



Llangollen Methodist Church
Worshipping by the River Dee

14th April 2019

Number – 1012

Riverside Weekly

We welcome you as you join our Palm Sunday worship

11:00 Palm Sunday Worship –

Deacon Lisa Rathbone

Readings:

Psalm 118 verse 1 and verses 19 to 29, page 579 in the Old Testament

Luke chapter 19 verses 28 to 40 page 78 in the New Testament

Read by Janet and Anna

Music by Peter Brookfield

Janet welcomed you at the door,

Margaret gave out the books,

Paul & Anna provided refreshments

Jeanette Robinson is today's steward

*Today's flowers provided by Margaret
To celebrate her birthday on Easter Sunday*

Happy Birthday to:

Alun — Tuesday

Petro — Thursday

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



Church Diary

Sunday 14th April

11:00 Morning Worship — Deacon Lisa Rathbone

Monday 15th April

Art @ the Outhouse exhibition starts

10:30 Stewards Meeting at the Memorial Hall

2:00 Messy Church Planning meeting at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 16th April

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

Wednesday 17th April

11:00 Funeral — Jack Lomax

Thursday 18th April - Maundy Thursday

6:00 Maundy Thursday Meal at the Memorial Hall, see Page 3

Friday 19th April - Good Friday

11:00 Good Friday Service — Rev Phil Poole. Followed by walk of witness through town to the Riverside Park

Saturday 20th April

from 10:00 Coffee Morning for Will's trip to Uganda with Teams4U

Sunday 21st April - Easter Day

11:00 All Age Easter Communion — Rev Phil Poole

Tuesday 23rd April

10:00 Coffee Morning by Llantysilio Church at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 24th April

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

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna's, continuing in John's Gospel, chapter 18

Friday 26th April

10:15 Country Market at the Memorial Hall

Saturday 27th April

3:00 till 5:00 Messy Church at the Memorial Hall

Sunday 28th April

11:00 Morning Worship — Carl Squire

The 'Last Meal' Together

Jesus said to his disciples on the night before he was crucified, “ I have wanted so much to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer! “ Jewish people were instructed by Moses to keep this annual festival of Passover to commemorate God bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. The night before they left, the angel of death struck every home in Egypt, but the Jewish families were “passed over” and were safe. The Passover meal is of lamb and unleavened bread. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb at Easter, and now Christians obey his commands given at that last meal with his disciples and eat and drink in remembrance of him at Communion services.

Many gather on Maundy Thursday (or Passover) to remember that last supper.

We shall be doing this on Thursday April 18th in the Memorial Hall, sharing together in a supper of Shepherds Pie (lamb mince) followed by fresh fruit salad, and a simple service of remembrance as we eat. You are invited to gather in the Hall at 5.30pm, perhaps sharing in a few worship songs as people arrive, ready to eat at 6pm. The cost will be £5 a head, including unleavened bread and grape juice.

Please sign the sheet if you would like to attend, or speak to Amanda or Yvonne (01978 860557) by Monday April 15th.

Volunteers to help with the catering would be very welcome – expenses can be reimbursed Thank you.

Yvonne

Jack Lomax's Funeral will take place on Wednesday 17th April.

The service will be at the Methodist Church at 11:00 followed by cremation at Pentrebychan at 12:00.

Refreshments will follow at the Chain Bridge Hotel from 12:00, The family would like all of Jack's and their friends to join them at the Chain Bridge.

“No Deal’ Brexit endangers poorest families”

“The risks of an unplanned ‘No Deal’ Brexit endanger poorest families” – statement from Church Leaders

As Church leaders, we have chosen not to make political statements around Brexit. Members of the Churches we represent have in good conscience come to different conclusions; some voted remain and others voted to leave.

At present the risks that flow from an unplanned “No Deal” Brexit endanger the poorest families in our nation and therefore we feel compelled to speak up.

As Christians we are called to demand justice for the millions locked in poverty. A No Deal Brexit risks tightening poverty’s grip on families up and down the country.

Over the past decade, our Churches have witnessed and responded to the slowly rising tide of hunger in the UK. A No Deal Brexit risks restricting the nation's supply of food and increasing prices. This, alongside further cuts to benefits on Monday 8 April, could have grave consequences for many in our communities.

Many charities are warning us that food supplies to the most vulnerable are most at risk: hospitals, prisons and those reliant on surplus or donated food. Supplies of essential medicines are likely to be disrupted. Again the most vulnerable will be the least able to cope with this.

We urge that all possible efforts continue to be made to avoid an unplanned No Deal Brexit given the consequences for the most vulnerable in our society. Should the decision, or indecision, of political leaders, together with a lack of preparation, expose the poorest to these risks, it will be the responsibility of Government to ensure these families are protected.

We continue to pray for our politicians and for all who are experiencing poverty.

Rev Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptists Together

Rev Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference

Mr Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Mr Derek Estill, Moderator of the General

Assembly of the United Church

Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of the General

Assembly of the United Reformed Church

Will's trip with Teams4U

Dear All,

Fundraising is going extremely well, thanks to everyone's amazing support and generosity.

We are now on the last fundraising push!

My local hairdresser is arranging an Easter Raffle and will donate the proceedings to my international volunteering experience.

On top of this, church have very kindly offered me the Memorial Hall, free of charge, for a coffee morning on Easter Saturday, the 20th of April.

Neither my mother, father or I can bake to a high standard, unless you like burnt Victoria sponge. We are begging for cake support for this – cakes can be collected or dropped off on the day

Thank you for your continued support, William



“Down under” news!!

