



Llangollen Methodist Church

Worshipping by the River Dee

5th November 2017

Number – 940

Riverside Weekly

*A warm welcome to everyone joining us for our
worship this Sunday*

11:00 Sunday Bible club at the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship – Phil Edwards

6:00 Praise & Worship in the Memorial Hall, Rev
Phil Poole

Music provided by Ted Blackman.

John Newbrook welcomed you at the door.

Books were given out by Rachel Horne

Refreshments by Sue Smith

Readings by Gill Newbrook and Yvonne Davies (*Romans 5:1–8*
Page 147 in NT & James 3:1–12 Page 220 in NT)

Today's Steward is Joan Wilson

*Today's flowers provided by Alan Williams
"In memory of Andrea"*

Remembrance Sunday – 12th November

The Remembrance Parade will be starting about 10:30 followed by the Service at the War Memorial.

Following this we will meet at church for a shortened service, which will be locally arranged — if you have a suitable hymn or appropriate testimony for Remembrance Sunday, please let Peter or Norman know.



*Do join us for tea & coffee after
the service this morning*



Sunday 5th November

11:00 Sunday Bible club at the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship — Phil Edwards

6:00 Praise & Worship in the Memorial Hall, Rev Phil Poole

Monday 6th October

2:00 Monday House Group at 5, Gerddi y Bache

Tuesday 7th November

10:00–12:00 Our Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 8th November

10:00 Prayer Group meet in the vestry — you are very welcome to join us

11:00 – 12:00 Church Gardening

7:30 Cytûn Meeting at the Upper Room

7:30 Bible Studies at Penllwyn, Dinbren Road— the final study in Mark Greene's "Fruitfulness on the Front-line"

Thursday 9th November

10:00 'Open the Book' practise at the Memorial Hall

3:00–5:15 After school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall for Secondary School Pupils.

Sunday 12th November

11:30 Shortened Service for Remembrance Sunday following service at the War Memorial.

Tuesday 14th November

10:00–12:00 Coffee Morning by the Ladies Fellowship at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 15th November

10:00 Prayer Group meet in the vestry — you are very welcome to join us

Thursday 16th November

'Open the Book' at Ysgol Bryn Collen

3:00–5:15 After school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall for Secondary School Pupils.

Shoe Boxes

Do take a shoe box to fill – or do it together with a friend.

If a whole shoe box seems too daunting, you could always contribute a few items to someone who is filling one, or even bring any extra items along to church to send to the *Teams4u* warehouse in Wrexham who will be very grateful for them, sending them off to needy orphans in Eastern Europe”

We will be collecting the boxes to take them to the warehouse in November on the 19th.

Items that can go in the box include –Toothbrush & toothpaste, Hair accessories/brush, soap & face cloth, gloves, hat & scarf, new socks & underwear; please include – a soft toy, game, puzzle, toy, ball, sweets (use by date from June), a photo of yourself.

Please take a leaflet with full details.

Toy Sunday

This year Toy Sunday will be Sunday December 3rd. Please donate a new toy, book or toiletries for young teens to be given out to needy families by the Salvation Army in the Wrexham area. Gifts do not need to be wrapped as they have to be sorted for individual children. Thank you – your generosity is always much appreciated.

Autumn Fair

There will be an Autumn Fair at the Methodist Chapel Colliery Road, Rhosddu on Saturday November 18th 2017. The doors open at 2:00. There will be various stalls & competitions entrance £1.00 — tea & biscuits included. Come along to enjoy a warm welcome and enjoy a social time meeting friends and making new ones.

Christmas Tree Festival

We will be holding our annual Christmas Tree Festival on the weekends of 9th and 16th of December. If you or your group wants to enter a tree, please see Janet Storm for details.

A time to remember

The autumn months and particularly November are associated with remembrance. There are public commemorations of Remembrance/Armistice Day (11th November) and Remembrance Sunday (12th November) and church commemorations of All Saints (1st November) and All Souls (2nd November).

This also gives us an opportunity to remember:-

Needy Children — Children in Need — Child Aid — Action for Children

Homeless people and needy families — The Food Banks

Children & families in needy countries — ShoeBoxes for Teams4U

Those who have been bereaved during the past year — Light up a Life

Refugees — the Refugee support group

Jesus — as we remember and reach out to all the needy in His Name, also remembering Him in Communion and going out to help and love those in need.

The editor's jottings!

“Shoe Box Swap Shop” — today is our chance to share and swap any extra shoe box items we have, so we can get the few extra items to complete our shoeboxes.

“After School Drop-In” — Trish with a team of helpers will be opening the Hall on Thursday after school to provide a safe place for secondary school pupils to come and chill, there will be drinks and snacks, and short ‘God-slot’ at the end for those who want to stay. If know any young people who could come, tell them it is starting this Thursday.

“Early Morning Exercise” — if you are about early and see the Memorial Hall in use at 6:00a.m on a Wednesday morning, this is a group of Fell-Runners using the hall for their weekly exercise session!



