



Llangollen Methodist Church

Worshipping by the River Dee

11th February 2018

Number – 953

Riverside Weekly

A warm welcome to our worship this Sunday

11:00 Bible Club in the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship – David Young

Music provided by Ted Blackman.

You were greeted at the door by Sheila Spedding

Books were given out by Margaret Davies

Refreshments by Sue Cheshire & Margaret Davies

Readings:– Psalm 49, page 525 in OT, Sue Cheshire

Matthew 16:13-28, page 33 in NT, Paul Smith

Today's Steward is Jeanette Robinson



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



Church Diary

Sunday 11th February

11:00 Bible Club in the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship — David Young

Monday 12th February

9:30 'Open the Book' planning meeting at the Buttered Crust

10:30 Messy Church planning Meeting at the Buttered Crust

Tuesday 13th February

10:00 Coffee Morning for Ruabon Methodist Church at the Memorial Hall

12.30–2.30 Pancake Party in St Collen's Community Hall. *see page 5*

7:30 "Jerusalem Joy Rehearsal" at Wrexham Methodist Church

Wednesday 14th February

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

11:30 Lent course in the Upper Room, St Collen's *see page 5*

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna's – we will be Studying James chapter 4

Friday 16th February

12:00–2:00 Lent lunch at Holy Cross Parish Rooms

Sunday 18th February

11:00 All Age Communion — Rev Phil Poole

Monday 19th February

2:00 Home Group at 5 Gerddi-y-Bache.

6:00–8:00 Games & Activity Evening at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 20th February

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

7:30 "Jerusalem Joy Rehearsal" at Wrexham Methodist Church

Wednesday 21st February

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

11:30 Lent course in the Upper Room, St Collen's *see page 5*

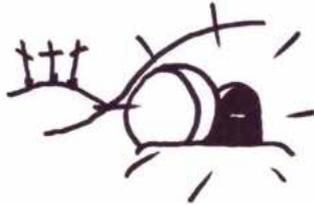
7:00 Church Council in the Memorial Hall — all members are welcome to come to the meeting.

Friday 23rd February

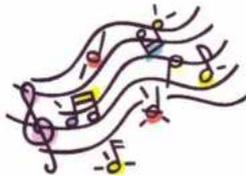
12:00–2:00 Lent lunch at Holy Cross Parish Rooms

Wrexham Circuit Musical

Jerusalem Joy



Rehearsals Tuesday evenings 7.30 at Wrexham
Methodist Church during Lent beginning
Tuesday 13th February
Tuesdays 13th 20th 27th February
and
6th 13th 20th and 27th March



Performances Thursday 29th March, Friday 30th March,
Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April
Venues and times to be confirmed

There will be a get together of all those interested in the social and fundraising aspect of our Church, on Tuesday 20th February at 11am in our coffee morning in the Memorial Hall. This will be to collect ideas for the coming year and try and put a programme together. If you cannot come along but have some suggestions to put forward then please let me have them before that day.

Many thanks

Sheila

"In our minds there
are many rooms ..."

Tim Iliffe *Lead artist*

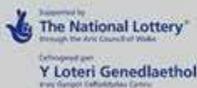
An installation of boxes representing the contents of their creators' minds



Wrexham Methodist Church, Regent Street

February 5 – April 8

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 10.00 – 3.00



Pancake Party

Shrove Tuesday 13th February Pancake Party 12.30 – 2.30 pm in St Collen's Community Hall.

This is during Half term for some schools, so perhaps ties in with Feeding the Hungry. Everyone welcome to drop in for pancakes, offers of help appreciated please. Advertise wherever you can.

Lent Course

Lent Course in the Memorial Hall on Tuesdays at 12.30 (bring a picnic lunch at 12. If you wish) following the Tuesday Coffee Mornings. Starting February 27th for 5 weeks, using the York Course material "On the Third Day" and led by Revd. Phil Poole, all welcome.

St. Collens Lent Course Wednesdays 11.30 in the Upper Room. A course based on the film "I, Daniel Blake", looking at the whole area of the benefits system, which many of us know very little about, starting Ash Wednesday, February 14th. There is currently a group looking at the T.V. series "Broken", about a Catholic Priest and the trials and tribulations of his Parishioners and touching on some major issues facing us in modern day life. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Lent Lunches;

Fridays in Holy Cross Parish Rooms, 12 – 2pm starting February 16th.

The editor's jottings!

"Open the Book" — if you are interested in helping to take Bible Stories into the Primary School assemblies please see Elisabeth or Janet

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" — congratulations to everyone involved in the production of this outstanding performance.

"Lent" — Lent starts this week, after pancakes on Tuesday! Make Lent a positive experience by putting good things in our lives, not just giving things up for lent!



Norman

Jesus on the mountain peak

Readings

Mark 9:2-13 *"Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'"* (v. 7)

Psalm 2

Background

Mountaineering in 1st-century Israel was not the leisure activity it is today. Mountains were considered places of danger and fear, so we might imagine Peter, James and John were already out of their comfort zone when they were caught up in this extraordinary experience of transfiguration. Peter's words, although dismissed by Mark's Gospel as irrelevant babble, express the great courage of the disciple; it is not all of us who can say, "It is good for us to be here" (v. 5) when we are terrified!

