



18th March 2018

Number – 958

Riverside Weekly

A warm welcome to our worship this morning

11:00 All Age Worship – Maureen Jones

Music provided by Ted Blackman & Peter Brookfield.

You were greeted at the door by Sheila Spedding

Books were given out by Margaret Davies

Reading:–

Psalm 34 (*Sheila Spedding, page 514 in the OT*)

Hebrews 4:12-16 (*Elizabeth Roberts, page 210 in the NT*)

Refreshments by Joan & Alan Rathbone

Today's steward are Peter & Amanda Brookfield

Happy Birthday to:

Jane Green (*Thursday*)

Norman Pybus (*Friday*)



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



Church Diary

Sunday 18th March

11:00 All Age Worship — Maureen Jones

Monday 19th March

2:00 Home Group at 5, Gerddi y Bache

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

Tuesday 20th March

10:00 Coffee Morning by TENOVUS at the Memorial Hall

12:30 Lent course at the Memorial Hall

7:30 “Jerusalem Joy Rehearsal” at Wrexham Methodist Church

Wednesday 21st March

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

Thursday 22nd March

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

Friday 23rd March

12:00–1:30 Lent lunch at Holy Cross Parish Rooms

1:00 “Open the Book” at Ysgol Bryn Collen

Sunday 25th March

11:00 Holy Communion — Rev John Wiggall

Tuesday 27th March

10:00 Coffee Morning by Rotary at the Memorial Hall

12:30 Lent course at the Memorial Hall

7:30 “Jerusalem Joy Rehearsal” at Wrexham Methodist Church

Wednesday 28th March

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

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna’s – we will be starting to study Peter, starting with background and chapter 1

Thursday 29th March

6:00 Maundy Thursday shared meal & readings at the Memorial Hall

Lent Course 2018

You are invited to join us for our Tuesday Lunchtime Lent Course in Llangollen Memorial Hall.

20th March. Celebrating and praying Easter

27th March. A risen Church

Sessions begin at 12.30pm, but we'll be eating lunch together from 12noon for those who can come early.

Phil Poole

Maundy Thursday — 29th March 2018 starting at 6:00

We will have a 'Bring & Share' meal followed by suitable songs & readings for Maundy Thursday

Safeguarding Training

Are you a Steward, Pastoral Visitor, Local Preacher or Worship leader? Do you work with children in the Church? If you did not attend the Safeguarding training last year, please book a place on the next training course:

Saturday 12 May 10am — 12.30pm at Rhosddu Methodist Church

Contact our Circuit Safeguarding Officer Linda Roberts (01978 313538 or linda@therobertsclan.me.uk) to book a place. There will be a limit of 20 places on the course so please book as soon as possible.

Fun Quiz

Friday 13th April at Caergwrle Methodist Church

Tickets cost £5 including light refreshments

LENTEN SOUP KITCHEN

At

Holy Cross Church Rooms
(along the alleyway opposite the Library)

Every Friday during Lent
From February 16th until
March 23rd (inclusive)
12 noon until 1.30



Proceeds to CAFOD
(for overseas development)
Includes table top sale

All Welcome

Spring Party 9th April 2018

The party will start at 6pm when lasagne and salad will be served followed by homemade desserts and a cup of tea.

The cost of the party will be £6.50 and will include “home grown entertainment” with audience participation!!

I will be collecting names up until Easter Sunday so please let me know if you want your name adding to the list. The list will be available on the coffee table each Sunday until Easter.

Many thanks

Sheila

Singing Practices for Church Spring Party

If you would like to learn to sing two lovely songs for the Church spring Party on Monday 9th April, please come along to two practices on the following dates.

Wednesday 28th March — 2:00 at Church

Wednesday 4th April — 2:00 at Church

Come along and have some fun! Refreshments provided

Peter & Amanda

The editor's jottings!

“Songs of Praise” — very swift return from church or the BBC iPlayer if you want to watch today’s programme!

“British Summer Time” — next Sunday is clock changing day, we are required to ut clocks forward an hour, so we will all have to get up an hour earlier, or risk being late for church! We have no guarantees that this will herald summer weather!



