



Llangollen Methodist Church  
Worshipping by the River Dee

19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Number – 1017

# Riverside Weekly

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

11:00 All Age Worship – Maureen Jones

Readings:

Revelation chapter 21 verses 1 to 6, page 249 in the New Testament

John chapter 13 verses 31 to 35, page 102 in the New Testament

Read by Norman and Sue

Music by Ted & Peter

Sheila welcomed you at the door,

Marion gave out the books,

Sue & Margaret provided refreshments

Jeanette Robinson is today's steward

Take from us, O Lord, all sloth, love of power and idle talk.

Of your mercy grant us clarity of mind, strength of purpose and humility of heart.

Beholding our own faults let us not be the judge of others, for you alone are truly blessed, now and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*Ephrem the Syrian (306-373)*

**Happy Birthday to:**  
Mavis on Friday

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



# Church Diary

## *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

## *Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May*

10:15 Country Market at the Memorial Hall

## *Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May*

3:00 to 5:15 Messy Church in the Memorial Hall

## *Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May*

11:00 Morning Worship — David Young

## *Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May*

10:00 Nightingale House Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall

## *Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May*

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

11:00 Church Gardening

## *Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May*

10:15 Country Market at the Memorial Hall

## *Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

11:00 Holy Communion — Rev Patrick Rudden

## *Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

9:30 'Open the Book' rehearsal at the Memorial Hall

10:30 Stewards Meeting at the Meeting Point

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

6:30 Summer Meal at Sweeny 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.

# *Think, Pray, Vote: European Elections 2019*

## *What can we do?*

### *Think*

Find out what the different parties in your area are campaigning for. It's important to take time to understand the differences, and the things they are prioritising. You can find information about your region here: [democraticdashboard.com](http://democraticdashboard.com)

In previous elections, we have encouraged churches to organise or participate in hustings for candidates. This is much more difficult for European elections with regional constituencies and closed lists, let alone with the heightened feeling around this election. Any hustings meetings should be arranged with others and after taking the advice of the police and other authorities. Your church may wish instead to put its energy into opening up conversations in the church or community. JPIT's Conversation Welcome resource is designed to help local churches and community groups hold respectful, informed discussions about the big issues that divide our society. Find it at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conversationwelcome/](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conversationwelcome/)

### *Pray*

#### **God of Justice,**

you have given us the chance to vote. Help us to reflect and use our votes wisely to tackle injustice where we see it, and to pray for countries where people do not have the opportunity to vote.

#### **God of Love,**

you tell us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Help us to participate in elections in ways which demonstrate our love for our neighbour, and to wrestle with what the common good means for us today.

#### **God of Transformation,**

you have called some people to put themselves forward as

candidates. Help them as we debate their ideas for a better world and support them as they experience the strain and privilege of election.

We ask these things in the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

- Use the prayer offered here in the run up to the election.
- Pray for candidates, perhaps by name, recognising the pressure that elections put on individuals and families.
- Pray for the political parties, that they will be guided by a desire to work for the common good of God's Kingdom.
- Pray for voters that we will use our votes wisely and with discernment.
- Pray for all those involved in organising the elections and ensuring integrity.
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### *Vote*

And of course, don't forget to vote!

### *The editor's jottings!*

*"New Plan"* — the new plans are now available, please see that anyone not in church today is taken a copy.

*Norman*



## *Time to properly Rethink Benefit Sanctions – say churches*

A coalition of churches is calling for an independent review into benefit sanctions, saying recent changes to the system will not fundamentally change the impact on struggling families.

The Government announced an end to benefit sanctions lasting longer than 6 months, but the Joint Public Issues Team (representing the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Church of Scotland) say this will only help a small proportion of families affected by sanctions.

JPIT says the expanded sanctions regime continues to cause hardship and drive families to foodbanks and the roll out of Universal Credit further expands the reach and duration of benefit sanctions.

Paul Morrison, policy adviser to the Joint Public Interest Team said: “We welcome the announcement that the maximum length of a benefit sanction will be reduced. It however does not fundamentally change this damaging and discredited system.

“Since 2015 the Churches alongside many others have called for a full independent review of the benefit sanctions regime. The human cost of the UK’s harsh sanctions regime is very high. We see the hunger and hardship it causes every day in churches and foodbanks.

