



3rd December 2017

Number – 944

Riverside Weekly

*A warm welcome to everyone joining us for our
worship this 1st Sunday in Advent*

11:00 Nativity Practice at the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship for Toy Sunday – Sheila
Rudden

Music provided by Ted Blackman.

John Newbrook welcomed you at the door.

Books were given out by Marian Blackman

Refreshments by Sheila Spedding

Readings by Gill Newbrook & Yvonne Davies (*Jeremiah 33:14-*

16 Page 757 in OT, Luke 21:25-36 Page 81 1Thessalonians

3:6-13 Page 195 in NT)

Today's Steward is Jeanette Robinson

Happy Birthday to:

Lottie Ellson (*Tuesday*)

Lisa Rathbone (*Wednesday*)

Nimrod Cookson (*Thursday*)

Bernadette Maxwell (*Thursday*)



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



Monday 4th December

12:30 Home Group Christmas Lunch at the Cottage Tearooms

Tuesday 5th December

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

Wednesday 6th December

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

11:00 Church Gardening

2:00 Singing Group Practice in Church

7:30 Bible Study – at 12 Chapel Street — The Book of James, looking at chapters 1 & 2.

Thursday 7th December

2:00 till 4:00 Setting up trees for the Christmas Tree Festival

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

Saturday 9th December

10:00 till 3:00 Christmas Tree Festival at Church

Sunday 10th December

11:00 Morning Worship — Carl Squire

12:30 till 3:30 Christmas Tree Festival

6:00 Circuit Advent Praise & Worship in Church — Rev Phil Poole

Tuesday 12th December

10:00–12:00 Ysgol Bryn Collen Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 13th December

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

11:00 Church Gardening

Thursday 14th December

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

Saturday 16th December

10:00 Nativity Rehearsal in Church

10:00 till 3:00 Christmas Tree Festival at Church

Sunday 17th December

11:00 Nativity Service

12:30 till 3:30 Christmas Tree Festival

6:00 United Carol Service in the Town Hall, refreshments will be served from 5:00.



Christmas Coffee Morning & Sale
Tuesday 5th December
from 10:00 till 12:00
Make sure you and your friends are
there



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. If you are available to help steward, see Elias or Janet and get your name put on the list.



Advent Hymn

- 1 Light a candle in a darkened place,
in its flame see hope on every face,
Christ our Saviour will be born,
heralding a brand new dawn,
so let it burn.
- 2 In the darkness, see the coming light,
Word of God speaks through the darkest night,
keep a watch, the time is near,
time for hope and not for fear,
so let it burn.

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Messy Christmas, 25th November

Having a bright, warm hall available on the bright but very chilly afternoon of the Llangollen Festival meant many families came in to enjoy our Christmassy activities

It was lovely to welcome back old friends and meet new families throughout the afternoon. Having carefully decorated bags to carry home goodies and invitations to other Christmas events, everyone got busy with all the activities, all with a Christmas Theme.

Marshmallow angels representing Gabriel, the bringer of good news.

Scratch cards and origami stars, to help decorate the messy Church Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival, and to remind us of the star that brought the wise men to Bethlehem.

Some thoughtful prayers were written to add to the Messy Church Wall.

And the Reverend Phil's guitar helped with the Christmas songs we enjoyed singing.

We discovered how to tell the story of the Wise Men coming from the east to worship at the manger, using a packet of M&M's – try it, it works! As usual we enjoyed sharing tea together, then hurried out to watch the lights being switched on and the colourful firework display. All in all a great start to the Christmas Season.

For those who will be here on the 23rd December there will be, more in the form of a party with activities, **Messy Christmas part 2**, so please come along and join us, we'd love to see you.

Christmas Greeting Leaflet

As usual there will be the leaflet for Christmas Greetings to be shared with the Church family — if you would like your greeting included, in return for a donation to Nightingale House, please use the forms available from the back of church, which enables me to keep track of all the greetings. Please let me have your greetings by Sunday 17th December

Norman

The editor's jottings!

“Christmas Tree Festival Rota” — If you can help to steward, and can come when someone is on their own, this will give them company, and make it easier for them when a lot of visitors come in.

“Shoebboxes” — Teams4U thank us for the 52 boxes we sent, these will soon be joining many more on lorries to Eastern Europe. Please pray that the boxes will arrive safely and bring joy to the recipients. Teams4U are looking for permanent premises in the Wrexham area and would value our prayers.

“Bible Study” — we plan to finish the year looking at the book of James. Beginning with chapters 1 & 2 – “Doers of the Word” & “Faith or Good Works”

“Ysgol y Garth” — as last year the pupils from Garth School will be using our church for their Christmas production — rehearsals will be on the morning of Tuesday 12th December with performances on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 13th December.

