



HEARING • BECOMING • SERVING

June 2021

Welcome

The Rock! His work is perfect,

For all His ways are just;

A God of faithfulness and without injustice,

Righteous and upright is He. (Deuteronomy 32:4)



So much has been uncertain for so long. Many have sadly died. Many have experienced immense difficulties, hardships and grief. I guess at points we've all wondered about the Lord's ways in all this.

It is against that backdrop that I'm really looking forward to the Keswick Convention this summer. We're going to hear from a God who is described wonderfully in this verse from the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy. The Rock – solid, dependable, reliable, trustworthy, secure – when all else can seem like shifting sand. And look at how he is described. "All his ways are just" – not a few, not some, not most, but all. He's a "God of faithfulness" (our theme for this summer). And he's "without injustice" (in case we'd missed it!). Like when we say something is "not bad" and we mean "very good", God is 100% just. The verse finishes, "righteous and upright is he". We might think he'd have no time for us, as we're too often the very opposite of our God and Father. But it is precisely because God is as described here that he reaches out in love and care.

The Convention this year will be different. It's been, and is, a huge challenge laying on an event in the midst of uncertainty. I want to pay great tribute to a wonderful team, and to all the volunteers who have committed to serve in different ways to make it happen. We are most grateful for all of your prayers, encouragement, and flexibility. We really look forward to seeing many of you in person, and many others online. And please do be praying, that we'd all keep depending on "The Rock".

Every blessing



James Robson

Ministry Director



Convention 2021



With only a few weeks to go until the 2021 Keswick Convention (17 July - 6 August), which this year through the Derwent Project will be on one site for the first time, your prayers are much appreciated as we make the final arrangements.

The pandemic means there are a number of changes this year as we follow Government guidelines. We have introduced a registration and booking system to help us manage social distancing and venue capacities (see below for more details).

This year's Convention offers a programme of Morning Bible Readings, Seminars, Keswick Lectures and Evening Celebrations.

It is also an opportunity to take a break from the busyness of life and enjoy some time away in beautiful Keswick, in the heart of the Lake District. Be encouraged to come to the Convention for a time of refreshment.

What's different at this summer's Convention

- Online registration has been launched to help with our planning and give us an idea of numbers. We're asking you to let us know which week you plan to attend and which sessions you'd like to go to. If you haven't already registered, please do so [here](#). The closing date for registering interest is 31st May.

- We will shortly be introducing a booking system for you to formally book your places if you've registered. More details will be sent out via email about this in the next couple of weeks.
- To keep everyone as safe and secure as possible, we're asking that every person attending the Convention has a lateral flow test on the Saturday and the Tuesday of the week they're attending.
- This year, the main sessions – Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations – will be in three venues on the Pencil Factory site - the former packing hall and two relay venues. We're running it this way because of Government limits on numbers in any given venue.
- 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. One will be streamed live.
- The Families Together is replacing the traditional Keswick 4 Kids stream. There are some changes to the Keswick Youth Programme. Take a look at this [video](#) by John Taylor, Keswick Ministries' trustee, as he shares what's happening over the three weeks with prayer points.
- Keep an eye on the [2021 Convention - Your questions answered](#) page for updates about the Convention, and details you may find useful.



Updated Convention website coming soon!

The updated Keswick Convention 2021 website is being launched next week. This will host all the details of the Convention, (there's no handbook this year) as well as all the events livestreams and catch ups. Visit vkc.keswickministries.org

In the meantime, do take a look at the three videos below as they point to God's heart for the whole world. You can hear more from these speakers at the Convention.



Maura and David Baldwin



Rico Tice



Steve Smith and Matthew Skirton



Volunteer applications still open

There's still time to volunteer for this Summer's Convention!

There are a number of roles still available for you to apply for: Tech team for all 3 weeks as well as Café & Welcome teams in Week 3.

If you have volunteered in the gift processing (previously fundraising) teams in the past and are available for Week 3, please get in touch. However, all applications are welcome.

Check out the [website](#) for more details about the roles and how to apply.

