

# Keswick in Wales Convention

Newsletter – July, 2020

Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A question, if I may. What were you doing this time last year?

Some will immediately answer, “I can’t remember what I did last week let alone last year!!” I know the feeling!

But I’m sure most of us would answer in a general way, working, busy at home, leisure activities, seeing the family etc. And I would hope that some would answer, as I would, looking forward to going to Keswick in Wales, in wonderful, sunny (!! ) Llandrindod Wells.

WELL alas, we are certainly not doing the latter this year and on top of that we all are affected to a greater or lesser extent by the pandemic.

What are we to make of it all? Where does God fit in all of this? Does He fit in at all? Some would say that it’s nothing to do with God it “just happened.” Others would go to the other extreme and say it’s everything to do with God.

For my part I would go carefully. Bearing in mind our Lord’s words in Luke ch 13 regarding the Galileans whose blood Pilate mixed with their sacrifices, and the tower of Siloam which fell and killed 18 folk, His reply was “Do you think they were worse sinners? “ etc. and His message was “I tell you, unless you repent you will likewise perish! Also, John ch 9 regarding the blind man and the disciples’ question, “Who did sin, this man or his parents?” To which the Lord replied “Neither... but that God might be glorified”. Thus we have to be very careful about attributing catastrophes and calamities **directly** to the action of God in judgement.

Nevertheless notwithstanding my caution, I solemnly believe the Lord is Sovereign over all things in this world and the next!! And that He does judge individuals and nations. I find it very interesting that what the “world” greatly esteems and at times “worships” - health, wealth, leisure, sports etc. have all been affected at a stroke by one small Covid 19 cell, multiplied by 1,000s, which can only be seen under a microscope. The Lord doesn’t have to send fire and lightning from the heavens; one small microcosm is enough. And to be perfectly honest can we say “we don’t deserve this?” The world has gone mad!! I am reminded of those terrible descriptions of man’s sin in the pre-flood days of Genesis ch 6 v 5 ***“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”***

When I was a young lad growing up in S. Wales in a small village, most if not all of the folk had a “sense” of morality, even if they themselves were the most immoral of folk. They knew right from wrong, even if they choose not to do what was right!

Nowadays, not only is there very little knowledge of right and wrong, that which was “traditionally wrong”, even amongst unbelievers, is now called right and normal.

And it's getting worse. I hesitate to go into detail. Suffice it to say that the history line reads: homosexual practice - illegal >> then legalised >> civil partnerships > > then same sex marriage >> trans gender. Its Romans ch 1 being literally fulfilled.

Now it's not just that these folk have a different view to Bible believing Christians, but you dare not disagree with them. You dare not challenge their view from social moral or biological bases “homophobic.. hate crimes” are their watch word and even when one of their number dares to say they are going too far they vilify them in the most abhorrent manner. (e.g. the recent attack on J.K.Rowling).

The abortion rate continues to increase with cries for later and later terminations to be legalised, even according to one source, right up to birth!! (This, allegedly, is what the female Prime Minister of New Zealand is advocating)

At the other end of the scale Euthanasia is becoming increasingly popular amongst some folk.

And some say we don't deserve judgement!! I say we deserve it every day every year without end!! And its only the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed.

Against all this is there no hope? What are we to do? God our God is not only the God of wrath and Judgement but also of Grace and mercy. In His righteousness He hates sin and will justly deal with it but the Bible tells us that “He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked” and Praise His Name “He delights in mercy.”

Do we not all love the story of Jonah and Nineveh. Jonah, the disobedient Jewish prophet is sent to preach judgement on the wicked folk at Nineveh ***“a people who cannot discern between their right hand and left...”*** Jonah is not keen. You know the story well. Eventually, after the Big Fish episode, Jonah goes North and preaches judgement. The people from the king down to the servants repent, whole scale. And the Lord decides to have mercy upon them and forgives them their sins. Jonah is not best pleased and in ch 4 v 2 gives the reason why he fled to Tarshish. ***“So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.”***

Dare we cry unto our God at this time and say with Habakkuk “...in wrath remember mercy” We are from the Land of Wales, the land of Revival.. ***“We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, the deeds You did in their days, in days of old: Ps 44 v 1*** Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down that the mountains might flow at Thy presence.

**The Lord bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you...and give you peace.**

We are delighted to inform you that all our speakers and mission societies that would have

been with us in the 2020 Convention, have agreed to share with us in 2021 and so the arrangements for the 2021 Convention are as follows.

## 2021 KESWICK IN WALES CONVENTION

The dates and arrangements for the 2021 Keswick in Wales Convention are (DV) as follows: -

**Dates:** Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, to Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 inclusive.

**Main Speakers:**

**Bible Readings – Rev. John Shearer, Scotland;**

**Evening Preacher – Rev. John Kirkpatrick, Portrush Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland;**

**Thursday Afternoon Speaker:**

**Dr Gareth Edwards, Christian Institute, speaking on current issues affecting Christians and the Church under the title:**

***“Restraining Evil and Promoting Good: The Christian’s call to be Salt and Light.”***

**Mission Societies that will be sharing Mission Reports:**

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July – Christian Witness to Israel;

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> July – AIM International (Africa Inland Mission);

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> July – SASRA (Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Scripture Readers Association).

**Venue: The Pavilion Mid Wales, Llandrindod Wells**

**Meeting Times:**

Welcome Meeting – 3.30 pm Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> July

Evening Meetings – 7.30 pm (Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> July)

Prayer Meetings – 9.30 am (Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July)

Bible Readings – 11.00 am (Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July)

Children’s Bible Club – 11.00 am (Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July)

Afternoon Meetings – 3.00 pm (Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, Coffee, Cup Cakes and Chat; Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, Afternoon Meeting)

**Further details:**

Website: [www.keswickinwales.org.uk](http://www.keswickinwales.org.uk)

Contact: John Mitson, Convention Secretary. Tel: 01597 822700

### 2020 VIRTUAL KESWICK CONVENTION

You may already be aware that the Keswick Convention, Cumbria, will not be taking place this year but they have arranged a virtual Convention from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020. Further details are available on the new Virtual Keswick Convention website: (<https://vkc.keswickministries.org/>). During the online Convention, sessions will be livestreamed on the website and via YouTube.

Blessings,

Colin Leyshon, Chair of the Keswick in Wales Convention.