



Llangollen Methodist Church

Worshipping by the River Dee

21st January 2018

Number – 950

Riverside Weekly

A warm welcome to our United Service as we join together with the churches of Llangollen to worship in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

11:00 **United Service for the Week of Christian Unity – Deacon Lisa Rathbone**

Music provided by Ted Blackman.

You were greeted at the door by Norman Pybus

Books were given out by Sue Smith

Refreshments by Ladies from the Methodist Church

Today's Stewards are Peter & Amanda Brookfield

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



Church Diary

Sunday 21st January

11:00 United Service — Deacon Lisa Rathbone

Tuesday 23rd January

10:00 Coffee at the Hall — join us for coffee. a chat and a bit of Bric-a-brac

Wednesday 24th January

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

Thursday 25th January

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

Saturday 27th January

3:00—5:00 ‘Messy Church’ at the Memorial Hall

Sunday 28th January

11:00 Morning Worship — Collen Ndoro

Tuesday 30th January

10:00 Coffee at the Hall — join us for coffee. a chat and a bit of Bric-a-brac

Wednesday 31st January

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

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna’s – we will be Studying James chapter 3

Thursday 1st February

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

Week 3 happenings in Oz!

We've been in Fiji since Monday and are very much enjoying it here. The people of Fiji are so friendly, always smiling and everyone you pass or meet greets you with a "Bula" which means "hello". The boys spend most of their time in the pool either swimming, playing a water version of rugby, playing volley ball or swimming to the swim up bar for a "slushie"! As I write this they are at a kids disco and due back any moment, which, for them, will be a late night of 9.30pm. Phil and I were watching them from a vantage point as they played musical chairs to the music of "the birdie song!" Brought back memories of when Phil and Karen were small and dancing to the same song in Majorca!! After mixed weather at the beginning of the week we've had glorious sunshine with temperatures in the low thirties!! A bit hot at times but nice sitting by the pool in the shade reading a book! It's been lovely spending quality time with "my three boys" and I thank God that I'm able to do this. We'll all be really sorry to leave on Monday.

With my love and blessings to you all

Sheila

The editor's jottings!

"Coffee & Chat" — Do join us on Tuesday, there is a space to sit and chat, and tea, coffee and toast available.

"A Vicar's Life" — a series showing of the lives of four country vicars at the heart of the rural community in the stunning Herefordshire countryside, shown on BBC 2 on Friday evenings, or available on the BBC iPlayer



Norman

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018

That All May Be Free

The material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 has been produced in the Caribbean. There are 1.4 Million Christians living in the Caribbean region, across a vast geographical spread of island and mainland territories. They represent a rich and diverse tapestry of ethnic, linguistic and religious traditions, with a complex variety of governmental and constitutional arrangements.

The contemporary context is deeply marked by the history of the colonialism which stripped people of their identity, dignity and freedom. Christian missionary activity, closely tied to the colonial system, seemed to support, encourage and excuse it. During five-hundred years of the colonial system, scripture was used to justify the enslavement of the indigenous people. In a dynamic reversal, those same scriptures became the inspiration and motivation for people to reclaim their liberty. Recognising the hand of God in the ending of enslavement, the Caribbean Christians offer Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer. The hymn, *The Right Hand of God*, reflecting the song of Miriam and Moses in praise of the liberating action of God, has become the anthem of the ecumenical movement in the region.

Like the Israelites, the people of the Caribbean have a song of victory and freedom to sing. Yet, contemporary challenges continue to enslave and threaten the dignity of the people. Many of the contemporary challenges are the legacy of the colonial past. The Caribbean economies have traditionally been based upon the production of materials for the European market – sometimes producing only a single commodity. They have never been self-sustaining and their development has required borrowing on the international market. The servicing of the debt has caused a reduction in spending upon the development that it was meant to facilitate.

The chosen passage from Exodus 15 allows us to see that ►
the road to unity must often pass through a communal

experience of suffering. The Israelites' liberation from enslavement is the foundational event in the constitution of the people. Although our liberation and salvation is at God's initiative, human agencies are engaged in their realisation. Christians participate in God's ministry of reconciliation, yet our divisions hamper our witness to a world in need of God's healing.



The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean. Abuses of human rights are found across the region and we are challenged to consider our manner of welcoming of the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs, continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

Readings

Mark 1:14-20 “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’” (v. 14)

Psalm 62

Background

It is commonplace in today's world to read about a satellite navigation system sending a credulous driver down a very unsuitable road. Sooner or later a change of mind, a change of direction, is the only option open – only sometimes it isn't an easy option at all. Costly machinery has to be called in to extricate people from the folly of taking their satnav directions without due care.

