

### HEARING · BECOMING · SERVING

#### April 2021

#### Welcome

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:5-6)



These have been, and are, difficult days. The year has been hard for so many and the impact remains very real. Nonetheless, there

are signs that, in the UK at least, the worst is behind us and that there is a government roadmap towards greater normality.

Keswick Ministries Trustees and team have been praying much, and wrestling with what is the right thing to do this summer. We're conscious that Christians will have different views as to the appropriate way forward. While all are desperate for life to return to normal, there is a huge spectrum of opinion on when and how that should happen.

Some are bold, optimistic, feeling that the vaccine roll-out and the government road map mean that it is obvious the Convention should take place this summer. Why should the Convention be different from the many other festivals and events that are planning to go ahead?

Others are more cautious, fearful because of where we've been, conscious of where we are now, and nervous of doing too much too soon.

There can be a real danger of Christians fracturing over this. I've been struck by Paul's words to the Christians in Rome, quoted above, as they too had differences of opinion and conscience. We all worship the same Lord, who gives endurance and encouragement – and how we've needed those - and who can help us all see each other, whatever our opinion, as Christ sees us.

We are planning to go ahead this summer carefully, cautiously, in line with government guidance and in consultation with all relevant bodies. There is real joy to be able to meet again with other Christians, and it's wonderful to be able to have something to look forward to.

It would be wonderful if we could all be in prayer for the Convention. More details about a prayer day are below.

Every blessing

James Rollin

James Robson

**Ministry Director** 



Paul Mallard

Week One Morning Bible Reader



Tim Chester

Week Two Morning Bible Reader



Mark Meynell

Week Three Morning Bible Reader



#### Convention 2021

We're planning with caution and optimism and looking forward to seeing you at this year's Keswick Convention (17 July - 6 August).

The Government's roadmap confirms that the Convention can go ahead this year as the restrictions ease, but due to Covid it will be a different year to normal. We

understand that some may not want to attend but equally we know that many others are looking forward to meeting together in Keswick again.

Speakers are booked and there's lots of work happening behind the scenes to get ready for the Convention.

We are looking forward to holding the three-week event for the first time on the Pencil Factory and Rawnsley sites in Keswick and are making sure that all our plans are in line with Government guidance on best practice as lockdown is lifted.

Due to uncertainties around international travel, there are changes to the Bible Readers in Weeks One and Two.

Alistair Begg, who was due to travel from the USA to give the Bible Readings in Week One, will now speak at next year's Convention. We are pleased to welcome Paul Mallard who will do the Morning Bible Readings instead, on Philippians.

Simon Manchester was due to travel from Australia for the Morning Bible readings in Week Two. He is now set to speak at next year's Convention. Tim Chester will give the Morning Bible Readings instead, looking from Exodus at "The History of the World in Five Meals."

We are very thankful to them for being gracious and flexible as we plan for this year's Convention - and next year too! Paul and Tim had been due to speak in 2020, and had already swapped to 2022, before this latest change.

This year's adult programme will also include Evening Celebrations, Keswick Lectures and a selection of Seminars, as well as programmes for families and youth, all based on the theme of Faithful.

Each week, the Evening Celebrations will explore God's faithfulness and ours by unpacking different parts of the Bible.

In Week One (17 -23 July), we will focus on God's faithfulness in all circumstances, by looking at a number of the Psalms. The speakers will be Jeremy McQuoid, James Robson, Andrew Sach, Alasdair Paine, Gavin Calver and Efrem Buckle.

In Week Two (24 - 30 July), we will travel together through Luke 1 and 2, looking at themes including God's faithfulness in preparing the way, celebrating the faithful saviour God and consolation and comfort from a suffering saviour. Speakers include Jeremy McQuoid, Martin Salter and Rico Tice.

In the final week, (31 July - 6 August) speakers will delve into Revelation 1-3. The talks include Jesus Christ: The all-glorious faithful witness, a truth-holding church, a living church and a Christ-dependent church. James Robson, Andy Robinson, Jason Roach, Pete Nicholas and Andy Prime will be speaking.

Details about all speakers and the topics for this summer's Convention are available on the link below.

One of the most important changes at this year's event will be registration for adults and families. This means that, if we need to reduce venue capacity, we can still ensure everyone gets to participate.

Youth (11-18's) will also need to register separately for their activities.

We plan to open registration mid-to-late April and will email when it opens. Also do keep an eye on our website, newsletters and social media feeds – and we'll update you with the latest plans for the 2021 Keswick Convention.

Keswick Convention 2021



Gavin Calver



Jeremy McQuoid



Jason Roach

#### Speaker introductions and topics

Over the next few months, we'll be hearing from different speakers about what they will be sharing at the Convention. Check out the videos below from some of our speakers.







Sonia Crossley

Andy Robinson

Inonge Siluka

### Children and Youth Programme

We have an exciting Children and Youth programme planned for this year – though due to Covid – it will be slightly different from a usual Convention.



Each morning there is a Families

Together event for children under 11 and their families. This includes Bible teaching, songs, and activities around tables. Families Together replaces the usual Keswick 4 Kids and will be held in the morning seminar slot – but don't worry – seminars are recorded so you can catch up!