We're so grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who help to make the Convention possible. It's an amazing venture to be part of. We'd love for you to join us on team.

Thanks goes to volunteer Joy Higham for this acrostic poem about being a volunteer.

Volunteer

V- vacation - enjoy time in the Lakes when serving

O - obedience - following Christ in serving others

L - Love - serving each other in and with love

U - united - all one in Christ Jesus

N - Nourishing - hear the word and have meals provided

T - Team - working together, support and blessing each other

E - Energy - need this to serve, but also receive it through serving

E - Encouragement - spur others on, we all need and can all give encouragement

R - respond - consider if you could volunteer and if so get your name down - will be great to have you on board

May Prayer Day

It was wonderful to join with Conventioners and trustees at the recent May Prayer Day, held online.

In three Zoom prayer meetings on one day, we prayed to pray for different aspects of this summer's Convention, including the Children's and Youth work, the programme for adults, and the logistics of the event. It was a real privilege to gather in prayer.

Each of the Morning Bible Readers provided a short video with prayer points. Take a look at their videos below. Do continue to pray for them in the final weeks of preparation for this summer's event.



Paul Mallard

Week One Morning Bible
Reader



Tim Chester

Week Two Morning Bible
Reader



Mark Meynell

Week Three Morning Bible
Reader



Hard-working volunteers help to makes sites ready for Convention

A small army of volunteers has been working hard to get the Pencil Factory and Rawnsley sites ready for the Convention.

They have carried out a host of jobs including making planters and picnic benches out of wooden beams that had been used in the Pencil Factory, as well clearing, tidying, painting, fitting toilets, digging and weeding.

It's a mammoth task to get the sites ready for Convention, but the teams of volunteers have put in a lot of hard work over the two-week stint. They have also had the chance to have fellowship with one another and join together for meals at the Convention Centre.

Murray Lawrie, Facilities Manager, said: "We are incredibly grateful for the volunteers who have given up their time to help on site. There has been a great feeling of camaraderie as everyone has pulled together to get a long list of tasks done."

"There is still more to do in the lead up to Convention and so more volunteering opportunities will be available mid-June. If you are interested in getting involved, email facilities@keswickministries.org"

He said that a great deal of work has been taking place on the site by contractors Thomas Armstrong to finish Phase 1 of the Derwent Project in time for the Convention.



Derwent Project finance update

Your partnership, alongside that of many others, enables the far-reaching work of Keswick Ministry, which began more than a century ago, to continue and grow, and for this we are very grateful. The funds raised so far for the Derwent Project will see the Convention on one site for the first time this year; a major milestone indeed! We now have sufficient funds to complete Phase 1 of the work to refurbish the Pencil Factory, which will mean that the Youth teams will be able to use the spaces on the ground floor for their meetings and activities.



Phase 2 of the work will be to complete the first and second floors of the Pencil Factory. These will then be available for church weekends and our growing teaching and training programme, as well as for the Convention. In order to carry out this work we now need to raise a further £600,000.

Please would you consider making a one-off donation to help us achieve this goal? We hope to begin Phase 2 this October, but can only do so once the finance is in place.

Thank you once again for all your support.

[Donate](#)



Leadership courses: Apply now

Keswick Ministries and Forge Leadership Consultancy are to hold the five-day workshops for Christians who are leaders in all walks of life to be refreshed, challenged and changed.

The Influential Leadership Workshop will take place on September 20-24. This course will be followed on October 4-8 by the Emerging Leaders' Workshop.

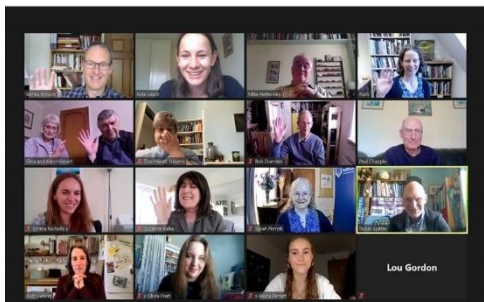
Take a look at this video (right) by Simon Barrington, founder of Forge Leadership Consultancy, to find out more about the workshops.



