



12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Number – 1016

# Riverside Weekly

*We welcome you as you join our worship this morning*

**11:00 Christian Aid Service led by church members**

Reading:

Revelation chapter 7 verses 9 to 17, page 239 in the New Testament

Read by Sue

Music by Ted & Peter

Anne welcomed you at the door,

Elizabeth gave out the books,

David & Catherine provided refreshments

Sue Cheshire is today's steward

*Today's flowers are in memory of Rev Dan Parry*

**Happy Birthday to:**

Grace on Monday

Max on Wednesday

Sue Davies on Thursday

Sue Smith on Friday

Elisabeth on Friday

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



# *Church Diary*

## *Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May*

11:00 Morning Worship — Locally arranged Christian Aid Service

## *Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May*

2:00 House Group at 5 Gerddi y Bache, all welcome.

2:00 'Open the Book' at Ysgol Bryn Collen

6:00 to 8:00 Games & activity Evening

## *Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

10:00 Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall

## *Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May*

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

11:00 Church Gardening — weather permitting

## *Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May*

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

## *Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May*

10:15 Country Market at the Memorial Hall

## *Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May*

9:00 Christian Aid Street Collection — Refreshments will be served at the Memorial Hall

10:30 Messy Church Planning meeting in the Memorial Hall

## *Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May*

11:00 All Age Worship — Maureen Jones

## *Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May*

7:30 'Book of the Month' club at the Memorial Hall

## *Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May*

10:00 Coffee Morning by the Flower Club in the Memorial Hall

## *Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

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

11:00 Church Gardening

7:30 Bible Study at Elias & Janet's, continuing in John's Gospel, chapter 20

## *Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

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

## *Summer Meal at Sweeny Hall (Oswestry)*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 6:30 for 7:00

2 courses with coffee & mints

Cost £22.00 (approximately)

Menu will be available soon

Names to Gill or John by 24<sup>th</sup> May please

### *“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 Deuteronomy — prepare Mark*

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7:30 at Llangollen Memorial Hall**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2:00 at Gresford and 7:30 at Wrexham**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2:00 at Caergwrle.**

More Information from Richard 01978 852742

revrparkes@btconnect.com

### *50 years of Preaching*

It will be the 50th anniversary of John Wiggall being a preacher in the Methodist Church on 7<sup>th</sup> July this year.

Wrexham Methodist Church are putting on a tea for him at 4 pm in their church and all are invited.

Can we take cake along please

### *Help with Children*

In order to comply with Safeguarding requirements, there always needs to be at least two adults present when supervising children's activities.

It would help our children's leaders if we had a list of people who are able to sometimes help. You will only have to be present and join in the activity, all the planning and preparation will be done by the leaders.

If this interests you, Amanda has a list where you could sign up.

### *Llangollen Country market*

The Country Market is now open from 10:15 every Friday Morning at the Memorial Hall

## **Discipleship: present and future**

*The Revd Shane Bishop has been the Pastor of Christ Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois, USA for 22 years, during which time the church has grown from just over 200 to just over 2,500 in weekly attendance*

The church has been led by some core values concerning disciple-making that guide it in pursuit of its mission of “connecting people to Jesus Christ”.

### **Disciple-making core values**

#### **Offer Christ as revealed in Scripture**

Though the means by which churches reach the world must constantly be renegotiated, the centrality of Christ for salvation and the authority of Scripture must remain non-negotiable. We must hold fast to our central Christological message, while being creative with how we present that.

#### **Laser-focus on the mission**

We do not have available resources to be non-strategic around our mission. A shrinking budget is a blessing in disguise for you to focus resources on what is working and discontinue ineffective programmes. Christ Church is the largest and most diverse church in The United Methodist Church Conference, with people of all races, political persuasions, and social-economic status. We can't be all things to everyone but, by being laser-focused on our mission, we are able to transcend many things that divide us.

#### **Celebrate orthodoxy**

We believe Christ was born of a virgin, performed miracles, rose from the dead, fills the Church with the Holy Spirit and will return for his Church. This is our best stuff! No apologies.

#### **Offer experiential worship**

Worship is the most important thing we do. If there are not people in the seats, there will not be dollars in the plate. If there are not dollars in the plate you are out of business. And if you are out of business you are out of ministry. Worship services must move, inspire, motivate and challenge people. Excellent worship is a major part of our discipleship strategy!

#### **Think forward**

A wise mentor taught me to read futurists, analyse the world around me, anticipate trends and have a church prepared to be effective once the future arrives. It is the difference between a young football player chasing the ball and a more experienced player learning to anticipate where the ball is going to be. My mantra has been simple but clear: “Don’t play catch up. Anticipate. Get out in front.”

## **Current trends and discipleship implications**

### **People are seeking community**

Effective churches will grow larger by getting smaller and offering people more places, days and times to worship, study and connect. Church shifts from a place to be once a week to a place to belong every day.

### **People are seeking purpose**

Churches will engage in community transformation from a disciple-making context rather than a humanitarian context. This will require uniting ‘doing good things’ (which most churches do well) with evangelism (which most churches don’t do at all).

### **Increasing spirituality**

People are spiritually oriented but spirituality and Christianity have never had more distance between them. Might your local church become a community house of prayer? Responding to local, national and world events with prayer services may offer the church a place in the community.