On Sunday we'll hold our traditional all-age service.

Keswick Youth, for those aged 11-18, will run every weekday morning. This will include small-group Bible Studies, resources and teaching. Also some of the Convention seminars will be particularly relevant to youth.

In Week Three, the youth programme also features a daily (Sunday to Friday) live evening celebration – plus it will be livestreamed so young people around the UK and further afield can join in. There will also be some evening youth provision in Weeks One and Two.

Please pray for the Children and Youth team as work goes on to plan this summer's event.

### 2021 Convention your questions answered

We've pulled together the main questions that you've been asking about the Convention this year and added them to our website. <u>This page</u> is being updated regularly.

## Frequently Asked Questions

I've never been to Keswick before. Can you tell me more about what happens? What are the plans for the Convention programme for adults? What are the plans for the Children's and Youth

Programme?

Why is the children's programme different this year?





## Count Everyone In

After much prayer and consultation, our friends at Count Everyone In have sadly decided not to run their programme for adults with learning disabilities at this year's Convention.

They recognise that there will be a lot of disappointment but feel that it is better to postpone meeting face-to-face until it is possible to do so with greater confidence.

We look forward to welcoming Count Everyone In for Keswick 2022 in Week One (16-22 July), rather than their usual Week Two. Our hope is that meetings will be on the combined Pencil Factory / Rawnsley site.

We hope in the meantime to include contributions from Count Everyone In online this summer.

## Look out for website updates

All information will be available on the Virtually Keswick Convention website. The site is set to be updated in coming months. During the Convention, Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations will be livestreamed on the Virtually Keswick Convention website. These sessions, plus the seminars, will also be available for catch up.

We want to make it as easy as possible for people to join the Convention from their holiday venue or from home or want to catch up later.



#### May Prayer Day

We are looking forward to holding an Annual Prayer Day on Wednesday 19th May - and we'd love you to join in.

This is a great opportunity to pray for different aspects of this summer's Keswick Convention.

This year we will be holding three prayer meetings, via Zoom, that you can attend join, so you can pray with others and pray with us. They will be held at the following times: 7am, 1pm and 8pm.

Click on the buttons below to register. Once you have registered you will automatically then be sent the Zoom link for the meeting.

A number of prayer points will be put together for the Prayer Day to help pray for a variety of topics. These will be available on our website closer to the time.

7am prayer meeting

<u>1pm prayer meeting</u>

8pm prayer meeting



#### Volunteer at the Convention

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

Teams over the three weeks are growing nicely but there are still a few gaps to be filled. Roles include Café, Reception as well as Technical and Welcome teams.

It's busy, lots of fun and a chance to make life-long friends. Why not join us!

Please be assured that we will be following government guidance in how we accommodate volunteers.

We asked long-standing volunteer Joy Higham about serving at the Convention.

She said: "For me, there is no greater joy than using the gifts God has given me to serve others. However, as much as we give, we also receive - blessings in meeting new people, as well as reacquainting with others, beautiful views, hearing God's Word, joining in praise, unexpected blessings, lives challenged, encouraged and changed.

"Consider if you can be a volunteer - there are many roles. Come and be a part of Convention 2021!"











# Fantastic progress on the Derwent Project

It is wonderful to see work progressing so well on the Pencil Factory site as we get ready for this summer's Convention.

Pipework and panels have been installed for the new toilets on the ground floor of the Pencil Factory. Walls have been built and underfloor heating has been laid.

This is part of Phase One of the project, which is due to be completed for this summer's convention. The whole phase of 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 fantastic 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.

#### Look out for more updates

We will be sending out an update on the Derwent Project and our growing ministry activities by post in the next couple of weeks. By God's grace, and with the prayerful support and generosity of God's people, more Christians around the world can be reached, equipping, refreshing and inspiring them to love and live for Christ.

If you would like to make a donation to the Derwent Project, you can do so <u>here</u>. Thank you for your continued partnership!

**Donate** 









#### Encouraged through Teaching and Training events

We are very thankful to have been able to run different online Teaching and Training events 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.

Jeremy Hobson recently attended a Bible Workshop in Hebrew (Up to intermediate level). He said: "This is a hugely encouraging day for local church leaders like me, both to be reminded about biblical languages, and to be refreshed in the Lord. I can't recommend it highly enough."

In addition to this full day course, online monthly workshops have been taking place. They have all been led by Ministry Director James Robson. The sessions have been a great encouragement to attendees as they explore God's Word in its original language, so it is fresh for them in their hearts, lives and ministries.



#### Enjoyable and challenging Bible workshop

We were delighted to hold an online Bible workshop about the Sermon on the Mount, led by Rev Dr Ben Cooper, tutor at Cornhill Training Course.

Attendees from all over the UK took part in the sessions on Zoom. Most attendees -

though not all - were involved in some form of Christian leadership or teaching.

Ben said: "The aim of the workshop was to engage afresh with the Sermon on the Mount, to see its function within the context of Matthew's Gospel as a whole, and to move towards a more positive understanding of these chapters - one in which we delight in the challenge of living to the praise of our heavenly Father, and in which we lean on him all the more, especially in prayer.