Keswick Ministries is also gearing up to hold a preaching workshop next month in partnership with Richard Garnett, a communications consultant. The course will help the cohort to enhance their key communication skills for preaching.

[Influential Leadership Workshop](#)

[Emerging Leaders' Workshop](#)



Engaging with Science

A host of online courses have taken place over the past couple of months, including a 2-day Engaging with Science course held in partnership with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion.

At a time when the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of science and faith, the course equipped people to answer tough questions on these topics and feed into the lives of their churches.

Faith in the Second Half

A series of talks, looking at a variety of topics around faith in the second half of life, has proved to be a great success.

Three mornings of talks have recently been held with speakers including David Field, Dave Fenton, Keith Brown, Roger Hitchings and Pippa Cramer. There were also talks by Louise Morse, Carl Knightly, Debs Fidler and Jeremy Marshall.

Carol Bailey, Seniors' Ministry Worker, Winchester Baptist Church, said: "This was just an amazing conference. I am so glad I was able to be with you all for the three days on Zoom. Can you thank everyone involved for a very stimulating, challenging, invigorating and re-energising few days. Just what I needed after the challenges of the past year."



Launch of churches weekend away

Do you want to gather with your church family, meet others for fellowship, get engaging and faithful Bible teaching and enjoy a break away in Keswick? If so, our newly launched Churches Weekend Away initiative could be for you.

They will take place on 16 - 18 September 2022 and 31 March to 2 April 2023. Both weekends will be open to between three and six church groups, each of under 100 people. There will be a core programme organised by Keswick Ministries, along with time and space to share fellowship and enjoy the town as a church family.

The main speaker for the events will be Paul Mallard and sung worship for the first weekend will be led by Colin Webster and Phil Moore, who are also familiar faces at the Convention.

The new initiative - which will be held in the Pencil Factory - fits with Keswick Ministries' vision to support local churches through teaching and refreshment in the Lake District, and is made possible by the Derwent Project.

For more details, check out the link below.

Churches Weekends Away

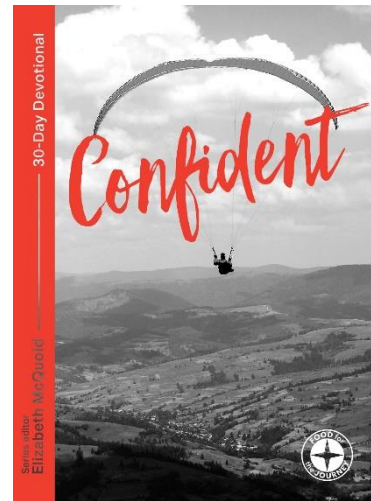


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Food for the Journey devotional out now

We are delighted that the latest Food for the Journey devotional is out now. The devotional, entitled, *Confident*, will help you study the Scriptures with a Keswick teacher by your side.

It is packed with Gospel truths, encouraging messages and thoughtful reflections. The devotionals can be used in your personal devotions or with others.



Click on this video by Andy Bannister, of Solas Centre for Public Christianity, to find out about the devotional.

Copies of *Confident* are now available to purchase. Publishers IVP have offered a special 20% discount if you buy a copy from them in the next month. Go to their website to order and add the discount code: CONF20



IVP

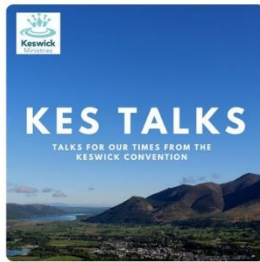


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Tune in to great podcasts

There is a feast of biblical teaching, great interviews and insights into the speakers at 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



The Keswick Fellowship operates throughout the UK as a national network to encourage the leaders of Bible Conventions and local Keswick events through prayer, practical support and fellowship.

Over this past year some events have been cancelled or postponed due to the turbulent times, while others have found creative ways to meet online.

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

[Keswick Fellowship](#)

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Keswick Ministries



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