

HEARING · BECOMING · SERVING

August 2021

#### Welcome

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

I met up with a friend earlier this week, and he put me on the spot with a question, "What was your highlight from this year's Convention?" I paused. But only because there were so many, it was hard to pick one out.



There was the Bible preaching and teaching, faithful, engaging and relevant; the stories of many different people, with common themes of weariness over the last months and joy of being able to be together; the sight of hundreds of young people spilling out of the youth tent, excited to renew friendships, encouraged in their faith; the sounds of laughter and learning from the Families Together programme.

Then there were the smiles and service of the hundreds of volunteers; the tireless efforts behind the scene of wonderful colleagues; the gracious cooperation of Conventioners with the measures necessary because of Covid; the extraordinary protection from Covid during the event; the notes of appreciation from all over the UK and the world.

It was wonderful to see everyone on one site, relaxing, talking, eating, sharing, meeting - the 'feel' of it all surpassed my expectations; and then there was the singing, heartfelt, united, all one in Christ Jesus. If you pushed me, that'd be it, the 19th July singing of Great is Thy Faithfulness after months of mute congregations.

It was a white-knuckle ride to run the event. A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible, and to you who came or joined online. But it was all only possible because of the LORD and his grace. "Give thanks to the LORD for he is good. His love endures forever."

James Robin

James Robson

Ministry Director









Generations of conventioners gathered together on one site for the first time to hear fantastic Bible teaching at Keswick Convention 2021.

We held the Convention at the Pencil Factory and Rawnsley site with meetings being held in the Packing Hall, relay tent and newly refurbished rooms on the ground floor of the Pencil Factory.

Working with Allerdale Environmental health, we introduced measures to ensure the site was Covid secure and there was the opportunity for friends, family and church families to meet together for fellowship.

Hundreds of Conventioners joined together on Monday 19th July (the first day that congregational singing was allowed in England for more than a year) to sing an acapella version of the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness.

The Faithful theme was woven throughout the whole programme, from seminars, Morning Bible Readings, Evening Celebrations to Families Together, Keswick Youth, 19-24s and Keswick Unconventional.

Paul Mallard spoke movingly in Week One Morning Bible Readings about Philippians, while Tim Chester brought us thought-provoking teaching in Week Two's Bible readings on Exodus: A Portrait of God's Faithfulness in Five Meals and Mark Meynell brought challenging messages in Week Three's Bible Readings about the book of Hosea.

Seminars looked at a wide range of topics including being faithful to Christ's commission, refreshing your prayer life, resetting life after lockdown, hope in an anxious world, living faithfully in our culture, faithful and the next generation, being a

faithful witness as well as millennial questions, cross cultural mission in our own communities and being faithful in the home.

Keswick Lectures were given in all three weeks of the Convention. Bob White spoke about climate change in Week One, while Tim Chester spoke on How to be Holy: John Stott and the Keswick Movement in Week Two and Jason Roach spoke about Racing to Unity: Making a difference in a divided world in the final week.

It has been wonderful to make the Convention available to those watching from home via the <u>Convention website</u> and <u>YouTube</u>. We hope that it was a real encouragement for those unable to attend in person but were able to watch from home or in churches.

The talks from the Convention are still available for catch up or to re-listen to. There are a number of ways you can catch up, including online and purchasing USB sticks with all the main talks from each week, for just £15. The latter is a great opportunity for you to have the talks stored in one place and you don't need the internet to access them.

What a joy it has been to hear such encouraging and refreshing Bible teaching and explore big topics hitting the headlines today. We hope you have been encouraged and blessed.









# Crafts, activities and fun at Families Together sessions

Youngsters became Guardians of the Gospel at action-packed Families Together sessions.

The exciting new programme replaced the traditional Keswick 4 Kids sessions this year. Activities, crafts and

songs were held for youngsters and their families as they learnt about God's faithfulness.

Week team leaders Liam Brocken, Tom Putt and Stui Chaplin said it was wonderful to see so many children and families meet together, from all over the country, to look at God's Word in a fun way.

They said: "This past year has been tough for so many people as the usual routines of school and activities have been restricted. This programme, set up in a Covid secure way, has enabled us to share the Gospel in an accessible way for all the family."



#### Keswick Youth

Helping young people to grow in their faith has been the aim of Bible studies, activities and songs at Keswick Youth.

This fantastic video shows some of the highlights of this year's youth programme as young people from the ages of 11 - 18 met together to be encouraged and get to grips with God's Word.

Week team leaders Elfie and Andy Acheson, Ben Tanner, Caz Evans and Graham Albans say it was an incredible time after what has been a challenging 18 months for young people.

They say: "This has been an opportunity for them to meet together, have fun and be spurred in their faith. It's a huge privilege to work with these young people and to share of God's faithfulness, in all circumstances, wherever they are and whatever situation they face."

The evening meetings of Keswick Youth were livstreamed in Week Three and are still available for catch up. If you know any young people or youth groups who you think would benefit from the ministry at Keswick why not encourage them to access the online sessions or book in for next year.









# Late night meetings and socials for 19-24s

In keeping with our theme of 'Faithful', the 19-24s spent Late Night sessions working through the Apostles' Creed together, as well as games and interviews, and social events each afternoon

One of their trips out included rowing on Derwentwater on a rainy afternoon!

Ellie Cook, Paul Webber and Stephen Watson have led the group over the three weeks.









#### **Keswick Unconventional**

The popular Night Shift, afternoon concerts, workshops and Windows on the Word evenings were held in the final week of the Convention as part of the Keswick Unconventional arts stream.

