the faithfulness of God."

Children and Youth Programme

An exciting new children's and youth programme is being planned this year.

We are thrilled to be able to plan to meet together, Lord willing, even in challenging times and so a unique schedule is being launched for families.

A Families Together morning slot will be introduced for children under the age of 11 and their families. This includes Bible teaching, songs, and activities around tables for families to enjoy.

The sessions replace the traditional Keswick 4 Kids morning programme and will take place during the morning seminar slot. Don't worry – seminars in the adult programme will be recorded and will be available later for catch up!

The usual all-age service will continue each Sunday of the Convention. Join us as all ages worship together.

Having fun, being challenged by God's Word and changed to live for Him more is the aim of Keswick Youth. The programme is for those aged 11 to 18.

In the mornings in all three weeks, there will be small-group Bible Studies, resources and teaching as we gather to speak about God, read the Bible and look at how to live

as a Christian. Some of the wider Convention seminars will also be particularly relevant to youth.

Week Three will feature live evening celebrations that will also be livestreamed so young people around the UK and further afield can join in and benefit.

Look out for further updates about the programme in coming months. Please pray for the Children and Youth team as work goes on to plan this summer's event.



Volunteer at Keswick Convention

There are some great volunteering opportunities at this year's Convention, either front of house or behind the scenes.

We're so grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who help to make the Convention possible. It's busy, lots of fun and a chance to make life-long friends.

Roles include welcome team, catering as well as processing gifts and reception teams.

We'd love for you to join us on team!

[Volunteer](#)



Work progresses on Derwent Project

The ground floor of the former Pencil Factory has been raised and contractors are putting in underfloor heating pipes and erecting internal walls.

Please pray that the contractors stay safe as some have had to self-isolate due to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

Phase One of the work is due to be completed for this summer's convention. Work includes 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.

It's wonderful to see work taking place, so that the purpose of the Derwent project - securing the Convention's future and expanding the ministry of spiritual refreshment - comes closer to fruition.

Volunteer opportunity: Can you help?

Work is under way for the Keswick Convention taking place on the Pencil Factory and Rawnsley sites this summer.

We're making good progress with the works but there's lots to be done to prepare our buildings and grounds. Would you like to be part of making it happen?

We're looking for volunteers in April – and we'd love you to get involved.

Contact facilities@keswickministries.org



Finance Update

Take a look at this latest finance update from Steve Adam, treasurer for Keswick Ministries. He is speaking about general finances and progress on the Derwent Project.



Coming up in 2021

The aim of the year-round Teaching and Training programme is to support local churches and provide training opportunities for key areas for ministry. Even in lockdown, many people have engaged in courses and benefited from them.

Jubi Alves da Silva Filho attended the last preaching workshop in Keswick. He said: "I don't recall having been so excited about a learning opportunity as I was with this one, but I left even more excited than I arrived, and confident, inspired!"

On 9th February, an online Pastoral Refreshment event will be held in place of the usual Pastoral Refreshment Conference in Newby Bridge.

The Keswick Ministries website has full details about upcoming courses which will be either be held online and/or in person.

Take a look at the videos below to find out more about upcoming courses:



[Bible Workshop, 8th - 9th March \(online\)](#)

This online workshop is aimed to help you grow in your understanding and appreciation of Matthew's Gospel, looking at the Sermon on the Mount.

It will be an intensive workshop, particularly intended for pastors, ministers, church planters or lay leaders but is open to anyone. The workshop will be led by Ben Cooper, tutor on the Cornhill Training Course in London.



[Art Retreat, 9-11 April \(in person\)](#)

A weekend exploring what the Bible says about working in art today, and a chance to make art, led by Alastair Gordon, of Morphē 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 \(online and in person\)](#)

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.

The event will be delivered fully online, but (government restrictions allowing) it may be possible to run this online event in Keswick for those who wish to come to the Lake District in person.



[Faith in the Second Half, 11th- 13th May \(online and in person\)](#)

We are partnering with Faith in Later Life to bring you a conference about faith in the second half of life.

Whether you are firmly in later life, have retired recently, are reflecting on what life looks like now your children have left home, or are involved in leading ministry with older people, this stream of seminars aims to provide teaching and insight into a variety of aspects of later life.

This event will be delivered fully online, but (government restrictions allowing) it may be possible to run this online event in Keswick for those who wish to come to the Lake District in person.

Dates for your diary

Pastoral Refreshment Conference, 8th-10th February 2022.

Ray Ortlund will be guest speaker at the conference in Newby Bridge next year.



The event, run in partnership with Living Leadership, will provide a time and space for ministry leaders and their spouses to be refreshed and encouraged.

Rev Matthew and Anna Price, from Norfolk, have described this conference as "an oasis" and are looking forward to next year's event.

Anna said: "We appreciate the Bible teaching which is always fantastic but also the context around it of a place of grace and refreshment. There is an ethos of people being free to be themselves in the place they're at to receive the teaching."

Take a look at the video (right) for more details.





New Food for the Journey devotional coming soon

We are delighted that the latest Food for the Journey devotional is due out in March. The devotional, entitled, The Cross, will help you study the Scriptures with a Keswick teacher by your side. It is packed with Gospel truths, encouraging messages and thoughtful reflections.

Take a look at this video by Gavin Calver, the CEO of Evangelical Alliance, to find out about the devotional.



We are also looking forward to releasing extracts of the devotional, in the week leading up to Easter. You can use this as part of your daily devotionals and prayer times. More details will be available in the next newsletter.

Tune in to great podcasts

There is a feast of sound teaching, great interviews and insights into the Keswick Convention with our two podcasts.

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.

The Kes Talks Podcast are talks for our times, given over the past 25 years at the Keswick Convention.

They are available on podcasting apps or via our website.



[Podcasts](#)



Keswick Fellowship events

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

Some may be unfortunately cancelled or postponed due to the turbulent times, others have found creative ways to meet online.

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Keswick Ministries



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Main Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5NP