“The Governments claim that their harsher sanctions drive more people into work is not supported by published evidence. We need a proper independent review – where all the evidence is looked at and where the effects of sanctions of people’s lives are properly and publicly examined.

“Universal Credit further escalates the sanctions regime. More families will be under threat of sanction - including for the first time those in work. Sanctions for families on the new Universal Credit system are more frequent and on average last longer. We must properly review this system before expanding it still further.”

## Readings

*John 13:31-35* 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' (v. 34)

*Psalm 148*

## Background

Before this passage, Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-20) and – during a meal with his disciples – prophesied that Judas would betray him (John 13:21-30). Following Judas' departure from the tables, Jesus now declares, "the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him" (v. 32).

But how exactly does this take place? Where exactly is the glory? Jesus here looks to his imminent death, for which Judas' betrayal prepares. As the Gospel as a whole emphasises, the glory of God is shown at the cross (John 12:27-28; 17:4-5). Indeed, the second half of John's Gospel is often described as the 'book of glory' (John 13–20), focused as it does on Jesus' death. In the death of Jesus, God's love is revealed (John 3:16). Jesus' use of the term "Son of Man" for himself is common in John's Gospel (John 1:51; 3:13; 5:27), and probably alludes to Daniel 7:13-14 where God gives the "Son of Man" dominion and glory.

Jesus tells his disciples that he will soon depart, and neither they nor the Jewish leaders will be able to follow him (v. 33). But before he is to leave, Jesus leaves them with a "new commandment", the command to love one another (v. 34). While Jesus' call to love one's neighbour is found across the gospel traditions (Mark 12:31; Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27), the emphasis here is on love within the community of the church. It's as we love our brother or sister in Christ that we reflect the love of God (cf 1 John 4:19-21).

This commandment has never been easy and continues to challenge us today. Our relationship with other Christians should be characterised by the sacrificial love that Jesus showed us. As we grow in our knowledge of God's love, so too we should grow in our love of others.

## To Ponder

What do you think of the idea that God's glory is revealed in Jesus' death?  
What are ways in which we can grow more deeply in loving others?

*Bible notes author Ed Mackenzie*

## ***Being There In The Crisis***

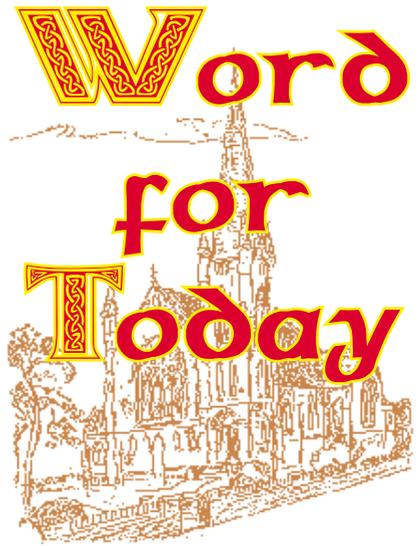
*'I will bless you with a future filled with hope — a future of success, not of suffering.'*

*Jeremiah 29:11 CEV*

HERE ARE three more helpful steps you can take:

1) Encourage action. Sometimes we over-function in crises, making the needy person dependent and undermining the very self-reliance that can strengthen them. One psychiatrist says, 'We must do for others what they cannot do for themselves, but we must not do for them what they will not do for themselves.' Becoming proactive in a crisis arms people against despair and powerlessness. Encouraging manageable action steps builds emotional and spiritual muscle. Helping them evaluate their actions and validating their efforts rebuilds their confidence. When the crisis involves irreversible losses (like death or divorce), the work of getting through one day at a time and gradually adjusting to the changes is action enough.

2) Impart hope. Often there appears to be no light at the end of the tunnel and a sense that the suffering will go on endlessly. What people need at that moment is hope. Hope brings relief based on the conviction



that things will improve, and provides energy to deal with the crisis. The Bible is a book of hope. It energises us when we feel like, 'This is the worst thing imaginable. It will never get better.'

3) Do the follow-up. Crises are seldom resolved instantly. Life may soon return to a semblance of normalcy, but there may be episodes of relapse into sadness, helplessness, or loneliness. Your words may bring comfort and hope, but it's your abiding interest that helps people to maintain their faith and progress!

***Pray that you will be able to impart hope to those facing tough situations.***

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For free daily readings see  
Elisabeth or Norman