



Llangollen Methodist Church
Worshipping by the River Dee

8th December 2019

Number – 1045

Riverside Weekly

*A warm welcome to everyone joining us for our
Service on the 2nd Sunday of Advent*

11:00 Bible Club at the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship — Rev Phil Poole

Reading

Matthew chapter 3 verses 1 to 12, page 2 in the New Testament

Read by Janet

Music provided by Peter

Sheila welcomed you at the door.

Books were given out by Marion

Margaret & Sue will be providing refreshments.

Joan & Sue are today's stewards

Christmas Tree Festival

12:30 till 4:00

Vote for your favourite tree from all the wonderful exhibits

Happy Birthday to:

Nimrod — yesterday

Sandra — Tuesday

Trish — Friday

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



Church Diary

Tuesday 10th December

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

Wednesday 11th December

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

Thursday 12th November

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

Friday 13th December

9:45 Country Market at the Memorial Hall

Saturday 14th December

10:00 till 4:00 Christmas Tree Festival

10:00 Nativity Rehearsal

Sunday 15th December

11:00 Morning Worship — David Pickstone

12:30 till 4:00 Christmas Tree Festival

5:00 Carol Service at the Town Hall following tea at 4:00

This Week's Circuit Service will take place at Regent Street at 6pm in the evening

The intention is for this to be a Praise and Worship style service with singing led by a small band of musicians and singers drawn from around the circuit. We will be meeting early at Regent Street (from 4pm) to organise the band and run through the music. All are welcome to bring their instruments (and/or voices) along and join us in making a joyful noise to the Lord.

(I'm hoping to have some transposed music copies available for those whose instruments are in keys other than C.)

Thank you and best wishes,

Phil Poole



TOWN CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH

Llangollen Town Hall

4pm Festive Afternoon

Tea (free)

5pm Service starts

Llangollen Silver Band

All welcome!

Llangollen Cytun (Churches Together)

Christmas Dinner

If you would like some company on Christmas Day, why not book in for Christmas dinner at St. Collen's Community Hall. You need to phone Mike Connolly in advance to book your place; 01978 860707 or 07375 374914 – he says come and bring your friends! Timing is 12.30 for 1pm, and there is a choice of turkey or salmon. You can even ask for a meal to be delivered to you at home if needed. If you are getting a lift home, ask your driver to come at 3.15pm.

Toy Sunday

Your donations of toys and toiletries were very much appreciated by the Salvation Army in Wrexham - they send a big THANK YOU!

The idea of opening up the Memorial Hall during the Town Christmas Festival proved very popular with those looking for a break from the cold and a hot cuppa to warm them up. Our homemade cakes and mince pies were a sell out, and we sold quite a few white elephants too! Thanks to the efforts of Jeanette, Elizabeth, Yvonne and Elisabeth mostly, the sum of £245 was raised, some good conversations were had and rewarding contacts made. Well done Team !

The proceeds from Tuesday's Coffee Morning amounted to £273.40, a big thank you to everyone who helped at and supported the coffee morning..

Readings

Matthew 3:1-12 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham."' (vs. 7-9)

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Background

The importance of the presence, message and ministry of John the Baptist is underlined by the fact that his story is recorded (in some form) in each of the four Gospels whereas the 'nativity stories' so beloved of Christmas appear in just two. The quotation (in verse 3) from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3), not only set the context of the revealing of Jesus as the promised Messiah, but also served to confirm the status of John as the 'prophet-bridge' between the Old Testament hope and the gospel reality of the Messiah. He forms a bridge between those prophets who spoke of the coming of Jesus and the people who will see him active in the world.