"We met on Zoom (of course!), but despite all the challenges of online interaction, we did all relax and get to know each other a little. By the beginning of the second day, the questions and discussion had begun to flow. Most of all I think we all felt deeply spoken to by God through this most precious part of his Word."

Participant Anne Beverley enjoyed the workshop, saying it was "thoroughly enjoyable and challenging".



There's still time to book...

Engaging with Science, 23- 24 April (online)

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.

Click on the video to find out more.



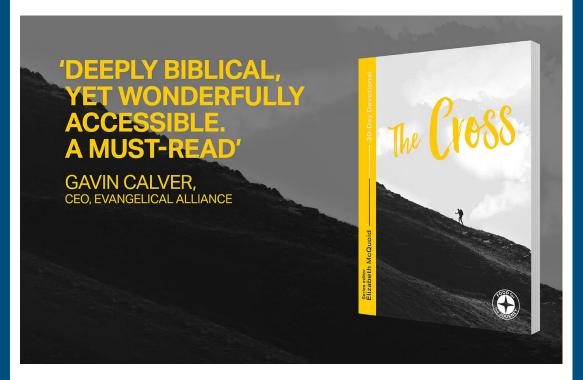
#### Faith in the Second Half, 11th- 13th May (online)

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 aspects of later life.

Click on the video to find out more.





## Easter Reflections: The Cross

The latest Food for the Journey devotional, The Cross, is out now. It is such an encouraging devotional to go through in the lead up to Easter and beyond.

A host of Keswick speakers, including Alistair Begg, Don Carson, Charles Price and Vaughan Roberts, open up God's Word and take us to the heart of our faith.

Take a look at this video by Gavin Calver, of Evangelical Alliance, as he commends this latest devotional.

In the lead up to Easter we are releasing some extracts from the devotional that we hope and pray will be of great encouragement. These will also be highlighted on our website and also on social media. The extracts will help us look at what Jesus has done for us on the Cross, the penalty that



he has paid for us and the salvation and freedom that we have in him.

Click on the link below for the extracts. The Cross devotional is available to purchase from IVP, 10ofthose and Christian bookshops. If you wish to purchase the book from IVP it is available on their website at the special discounted rate of £3.99 until April 30th. Bulk buy offers also available if you want to buy copies for your church or home group.

This Easter, let us look at God's Word and reflect on what he has done for us.

Extracts from The Cross

#### Tune in to great podcasts

Since the launch of the Kes Talks Podcast and Keswick Convention Podcast last May, there have been thousands of downloads of the selection of the biblical teaching and interviews.

The Keswick Convention Podcast gives a real insight into speakers at this Summer's Convention. Helen Thorne, Mark Meynell, Andrew Sach and Andrew Ollerton are just some of the speakers interviewed by James Cary and Rachel Redeemed. The podcasts are well worth a listen.

Meanwhile, the Kes Talks Podcast contains talks from God's Word, given over the past 25 years at the Keswick Convention. You can listen to speakers including Charles



Price, Alistair Begg, Helen Roseveare, John Stott and Steve Brady.

They are available on podcasting apps or via our website.

#### Podcasts



#### New weekly resource recommendations

There are many great Christian resources available, both online (websites, blogs, articles, videos, podcasts, songs) and printed (books/pamphlets).

There is such a variety of content available. Each Friday, we'd love to make you aware of a resource we've come across that we think might be an encouragement and help to you in your walk with Christ.

Keep an eye on our social media – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – for our latest recommendations.



#### Keswick Fellowship events

A host of virtual events are being held by groups within the Keswick Fellowship - and you are invited to go along!

Derby Bible Week will be held online from 19 - 22 April, with speaker Rupert Bentley-Taylor.

Birmingham Spring Convention will take place online 27 - 29 April. Jonathan Lamb, Minister-at-Large at Keswick Ministries, will be speaking on three Psalms.

Keswick Ayrshire will be holding their event online 21 - 23 May with speaker J. John.

This is a great opportunity for you to attend these online events to be encouraged and strengthened in your faith.

Keep an eye on the Keswick Fellowship web page for more details about these events and others that are taking place in your area and online.

#### Keswick Fellowship

The Katoomba Easter Convention in Australia is preparing for an actionpacked weekend online and in person.

The Convention, from 2- 5 April, will be features Bible teaching from speakers including Don Carson, Paul Tripp and Matt Fuller.



The ministry has links with Keswick

Convention going back many years, and it's great to see that they are planning this Easter Convention.

For more about the plans, check out the link below.





#### Job vacancy: Children and Youth Director

Building up young people in their faith and helping train a new generation of leaders is at the heart of Keswick Ministries' vision. Each summer over 2,200 young people join our Keswick 4 Kids and Youth programmes.

We are now recruiting for a Children and Youth Director to lead and develop this ministry. The Director will work with leaders and volunteers to deliver the summer programme, and, building on these foundations, will look to extend the ministry further during the year, including ministry with families.

Follow the link below if you would like to apply or want more details of this exciting opportunity.

More details

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