Today's passage brings us back to language we can understand. Repentance may be a word that is unfamiliar in our world, but the idea behind it is certainly accessible. If we head down the wrong road, the best thing to do is to repent – change mind, change plan, change direction, and go a different way.

The narrative goes on to record the occasion when Jesus summoned four fishermen to change the direction of their lives entirely. The way this story is told invites us to believe that this meeting was the first between Jesus and this little group of fishermen. Some scholars suspect, however, that behind this episode lies a growing friendship and perhaps even a prearranged plan; perhaps this call was an awaited signal that the time had come for action, turning the plan into reality.

Whichever interpretation we find more persuasive, there is a reminder that our lives, the life of our church and even the life our nation can sometimes need a mid-course correction. Such a change may be dictated by simple prudence that resonates easily with human wisdom. But sometimes the change called for is dramatic and challenging, imbued rather with the voice of courage and daring. Follow me!

In a somewhat different way, Psalm 62 drives us further along the same road: learn to see the world, its 'celebs' and its incessant tremors of anxiety,

as with the eyes of God. It's a radical challenge for us.

To Ponder

Those first disciples appeared to be free to respond to Jesus instantly, setting other obligations to one side. In today's world, it is much harder to respond in such a radical way. How can you still respond to the summons of the kingdom?

Psalm 62 refers to the ways in which humans regard one another as of high or low estate, contrasting the kingdom view which urges us not to think in that sort of way. How do you respond?

Bible notes author: The Revd Dr John Ogden

Some of the religious programmes on TV & Radio each week

BBC1 16:30 Sunday 21st January — Songs of Praise

Methodist Central Hall Westminster

Hymns and songs from the historic Methodist Central Hall Westminster with guest Julian Lloyd Webber, who reminisces about his father's time there as organist. The Rev Tony Miles and Rev Martyn Atkins reveal the hall's links to the United Nations.

Connie Fisher visits the St Vincent's Family Project supporting local young families and children, and she hears from performers from the West End's musical theatre about the challenges of being a Christian in the world of show business.

BBC2 20:30 Friday — A Vicar's Life

Radio Wales — 7:30 Sunday — Celebration

9:00 Sunday — All Things Considered

Radio 2 — 6:00 Sunday – Sunday Hour – Rev Kate Bottley

7:00 Sunday – Good Morning Sunday – Angie Greaves

Radio 4 — 8:10 Sundays — Sunday Worship

Radio 4 (LW) — 9:44 Weekdays — Daily Worship

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

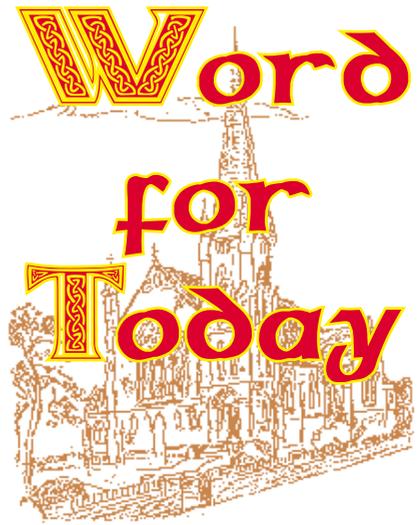
Page 7 *Norman Pybus* ☎(01978) 861390 Email:-editor@llangollenmethodist.org.uk

God's definition of 'rich'

'The blessing of the Lord – it makes [truly] rich, and He adds no sorrow with it [neither does toiling increase it].'

Proverbs 10:22 AMPC

When the famous publisher William Randolph Hearst read about a certain painting, he became very interested in acquiring it for his collection. He sent people all over the world to search for it, but they couldn't find it anywhere. A year later, out of the blue, one of his employees came to him and told him that the painting had been found. Excited about the discovery, Hearst asked where it had been all this time. His employee said, 'It was in your basement. You owned it all the time.' The problem was, Hearst had never read the ledger that had the record of everything he owned. Your Bible is a ledger filled with blessings God wants you to experience. Now, none of these blessings are greater than salvation, but it's not the only blessing. 'The blessing of the Lord – it makes [truly] rich, and He adds no sorrow with it [neither does toiling



increase it].' John D. Rockefeller once said he'd exchange his fortune for a chance to go back and work as a clerk in his old Cleveland, Ohio, office. Why? Because stress caused him to suffer bouts of insomnia, ulcers, and depression. The blessing of God brings success – without stress! God tells you about it in His Word. He wants you to be 'rich' in your relationships, in your health, in your peace of mind, in your career, and in everything that concerns you. So get to know what God has promised you, then begin praying and believing Him for it.

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The **Methodist Church**