



Llangollen Methodist Church

Worshipping by the River Dee

9th December 2018

Number – 995

Riverside Weekly

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for our worship today

Sunday 9th December our church will be closed and we will join St Collen's Church as they welcome their new vicar

Sunday 16th December

11:00 Holy Communion – led by Rev Patrick Rudden

5:00 Llangollen Carol Service at the Town Hall

Our Family Nativity

Join us in the Methodist Church

on Sunday 23rd December at 11:00

All children are welcome to dress-up as characters in the Nativity story, and will be welcome to join in.



CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL

Saturdays (8th & 15th December)

10:00 till 3:00

Sundays (9th & 16th December)

12:30 till 3:30

Church Diary

Saturday 8th December

10:00–3:00 Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 9th December

11:00 Church Closed — attending service at St Collen's church

12:30–3:30 Christmas Tree Festival

Monday 10th December

Home Group Lunch

6:00 till 8:00 Games & Activity evening at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 11th December

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

1:00 Advent Bible Course at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 12th December

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

Thursday 13th December

3:00 After-school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall

Friday 14th December

12:30 'Open the Book' at Ysgol Bryn Collen

Saturday 15th December

9:00 Circuit Prayer Breakfast — Breakfast at the Buttered Crust followed by prayer in the Memorial Hall see page 6

10:00–3:00 Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 16th December

11:00 Holy Communion — led by Rev Patrick Rudden

Let's remember to give to the *Benevolent Fund* on Communion Sundays

12:30–3:30 Christmas Tree Festival

5:00 Llangollen Carol Service at the Town Hall

Tuesday 18th December

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

1:00 Advent Bible Course at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 19th December

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

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna's—the book of Hebrews chapters 12 & 13

Thursday 20th December

3:00 After-school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall

Saturday 22nd December

3:00–5:00 Christmas Messy Church at the Memorial Hall

Sunday 23rd December

11:00 Family Nativity Service

7:00 Nos o Aeaf/Winter's Tales details on page 4

Christmas Day

10:30 Family Christmas Service — Rev Phil Poole & Deacon Lisa Rathbone

Sunday 30th December

11:00 Morning Worship led by Sheila Rudden

The editor's jottings!

Church Christmas Coffee Morning — a big thank you to every one who helped and supported the coffee morning. We raised £268.41, many thanks.

In church this week — On Monday the church will be full of children from Pentre School rehearsing their Christmas concert. On Wednesday the concert will be on in the afternoon and evening.

Church greeting card — I must have your greetings by Sunday 16th December to be able to include them, please use form from church, or write all the details on a sheet of paper.

From the New Plan

Sunday 13th January – Covenant Service led by Rev Phil Poole

Sunday 20th January – United Service at Holy Cross

Advent — lets enjoy Advent, there's still 16 days till Christmas!

Norman



Action for Children

A big thank you to everyone who has collected for Action for Children using a collection box in their home. As a church we have raised £259.73 this year.

Do carry on raising much needed funds. If anyone else would like a collecting box, please see Catherine

Llangollen Methodist Church Carvery Lunch

This will be held at the White Waters Country Hotel, Llangollen.

We will meet for a 1:15 lunch on Sunday 13th January 2019.

Cost will be £11.00 including gratuity, desert and coffee are extra.

Non church members and friends are very welcome to join us.

Transport can be provided.

Please give your name to Alan Williams if you intend to come.

Help the 'Young Uns'

If you could keep and bring along clean cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls) Janet would be really grateful

Watch the show in February to see how they are used!

There's a box for them at the back of church

Nos o Aeaf/Winter's Tales

(Seasonal words and music) with Cantorion Collen Singers

(conductor Eirwen Jones):

Accompanist Owen Roberts:

Myfanwy Grace (Soprano):

Gabriel (Baritone):

Adam and Claire Tranmer

(Narrators).

Tickets £8 to include a mince pie and a 'Winter's Cup', in aid of the Canal Boat for Disabled People. English Methodist Church, 23rd December, 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Christmas Greetings

If you want to join in the 'Church Greeting Leaflet' and support Nightingale House, please use the forms that are now available.

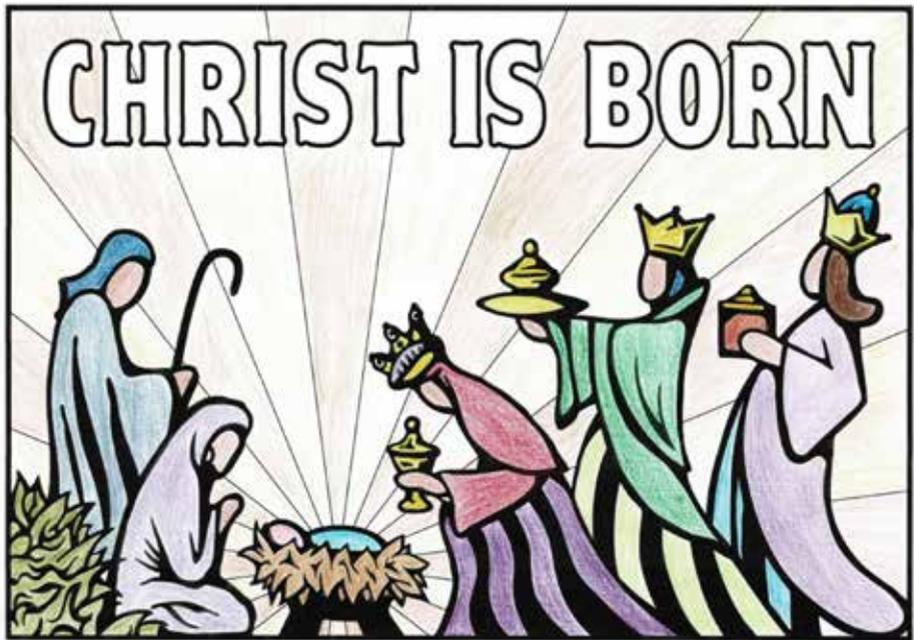
Please make sure that I have your greeting by Sunday 16th December Norman

Llangollen Town Carol Service

Sunday December 16th

Music by:

Llangollen Silver Band and various Choirs



All are welcome in the Llangollen Town Hall.