The Matthew account differs from that of the other Gospels in that the writer specifically has "Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism". In this Gospel, written particularly for Jewish readers, and focused particularly in demonstrating how Jesus fulfilled the messianic prophecies, Matthew has the Jewish religious establishment making an early exploration of this unfolding story of Jesus and the challenge to repentance preached by John. We note of course that the writer has these 'establishment figures' confronted by the real possibility of divine judgement, if their confidence rested on notion of having "Abraham as our ancestor" alone. The Baptism by John (as indeed the gospel (the good news) of Jesus) was never about a status received from a parent or validated by mere words: it was about personal commitment to God lived out day by day. So the writer issues a challenge to "bear fruit worthy of repentance". John's Baptism for repentance was not simply about water or words, but about living the way of God.

To Ponder

John's task was to "prepare the way for the Lord" (v. 3). He was to prepare the ground of people hearts to receive the Lord Jesus when he came.

What is there in your life or in the life of the Church that might make it hard for Jesus to be seen and received by others?

How can you "prepare the way of the Lord" and "make his paths straight"(v. 3)?

What might "fruit worthy of repentance" look like in your life today?

Bible notes author—The Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson

Thank you for the lovely flowers from church, last Sunday, for my birthday.

Sue.

The editor's jottings!

"Thursday's election" — you may find it an easy or hard decision how to vote. As Christ's representative we can pray and use our vote as he would, also praying that we will have a government that will lead this country in the right ways.

"Christmas Tree Festival" — a big thank you to Janet for all her hard work in organising the Christmas Tree Festival, and to every one who has helped her.



Norman

Wrexham Methodist Circuit
presents

Simeon



a Roger Jones musical
to be performed on
Friday 20th December at Llangollen Methodist Church
and
Saturday 21st December at Wrexham Methodist Church

Rehearsals

Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th November
Wednesday December 4th and Thursday
December 12th

7.30 pm at Wrexham Methodist Church

All are welcome to join us

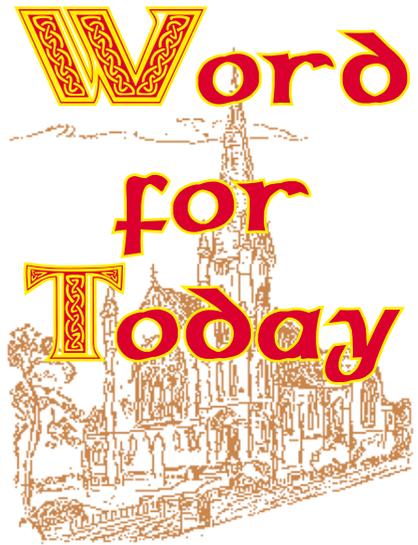
To order a CD or Score before rehearsals begin contact
Deacon Lisa Rathbone 01978860877
or email lisa.rathbone@hotmail.co.uk

Live With Integrity

'Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.'

Proverbs 10:9 NIV (2011 Edition)

THERE ARE those who live with integrity and those who don't, and interestingly they're both rewarded. The first group lives with an abiding sense of God's peace and security, the second group with the constant fear of being found out. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity' (Proverbs 1 1;3 NIV 2011 Edition). A person with integrity is complete and undivided'. They adhere to high moral principles in every area of life. Does that mean you'll never fall? No. A righteous man may fall seven times and rise again' (Proverbs 24:16 NKJV). Everybody falls, but people of integrity always get back up. God is patient; He'll work with you until you get it. And if you suffer from a lack of integrity, He can still put your life back together again if you surrender to Him. Before he wrestled with the Lord, Jacob was a cheat and a deceiver (see Genesis 27:35-36). And after he wrestled with the Lord, he walked with a limp. But God would rather have



someone who walks with a limp because they've wrestled with their issues and won, than someone living under false pretences. Daniel, a Jew living in captivity, refused to eat non-kosher food because it violated God's law. Joseph was single, far from home, and lonely, but he refused to sleep with his boss's wife. Paul says, 'When you are tempted, he will...provide a way out so that you can endure it' (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV 2011 Edition). God always has a way out, and when you're committed to walking in integrity, He'll reveal it to you.

Ask God to help you be a person of integrity.

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