Organisers planned a host of creative events with KU regulars Gareth Davies Jones, James Cary and Ally Gordon

with guests including Kaori Homma, Rob Halligan, Sarah White, Tyrone Isaac-Stuart, Anna Nicholson and Andrew Peterson.

Held at St John's Church, the events were an opportunity to reflect on the theme of Faithful in a creative way and focus on God's creativity.







## **Pencil Factory Tours**

This year the Derwent project has made tremendous progress – despite Covid. We've run a full programme of Teaching and Training courses – and phase one of the refurbishment, the ground floor, of the Pencil Factory building was completed in time for the Convention. It hosted Seminars and Youth activity and provided the toilets for Conventioners. We also ran 30 tours to show people round and discuss what is planned for the building as a centre for Gospel ministry - for youth work at the Convention and for Church groups throughout the year.

We're planning to start the next phase of work in the Autumn – which will see the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors refurbished for the 2022 Convention.







#### Your comments about Convention

"Just need to say a BIG WOW ...first time I've heard Mark Meynell teach, what a teaching I was blown away from the 1st day ...just wow can't wait for Keswick Convention next year, it's always emotional when it comes to a close ...thank you everyone."

"I just want to give a special mention to the sign language interpreters during the convention, I have no need of them myself but watching at home I think they are offering an invaluable service to those who do."

"Getting high quality teaching this week!! This is so very good. Thank you Lord also for Rico Tice's training and energy in week 2 in his seminars on evangelism. A 'must-watch again' for me as I go home."

"Thank you to everyone for a wonderful Keswick 2021. The Bible Readings and Worship have been challenging and inspiring. Looking forward to being in there in person in 2022. God Bless."



### Finance update

One of the reasons that Keswick Convention is such a fantastic event is because everyone is welcome.

Because there is no charge to attend, anyone can come to hear the word of the Lord and be blessed by it so that they can love and live for Christ in his world.

Over the years this has been possible through the generosity of supporters who give sacrificially, whether at the Convention or throughout the year. It means that those who are less able to give, don't have to, and can still attend. This is a particular blessing for those with young families or others who are struggling.

As an indication, laying on the Convention costs around £120 a person.

We are currently behind budget for this point in the year. Thank you to so many of you who have already given this year. If you've not yet done so, and would like to, would you prayerfully consider what you can give, whether you attended in person or watched online.

Please do take a look at the video (above) by Steve Adam, Treasurer of Keswick Ministries, for more details.

#### **Donate**







## Catch up on Keswick Convention 2021

There is a host of ways you can catch up on teaching from this year's Convention. Each is a different way of accessing God's Word - we do hope you will benefit from them.

**USB sticks of teaching for each week:** For just £15, you can purchase a memory stick – with the all the audios of the Morning Bible Readings, Evening Celebrations, Seminars and Keswick Lectures – for each week of the Convention 2021. Or buy all three weeks for £35. These are very handy as you don't need the internet to listen to the talks. Click here for more details.

**Videos of all seminars, Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebration talks:** You can catch up on the video recordings of the talks via the <u>Convention</u> website and also the <u>Keswick Convention YouTube channel</u>.

**Audios of seminars, Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations:** Head to the <u>Talks Library</u> on the Keswick Ministries website to listen to the audios of the listed audios.

**Catch up via the Kes Talks Podcast:** The Morning Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations are available to listen to while you're on the go. They are available <a href="here">here</a> and on podcasting apps such as Spotify and iTunes.

#### Faithful - Keswick Convention 2021 album

You can buy the album of Keswick sung worship from the Convention. There are songs by Colin Webster and Phil Moore, Ben Slee and Olly Knight. For most of us, the Convention was the first time since March 2020 that there was congregational singing, so it's a very special album. You can pre-order it from the 10ofThose website.





# 10ofThose recommendations and offers

We are thankful to work alongside a number of partners at this year's Convention, including 10ofThose. Thousands of books were sold during the Convention.

Check out the link for more details.

10ofThose

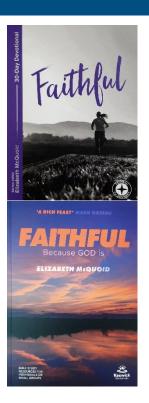
#### Keswick Ministries resources

Do explore God's faithfulness and our response via the latest Food for the Journey devotional, Faithful. It includes Bible teaching from Michael Baughen, Alistair Begg, Tim Chester, Malcolm Duncan and Sinclair Ferguson.

And there's also a Bible Study guide on the theme of Faithful. It's for individuals or small groups, and provides a big view of God and shows us how to grow daily in faithfulness and grace.

Both resources, along with many other Keswick Ministries resources, are available via publishers IVP and providers such as 10ofThose.

You can also find out more via our website.



# Get ready for Keswick Convention 2022!

We're already making plans for next year's Convention, when the theme will be Grateful.

The Morning Bible readers for all three weeks have been confirmed. Look out for more details in coming months about the programme.

We are pleased to share that we will be in a 3,000+ seater marquee which will be located next to the Packing Hall.

The Packing Hall will be used for the Base Camp; with a café, bookshop and mission area. We really hope to see you back in Keswick next year.



Each year, the Convention is made possible through the great work of our volunteer teams. There are a host of volunteering opportunities available such as stewarding, gift processing, reception teams as well as Children and Youth teams.

Volunteer applications for 2022 are set to open at the end of this month, so if you'd like to be involved on team, please do apply.



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**The Keswick Convention Trust** 

Main Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5NP