



# Llangollen Methodist Church

Worshipping by the River Dee

6<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Number – 998

# Riverside Weekly

*A warm welcome to everyone joining us for our worship this  
Epiphany*

## Epiphany

11:00 Morning Worship – **Tim Guy**

Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6 page 770 in the Old Testament read by Alan Williams

Music by Ted Blackman & Peter Brookfield

John Newbrook welcomed you at the door

Elizabeth Roberts gave out the books

Norman & Elisabeth are providing refreshments

Jeanette Robinson is today's steward

This morning's service will be followed by the worship consultation

Our condolences to Janet, her brother and mother and Elias and Josh following the death of her father, Jim Dyson, on Friday

We are sorry to hear that Jimmy Irvine passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. His funeral will be at 11:00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the Crematorium.

## Happy Birthday to:

Gareth Jones — New Years Day

Jack Lomax — New Years Day

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



# Church Diary

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January

11:00 Morning Worship —Tim Guy

The Worship Consultation will follow this morning's service

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

2:00 Home Group at 5 Gerddi y Bache

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

10:00 Coffee at the Hall — join us at the Memorial Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

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

3:00 Cytûn meeting at the Upper Room

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January

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

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

11:00 Covenant Service & Communion — Rev Phil Poole

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

## Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January

7:30 Book of the month — Exodus — at the Memorial Hall

## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

10:00 Coffee at the Hall — join us at the Memorial Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

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

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January

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

# *“Book of the Month” club*

## *A book reading group reading the Bible*

Led by Richard Parkes, around the circuit, the group will read a book from the bible each month and then meet to learn more about and discuss the book. **(Each months session will be repeated four times, in different places, so everyone can attend when and where it is convenient)**

*Review Exodus — prepare Leviticus & Numbers*

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 7:30 at Llangollen**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2:00 at Gresford and 7:30 at Wrexham**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2:00 at Caergwrle.**

More Information from Richard 01978 852742

revrparkes@btconnect.com

## *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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## *Home Group*

Monday January 7<sup>th</sup> Our fortnightly Home Group meetings start afresh at 5, Gerddi y Bache. Gather from 2pm for refreshments, Bible Study and prayer start 2.30pm.and finish by 4pm.

If you would like to join us, just come along or ring Yvonne 860557. New members always welcome.

## *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

## *Teams4U*

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January Dave Cooke, from Teams 4U, will be joining us in our Morning Praise and Worship service, to give a short video presentation of some of the children receiving their shoeboxes, a thing lots of you have requested to see. Please try and come to this service and see some of the children's reactions.

There will be a retiring collection on this occasion for the ongoing work of Teams 4U

## *The editor's jottings!*

*Coffee at the Memorial Hall* — during January and February we will keep the hall open on Tuesday mornings. We will serve tea, coffee and biscuits. Some bric-a-brac will be got out for sale. If you can help your assistance will be appreciated, you don't have to do the whole morning or every week, just when you are able to help.

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* — there will be a United Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January, this will be at Holy Cross, Oak Street. There will not be a service at the Methodist Church that morning

*Norman*



# 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](mailto:lisa.rathbone@hotmail.co.uk)

## Readings

*Matthew 2:1-12* When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. (v 9-10)

## Background

Who were these visitors whose quest to find Jesus ended with such joy? Matthew describes them as magi, often translated as 'wise men' but possibly meaning something closer to 'astrologer'. The ancient world was not over-impressed with knowledge drawn from the stars, and star-gazers rarely enjoyed high status. Easterners too were regarded with suspicion; the east was seen as degenerate, in contrast to the well-disciplined Roman empire. Herod's reaction to news from a star in the East marks him as a paranoid ruler who fears his days are numbered.

In seeking advice from Herod, the magi unwisely create great danger for the young children of Bethlehem. A frightened tyrant is liable to respond erratically, without any consideration for the impact of his action. Those close to Herod – the people of Jerusalem – had learnt to fear his rage, and the leaders must have trembled as they explained the scriptures. This time, however, the young children of Bethlehem and their families became his victims (2:16).

After the plotting and scheming of Herod's palace, there is a beautiful, peaceful simplicity about the arrival of the magi, following the star. There are no more questions, just the offering of homage. Here, Matthew describes Jesus as a 'little child', not a baby, and the family home is a house, not a stable. This picture of settled family life adds poignancy to the flight which follows, as the family become refugees (2:14).

The tradition that there were three magi arises from the description of three gifts. Gold and frankincense recall the gifts of Sheba to the people of Israel (Isaiah 60:6), while myrrh had been a gift for the Lord since Moses' day (Exodus 30:22-26). There have been many attempts to explain the meaning of the gifts, for example in the hymn 'We three kings', but we can only be sure that Matthew would have intended us to think about the Biblical links.

The magi are Gentiles, and this story introduces an important theme. This first revelation (or epiphany) of God's grace to Gentiles is repeated

throughout the Gospel. Jesus is for Gentiles as well as Jews. All people are free to worship him and bring gifts, and no one will be rejected.

### To Ponder

What gifts do you believe you are called to give back to God?

Where do you see resonances between this story and people's experience in this day and age?

Look online at some famous artists' pictures of this scene (it's often called 'The Adoration of the Magi'). What strikes you about these pictures? What is authentic to the Gospel, and what isn't?

*Bible notes author: The Revd Caroline Wickens*



**Memorial Hall**  
**Open**  
**For tea, coffee and**  
**biscuits**  
**Every Tuesday**  
**10:00 till 12:00**



## *He's Not Sending You; He's Taking You*

*'Do not be afraid...for the LORD your God goes with you.'*

*Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV (2011 Edition)*

THE STORY'S told about a little boy who was afraid of the dark. One night his mother asked him to go out on the back porch and get the mop, but he didn't want to go because he was afraid. She said, 'Haven't I always told you there's nothing to be afraid of in the darkness?' He said, 'Yes, Mum, but please don't make me go out and get that mop.' She replied, 'Son, don't you know that Jesus is always with you? Don't you know that you are never alone? Don't you know that you have nothing to be afraid of?' He replied, 'Yes, Mum.' So she said, 'All right, go out and get the mop.' He opened the back door about two inches, stuck his hand out, and whimpered, 'Jesus, would you please hand me that mop?' When you attempt something you've never done before, it's normal to feel afraid. When you're asked to do a job for which you feel unqualified, it's normal to feel afraid. When you attempt something you've failed at previously, it's normal to feel afraid. But it's in doing the thing you fear to



do that you grow, and your confidence in God grows. Today God is saying to you: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.' God stays with you wherever you go. That should motivate you to go anywhere He tells you to go. The truth is that when God says go, He's not sending you somewhere, He's taking you somewhere.

*Pray that you would confidently trust God when He says 'go'*

*Published by UCB, Stoke on Trent*

For free daily readings see  
Elisabeth or Norman