Well, I'm now all packed up ready to leave here at 12.30 tomorrow, Sunday, lunchtime. Phil and the boys will take me to the airport because Elinda doesn't get back from Melbourne until tomorrow evening.

The last two or three days have been quite emotional and hectic hence a brief blog!

Not really looking forward to my long flights tomorrow but I'm sure it'll be fine. I'll hopefully be able to sleep for a while! If not, there's always Puzzler, Sudoku or my book!

All being well I'll be back in Church on Good Friday.

Love and blessings Sheila

Readings

Luke 23:1-49 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' (v. 34)

Psalm 31:9-15

Background

All four Gospel writers tell the story of Jesus' last hours, but each with a specific emphasis. Luke brings out the tension between the real reason why the Jewish authorities want to get rid of Jesus and the devices they resort to in order to do so. For them he is dangerous because of his religious teaching and practice, but Pilate must be convinced that he is a political threat, stirring up rebellion against Roman rule. For Pilate, Jesus is a harmless teacher, for Herod a curiosity and a joke. But, in the end, faced with the possibility of serious crowd disorder, Pilate gives in, considering the release of a convicted criminal the lesser evil.

The passage brings out the brutality of the time; cruelty even to those released from custody (vs. 16 and 22), the conscripting of an innocent bystander (v. 26), the mockery of the helpless (v. 35-38) and the appalling act of crucifixion itself.

Against this dark scenario two features stand out. In the background, helpless to intervene, are the followers of Jesus, men and women (v. 27). And we are shown Jesus' concern for others, in spite of his own suffering (vs. 28-30 and 43). It is remarkable that throughout the passage there is no hint of self-pity on the part of Jesus, or anger toward his persecutors.

It is surprising that some manuscripts omit verse 34 (see the NRSV margin). It is echoed in Stephen's words in Acts 7:60. Did some scribes feel that crucifying Jesus was unforgivable?

Verse 3 is a puzzle, as is chapter 22:70. The best interpretation is to regard it as a qualified 'yes': 'I am, but not in the way you mean'.



To Ponder

In what ways do we not know what we are doing when we go wrong?
The situation Luke describes is not unique. Reflect on, and pray for,
comparable situations in today's world.

Are some things truly unforgivable?

Bible notes author The Revd Brian Beck

Plastic Milk Bottle Tops

“A colleague at work is trying to help a friend who's 4 year old daughter suffers from Spina Bifida. The young girl needs a new, specialized wheelchair which is very very expensive. The main body of the wheelchair is made from the same plastic that milk bottle tops are made from, and the manufacturer of these chairs has said to the parents that if they can collect the weight of the chair in milk bottle tops they will make the little girl a chair for free.

Obviously this is an enormous amount of milk bottle tops! I would like to give her a helping hand, so, if you can save your milk bottle tops and let me have them when you remember I'd be most grateful.” Doreen from Maes Collen

Elisabeth has put a plastic basket at the back of church to collect the tops, and she will pass them on to Doreen

The editor's jottings!

Holy Week — Lets take the special opportunities Holy Week brings, along with the chocolate, flowers and cards, we can invite our friends to join us to celebrate that ‘He Is Risen’ on Easter morning. There is also the opportunity to remember Christ's last supper on Maundy Thursday evening (*see page 3*) and the Good Friday service and walk of witness

This Monday Jan's art exhibition starts at the Outhouse

Norman

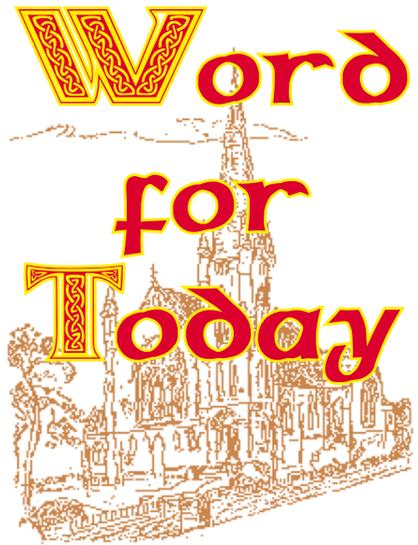


It Takes 'Heart'

'The people had a heart...to work.'

Nehemiah 4:6 AMPC

IN SAN Diego there's a famous attraction called SeaWorld. If you go there you can see ducks on roller skates. But when you get close to them, you realise that their hearts aren't in it! You may smile, but a lot of people are like that — just going through the motions. Don't be one of them! If you want your life to count, find a cause greater than yourself and give your all to it! Do you recall the story of Nehemiah? He risked life and limb in order to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Even though faced with threats and obstacles, he finished the job in record time. How did it happen? Because 'the people had a heart...to work'. An 1828 copy of Webster's Dictionary defines 'courage' as 'that quality which enables us to face difficulty and danger...without fear or depression'. Then Webster adds the words of Moses as he transferred leadership of the nation to Joshua. 'Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid...for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go' (see Joshua 1:9 NKJV). At age one hundred and twenty, Moses was still



telling the people of Israel, 'Ya gotta have heart!' Why? Because anything worth having is worth fighting for! It takes 'heart' to deal with a child's wilful defiance, or face your own fears, or pick up the pieces of your life and start over. It's easy to talk about what's wrong, but it takes 'heart' to do something about it. And where does that kind of courage come from? God! So talk to Him today.

Pray for people who feel that they are just going through the motions in their life, and in their faith.

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For free daily readings see
Elisabeth or Norman