Norman

Readings

John 12:20-33 (Passion Sunday) "...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (v. 24)

Psalms 119:9-16

Background

Making sense of suffering and death is one of the great challenges for any religious tradition. And one particular death – that of Jesus of Nazareth – is at the heart of the Christian faith. Over the centuries, Christians have found a number of different ways to talk about how the death of Jesus on the cross makes a difference for human beings and their relationship with God. None of them, though, quite fit with the language of John's Gospel. Here, contrary to all our instincts, the cross is more triumph than tragedy. In this short passage, we have some of John's most important sayings, ones that express Jesus' attitude towards the events that are unfolding.

The story of Greeks looking for Jesus may seem incongruous in this context, especially if we are anxious to get to the climax of the drama, but it helps to remind us that the transformation which comes from Jesus' death and resurrection is potentially for the whole of humanity, it is not confined to Israel.

"The hour has come" (v. 23): Jesus, according to John's Gospel, is no passive victim of the enemies who are ranged against him. His time of suffering and death may be troubling, agonising, even, but it happens within the purpose and will of God. This is as close as John's Gospel gets to the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, so familiar to us from the other Gospels.

The key image is of a grain of wheat, which can only produce next year's crop if it is given up to be planted in the earth and "dies". Jesus' journey is one of self-sacrifice, a giving of his own life so that life itself can flourish. To be a disciple of Jesus is to accept an invitation to share this journey with him. Although we naturally focus on what is lost when we give ourselves up, Jesus directs us to what is gained – the abundant life for which he came into the world (John 10:10).

To Ponder

- How would you explain the significance of the death of Jesus to someone who asked you about it?
- Think of people that you know, or have heard of, who have given up their lives so that life might flourish. What impact/influence do they have on you?

Bible notes author: The Revd Dr Richard Clutterbuck

Some of the religious programmes on TV & Radio each week

BBC1 12:25 Sunday 18th March — Songs of Praise

New Beginnings

The Rev Kate Bottley celebrates spring on a farm run by Christians in Derbyshire. Owners Roger and Beryl have offered a fresh start to local young people for 40 years by giving them work on the farm. JB Gill meets a Christian couple attending a church-run marriage-preparation course. Methodists in Derby open a brand new townhouse to replace their old church building. There is also a tribute to the late Billy Graham, the US evangelist who affected millions of Christians around the world and who died in February.

The programme has hymns old and new, including Be Thou My Vision, And Can It Be, and Our God Is Greater. The Irish hymn St Patrick's Breastplate marks St Patrick's Day, and a performance of Drop Drop Slow Tears reminds us we are in the season of Lent.

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(FM) — 8:10 Sundays — Sunday Worship

5:43am weekdays — Prayer for the Day – A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day with Canon Simon Doogan.

Radio 4 (LW) — 9:44 Weekdays — Daily Service – A space for spiritual reflection with a Bible reading, prayer and a range of Christian music

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

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

Show grace, because you'll need it yourself!

'If a...relationship with God could come by rule-keeping...Christ died unnecessarily.'

Galatians 2:21 MSG

While grace doesn't give anyone a licence to live as they please, the judgementalism that comes from insisting that others live by our standards has caused untold damage. Chuck Swindoll writes: 'Legalism spreads a paralysing venom... blinds our eyes, dulls our edge and arouses pride in our heart... love is overshadowed by a mental clipboard with a long checklist requiring others to measure up... soon friendship is fractured by a judgemental attitude and a critical look. And before you conclude that you're not guilty, observe your reaction when you meet another believer who doesn't think, act, or dress the way you do. Even when you think you're sophisticated enough to disguise your real feelings, they come out in the "stony stare" and the "holier than thou" attitude.' Jesus said, 'Don't judge others, and God won't judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God won't be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you' (Luke 6:37 CEV).



A judgemental Christian acts as though blowing someone else's light out will cause their light to shine brighter. But it's not so. Paul writes, 'If a...relationship with God could come by rule-keeping...Christ died unnecessarily.' You say, 'But what if someone is getting off track, or sinning intentionally?' The Bible says, 'If another believer is overcome by sin...humbly help that person back onto the right path...be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself' (Galatians 6:1 NLT). When you take it upon yourself to condemn others – you are denying them the same grace you may need before the day is over.

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



**Princess Street
Langollen**



The Methodist Church