### **Bricolage – building with what you have**

As churches have fewer resources, they must allow that scarcity to foster innovation. This requires focusing on what you have, not what you don’t have. Focus on who is in your community, not who used to be, and focus on maximising existing resources.

### **Denominational disintegration**

Denominational reorganisation and eventual death will be painful and distracting. Think resurrection, clarify your mission and envision a ‘future and a hope’ beyond where you are now. Play for the end game of effective congregations in pursuit of the Great Commission.

## Lines between clergy and laity are blurred

Ministry will be increasingly led by bi-vocational pastors (ordained or not) as faith groups grow smaller and less defined. We must equip the laity for ministries previously reserved for clergy and professional staff. If everyone is going to be in ministry, everyone must be prepared.

## Church is both actual and virtual

This involves going beyond simply filming content that was designed for live audiences and moving to the creation of unique content for virtual audiences. The goal is to create a warm online community that enjoys the benefits of pastoral guidance.

## The big finish

We live in a world that is going to continue to surprise and shock us. Perpetual change is the new normal. There is but one question before us: “Is your church prepared to make disciples in this new reality?”

*The Revd Shane Bishop from the connexion,  
the free magazine of the Methodist Church, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)  
To receive a free copy, visit [www.bit.ly/the-connexion](http://www.bit.ly/the-connexion) or pick up a copy  
from the back of church*

## *The editor's jottings!*

*'May Coffee Morning'* — Thanks to everyone who helped at the coffee morning last Tuesday, which raised £161.74

*"Christian Aid Week"* — help and items for sale will be required for the coffee morning on 14<sup>th</sup> May. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, help with the street collection or help in serving refreshments in the Memorial Hall will be very much appreciated

*Norman*



## Readings

*John 10:22-30* Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. (vs. 25-26)

*Psalm 23*

## Background

As a teenager my sport was cycling. It's still my preference today. I ride occasionally – fine weather cycling and nothing too strenuous. When the big tours, like the Tour de France, take place I'm stuck to the TV. But I digress. In my teens I belonged to a club, cycled regularly, usually 300 or so miles a week, over 200 miles in a day on one occasion. I remember, early on, riding up a long hill in Devon. Going slower and slower. Coming to a stop. Or so I thought. Then I felt the hill ease. An older rider had come alongside me, grabbed my saddle, and was pulling me up the hill, all the way to the top. I learnt that that's what we did for each other. Strong helping the weak.

There were conditions to this though. We had to keep ourselves fit and our bikes in good order. Not to would be to let the others down. We belonged together, sometimes followed, sometimes led.

Belonging has benefits, but also consequences.

It was the same in Jesus' day. Those who believed were one with Jesus. Those who didn't found that they were not. And this was not just a matter of lip-service. Jesus expected, and expects, those who believe, who trust God, who take his lead to show that in their words and actions. He was only ever harsh with the hypocrites, those saying one thing, doing another. Time and again we find a stress on this in his ministry. Remember a young man coming to Jesus and asking what he should do to enter the Kingdom of God? Jesus challenged him, "Keep the commandments". "Done that," replies the man. "OK," says Jesus, "Go, sell all you have and give it to the poor." Jesus never called him a hypocrite, but he went away heavy hearted. No evidence of belief there, no action, just words. And words sometimes count for nothing at all.

## To Ponder

What evidence is there of your belief?

How can you show that you belong to God?

*Bible notes author The Revd Andrew Pratt*

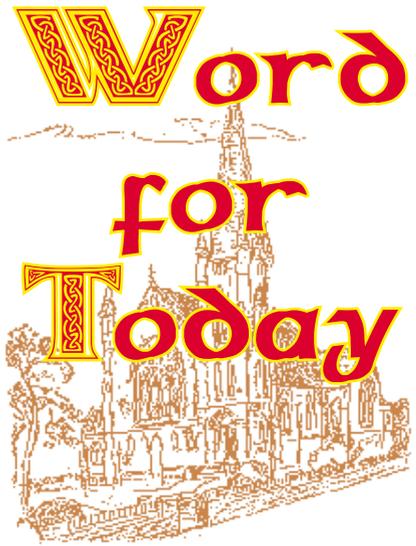


## *Restoring Damaged People*

*'He needed to go through Samaria.'*

*John 4:4 NKJV*

WHY DOES the Bible say Jesus 'needed to go through Samaria'? To redeem a damaged woman who was called to introduce the gospel to Samaria for the first time. Think about the situation Jesus faced; the heat was smouldering, the journey was long, and He was on foot. He knew He wouldn't be welcome there because of a long-standing animosity between Jews and Samaritans. Women in those days veiled their faces and were forbidden to speak to men outside their own family. This woman was already the talk of the town because she'd been through five divorces. So why did Jesus feel He 'needed to go through Samaria'? Because He saw her as a diamond in the rough. He looked beyond her problem and saw her potential for His kingdom. The Bible says, 'Many of the Samaritans...believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified' (v. 39 NKJV). There's an important lesson here. The schedule didn't control Jesus; the will of God and the needs of hurting people did. He was willing to go out of His way, turn tradition



on its ear, and break new ground to do it. Notice what Jesus told His disciples afterwards: 'Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest?" Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together' (w. 35-36 NKJV).

*Pray that the needs of others would be higher on your priority list than your own*

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