Messy Church

October's Messy Church was all about expecting surprises and being prepared. We looked at the story in Chapter 25 of Mathews Gospel about ten bridesmaids. They were all waiting for the bridegroom to come to lead them to the wedding feast. It was dark and they needed light to guide them. When the time came only five of them were prepared with enough oil in their lamps – so the other five missed their opportunity. The connection was made with us being ready and prepared for when Jesus comes again and not wanting to miss out. So we need to give him our hearts now and ask him into our lives.

Craft work of course included making glass lanterns and making bridesmaids (and very fetching doily dresses they had too!) Wooden boxes were beautifully decorated and made into Jack-in-the Boxes, and games such as Splat the Rat were played as we talked about being ready for surprises. A prayer Station was set up whereby we thought of some of the world's resources running out, just as the bridesmaids oil ran out. Some of the children also prayed about the danger of some species of animals becoming extinct.

We enjoyed eating or tea together round the table lit only by the lanterns we had made. The best bit was eating the “wedding” cake we had helped to decorate.

Next messy Church coincides with the Town Christmas Festival on November 25th. We shall be open as usual in the Memorial Hall 3:00–5:00 (when we'll go to see the switching on of the Christmas lights). A special Christmas Messy Church will be held on Saturday December 23rd. Do bring your family along.

Yvonne Davies

Readings

Luke 6:20-31 "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." (vv. 27-28)

Psalms 149

Background

Luke's Gospel brings something different to the familiar beatitudes of Matthew (Matthew 5:1-12), pairing them with their opposites - maledictions - in a rare exact parallel, which brings to mind the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28. Jesus' gospel message is a difficult one - it promises good things to those who are suffering, or says that however bad their situation God is with them now, while offering despair to the prosperous. There is no need to take this literally, but his insight was to tell his hearers, following in the footsteps of the ancient prophets, that a deeply-divided society is deeply wrong. Prosperity can be a cause poverty, no wonder a radical preacher wants to turn things in their head. The Methodist Church, following in the footsteps of our own radical preacher, John Wesley, is well in tune with these sentiments. For this reason the Methodist Church has Action on Poverty and Justice grants which are addressing the problem through many successful projects.

The double-edged nature of Scripture will be well-known (Hebrews 4:12), here we see it wielded by Jesus (as Revelation 1:16 suggests), but each side has its own cut. The fate of the wealthy is to be cut off from their prosperity, for the poor and oppressed it is a perspective of hope and restoration. The whole of the gospel cannot be limited to a later restitution though, when the gospel is brought to life it does not wait but seeks to change the world. But that is neither enough, nor the beginning.

There is no point, or even success, in seeking to change the world

without changing ourselves first. We read this in another tradition which is close to Christianity - “God does not change a people’s lot unless they change what is in their hearts” (Qur’an 13:11).

To Ponder

How do you feel about the maledictions?

How do you respond to a gospel which, at its centre, wants to turn society upside down?

Bible notes author: Julian Bond

Some of the religious programmes on TV & Radio each week

BBC1 16:15 Sunday 22nd October — Songs of Praise

Milton Keynes

Sean Fletcher visits Milton Keynes as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. He has a kick-about with freestyle footballer Daniel Cutting, whose faith has inspired him to break five world records. Reverend Kate Bottley visits a Christian project restoring broken bicycles while turning around young lives. She also meets award-winning worship leader Noel Robinson and there is music from his band, including We Seek Your Kingdom and Freedom.

Radio Wales — 7:30 & 18:30 Sundays — Celebration

Radio 2 — 6:00 Sunday Morning — The Sunday Hour

Radio 2 — 7:00 Sunday Morning — Good Morning Sunday with Clare Balding

Radio 4 — 8:10 Sundays — Sunday Worship

Radio 4 (LW) — 9:45 Monday to Thursday Mornings — Daily Worship

Radio 4 (LW) — 9:45 Friday Mornings — Act of Worship

Information for ‘Riverside Weekly’ should be sent to the editor,

Page 7 **Norman Pybus** ☎(01978) 861390 Email:-editor@llangollenmethodist.org.uk

A prayer for self-control

'It is God's will that you should...avoid sexual immorality.'

1 Thessalonians 4:3

When God created Adam and Eve, He told them to 'multiply and replenish the earth' (see Genesis 1:28). That helps explain why sex is one of our strongest drives. But it can also propel you into making decisions that mess up your life and destroy your relationships. The Bible says: 'It is God's will that you should...avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the pagans' (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 NIVUK 2011 Edition). Why did God say this? Because when there's physical intimacy without true commitment, somebody's going to get hurt. You need to heed what God says on this issue. And you need to do it now, before you get into situations where you're tempted to compromise your character, because by then it's too late. We all struggle with our



sexuality, particularly in a culture where 'sex sells'. Sex is such an integral part of us, and guilt about it has a way of making us feel separated from God like nothing else can. In order to determine your values and establish some ground rules, you need to pray: 'Lord, I'm not going to allow my impulses to dictate to me, or sin to separate me from You. I choose to keep Your standards, to rely on Your Spirit to give me strength day by day. And if I do sin, to seek Your forgiveness, get back up, and move closer to You.' That's a prayer God will answer!

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For free daily readings see
Elisabeth or Norman