“A Winter’s Tale” — as usual Eirwen Jones will be putting on a Christmas Concert on Saturday 23rd December.



Norman

Readings

Mark 13:24-37 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory." (v. 26)

Psalms 80

Background

At the very beginning of the season of Advent, when the preparations for Christmas are all around us and Christians and others are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, it can be difficult to read the doom and gloom contained in this chapter of Mark's Gospel. But these sayings of Jesus are gathered here for a purpose.

The Jewish people had suffered persecutions and dangers throughout their history and their prophets had frequently predicted horrors that were still to come. The only way that their world could ever be changed would be on that great Day of the Lord, when God would step in and wreak vengeance on the evil ones and save those who had faithfully followed God's way. There had been occasions in their history when they believed that it had happened, but there was still one great day to come when things would be made right for ever. The language they used to describe these events is prophetic, visionary and poetic.

In this collection of sayings, Jesus uses familiar language to predict the time when he will return to make all things new. He gives no time, no date and no specific instructions for preparing for that day. Earlier in the chapter he warns that some people will claim to know exactly what will happen and when, and events did take place after his death that seemed to predict that the great Day of the Lord was coming soon. But we are still here. Perhaps we need to use our own poetic language to express what those prophecies mean for us today?

Should we be afraid when that great day comes?

Will we be ready when that great day comes?

Will we be working when that great day comes?

Will it be a great surprise when that great day comes?

What will Jesus look like, when that great day comes?

Will he come with angels, when that great day comes?
Will the clouds be glorious when that great day comes?
Will all heaven be open when that great day comes?
We can never know the timing, when that great day comes.
We shall have no early warning when that great day comes.
So we must be watching, waiting, working well
at reinstating life and hope for all creation, when that great day comes.

To Ponder

What is your interpretation of the idea of Jesus coming again?

What language would you use to describe that to someone else?

Bible notes author: Marjorie Dobson

Some of the religious programmes on TV & Radio each week

BBC1 16:15 Sunday 3rd December — Songs of Praise

Gospel Choir of the Year Final

David Grant presents the final of the annual Gospel Choir of the Year competition, as five leading amateur choirs take to the stage of Central Hall Westminster in London to raise the roof with the glorious sound of gospel.

Deciding which choir will win are three judges - singer-songwriter Seal, broadcaster and worship leader Muyiwa Olarewaju and award-winning gospel specialist Karen Gibson.

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

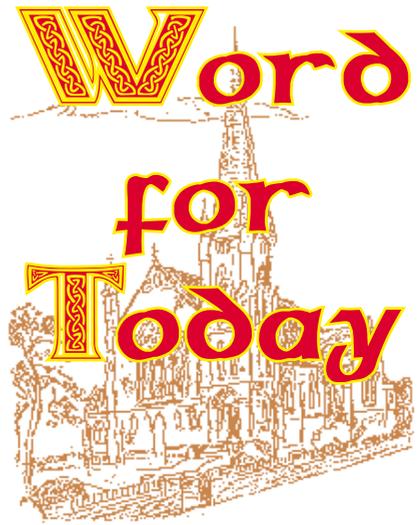
Information for 'Riverside Weekly' should be sent to the editor,

Be a peacemaker

'Blessed are the peacemakers.'

Matthew 5:9

Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar told of a little guy who was confronted by three big bullies, any one of whom could have flattened him. And clearly, that's what they had in mind. But the little guy was very bright. He backed away, drew a line in the dirt, backed up a few more steps, looked into the eyes of the biggest bully and said, 'I dare you to step across that line!' The guy did. Then the little boy grinned and said, 'Good, now we're both on the same side!' When you find yourself in the midst of conflict, you can decide to do one of two things: become a troublemaker or a peacemaker. You can add to the stress or try to bring a solution. Peacemakers look for common ground and try to get everyone onto it. Their goal is to find a win-win solution. Barnabas, whose name means 'Son of Consolation', stood up for the newly-converted Saul of Tarsus. The leaders of the church felt threatened by him, and you could hardly blame them. But Barnabas wasn't thinking about Paul's violent background; he



was considering his value to God. In essence, he was thinking, 'If we can harness and direct this guy, he can win the race for us.' And he was proved right. Saul the persecutor became Paul the apostle. But not until Barnabas put his credibility on the line (see Acts 9:26-30). Peacemaking calls for taking risks. It means evaluating people by their best moments and qualities. Peacemakers are 'big picture' thinkers who are governed by grace, not petty opinions and temporary conditions. So be a peacemaker.

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For free daily readings see
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The **Methodist Church**