Afternoon tea served from 5pm

Service starts 6pm

Circuit Prayer Meetings

1st Monday each month

Coffee Shop Prayers

10.30am in 'Honeys' Caergwrle

2nd Tuesday each month

Prayer Lunch

12.30pm at Wrexham Methodist Church

3rd Saturday each month

Prayer Breakfast

9am in 'The Buttered Crust' Llangollen
followed by prayer in the Memorial Hall

4th Saturday each month

Brunch

11am in 'LOT' Wrexham

For more details contact **Deacon Lisa Rathbone**
Tel: 01978 860877 **Email:** lisa.rathbone@hotmail.co.uk

Readings

Luke 3:1-6 Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (v 4)

Psalms 85

Background

Today's passage sets the theme for this week – Messenger of the Covenant – as it features John the Baptist. If you have time, read through Luke 1:67-80, the song of Zechariah. This celebration of John's miraculous birth is full of joy. From verse 76 of the canticle we see what John's role is to be. The main message is one of hope, forgiveness, light and peace. Today's hymn from Singing the Faith, 'Praise to the God who clears the way', also picks up this theme.

But where this Zechariah (namesake of the Hebrew prophet we'll consider in the notes as this week goes on) and the prophets referred to in Luke 1 look forward in hope, more is needed. Thus in today's reading from Luke 3 we are carefully given both a definite time and a place where these words came true. When you read through the list of those in authority – Tiberius Caesar, Pilate, Herod and others – you'll see that none of them could be thought of as well disposed towards the aspirations Zechariah had for his son. Each of them was a threat to God's new initiative, but God's new initiative was, in the end, a far greater threat to them.

John appeared and got to work. As with the other Gospel writers, Luke is keen to affirm that his ministry is fully in line with God's promise as spelled out, this time, in the words of Isaiah 40. Next Sunday will take us further into the detail of his message, both in its challenge and its comfort. For now we note both the call to repent and the promise of forgiveness.

To Ponder

John the Baptist spoke out courageously even though the rulers of the state opposed him, and eventually executed him. Remember those who take great risks today in being true to God.

John's message could be summed up in the word "repent", which means "redirect your life in God's direction". What actions do you need to take to ensure that your life is aligned with God's purposes?

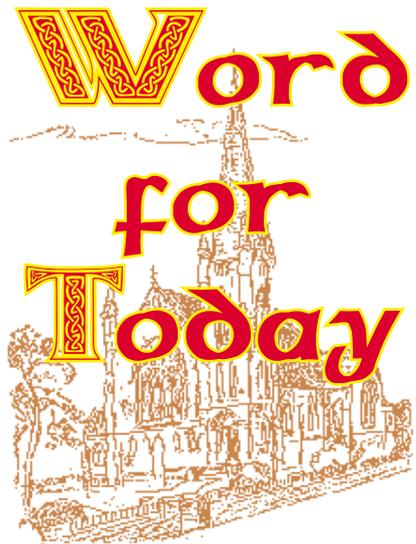
Bible notes author: The Revd Donald Ker

Refuse To Live In The Spite House

'Let all bitterness...be put away from you.'

Ephesians 4:31 NKJV

IN 1882 a New York businessman named Joseph Richardson owned a narrow strip of land on Lexington Avenue. It was 5 feet wide, and 104 feet long. Another businessman, Hyman N. Sarnier, owned a normal sized plot adjacent to Richardson's skinny one. He wanted to build apartments that fronted the avenue, so he offered Richardson a thousand dollars for the slender plot. Richardson was deeply offended by the low offer and demanded five thousand dollars. Sarnier refused, and Richardson called him a tightwad and slammed the door on him. Sarnier assumed the land would remain vacant and instructed the architect to design the apartment building with windows overlooking Richardson's land. But when Richardson saw the finished building, he resolved to block the view; no one was going to enjoy a free view over his plot! So seventy-five-year-old Richardson built an apartment building on it, 5 feet wide, 104 feet long, and four storeys high. Upon completion he and his wife moved in. Only one person at a time could ascend the



stairs or pass through the hallway. The dining table was eighteen inches wide. A newspaper reporter of some girth once got stuck in the stairwell, and after two tenants were unsuccessful in pushing him free he exited only by stripping down to his undergarments. The building was dubbed 'the spite house'. Richardson and his wife spent the last fourteen years of his life there. In 1915 it was torn down. Bitterness builds a lonely house with only enough space for one person. The lives of its tenants are reduced to one goal: make someone miserable. They do. Themselves!

Ask God to help you let go of any bitterness and resentment you're holding on to.

Published by UCB, Stoke on Trent

For free daily readings see

Elisabeth or Norman



Princess Street
Langollen