The significance of the Transfiguration runs like a thread throughout all the passages we will look at this week (under the overall theme of Repentance and Renewal), and on Saturday as we revisit the story as told in Luke's Gospel we will consider some of the differences between the two Gospel accounts. The presence of these two giant figures from the Hebrew Scriptures is understood to represent the witness to Jesus of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). Both men had their own remarkable encounters with God on mountain tops and they make fitting companions here for Jesus as he is "transfigured before them" (v. 2).

Throughout the Bible, cloud is often an important conveyor of mystery and of the presence of God and Mark's description evokes in us a memory of Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:12-18). Perhaps we should bear this in mind when our weather is overcast, and give clouds a better press!

Verse 10 gives an interesting glimpse into how the disciples behave after the transfiguration. Although sworn to secrecy they question amongst themselves what this might mean, and, in particular, wonder at the meaning of Jesus' reference to his rising from the dead. Like generations of disciples after them, they are exercised as they work out how their Experience chimes with Reason, Scripture and Tradition (the other elements of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral). Baffled, they come up with a question about Elijah's role; Jesus' answer suggests that he identifies the expected Elijah with John the

Baptist, although this is not explicit.

To Ponder

How might this reading lead you to Repentance and Renewal?

Can you recall a time when being out of your comfort zone has made you more open to an experience of God? What happened?

Manifestations of God (sometimes called 'theophanies') rarely come out of a clear blue sky. Reflect in your own life upon God's revelation in times of cloud and overshadowing.

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. Take the opportunity to give thanks for the renewal which has come to these shores through our multi-cultural communities, and to repent for ongoing injustice.

Bible notes author: Ed Mackenzie

Some of the religious programmes on TV & Radio each week

BBC1 17:00 Sunday 11th February — Songs of Praise

Tree of Life

Claire McCollum joins bishop James Jones in Lincoln to learn about the links between Christianity and forests. The 800-year-old Charter of the Forest is given a 21st-century relaunch and JB Gill meets a former addict whose Christian faith, combined with his new job as a tree surgeon, have together cured his addiction. In Essex, a group prepares for Lent with 'Forest Church', plus hymns and songs celebrating creation, including Great Are You Lord and Indescribable.

BBC2(England) 20:30 Friday — A Vicar's Life

BBC2(Wales) 20:00 Saturday — A Vicar's Life

Radio Wales — 7:30 Sunday — Celebration

9:00 Sunday — All Things Considered

Radio 2 — 6:00–9:00 Sunday – Good Morning Sunday – Rev Kate Bottley and Jason Mohammad

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,

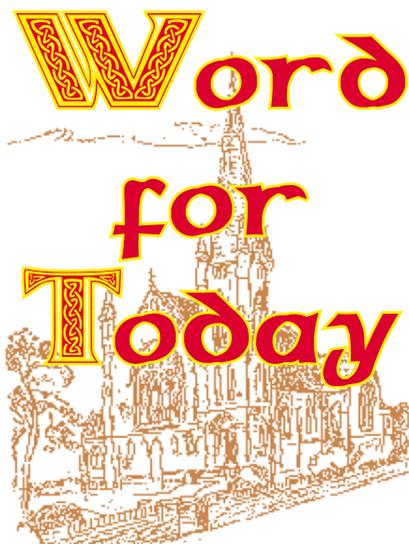
Page 7 **Norman Pybus** ☎(01978) 861390 Email:-editor@llangollenmethodist.org.uk

Keep pressing on

'Straining towards what is ahead, I press on.'

Philippians 3:13-14 NIVUK (2011 Edition)

Developing your faith is like taking swimming lessons. Observe: 1) Fear is like water; if you let it, it will take you under. 2) You can only tread water for so long before you drown. 3) When you reach a certain point, there's no turning back. 4) Faith is like the air in your lungs; it will sustain you and keep you afloat if you just relax. Have you ever watched a seasoned swimmer? Stroke after stroke, he takes what's in front of him and pushes it behind him, letting it propel him towards his goal. He literally takes what stands between him and his goal, and uses it to get there. Sometimes we despair and say, 'I'm just keeping my head above water,' and that's okay as long as you keep 'stroking' and pressing on. It's when you feel backed into a corner with nowhere to turn, that you've got to take hold of the faith God has placed within you and keep moving forward. Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force' (Matthew 11:12 KJV). The word 'violence'



suggests ferocity, passion, and intensity. You must be relentless and fight your way through, confident that God is on your side – because He is (see Psalm 56:9). The waters you're in don't determine your destiny; they either carry you over or take you under. It takes faith to keep going. When you quit, God can do nothing more for you! So today whether you're doing the breaststroke, the backstroke, or some other kind of stroke that nobody's ever heard of – keep pressing on.

Exodus 36-38, Matthew 23:1-22

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**For free daily readings see
Elisabeth or Norman**

