

ChristChurch Wrexham



February 2020

Relay



Welcome to the February edition of the
ChristChurch Relay magazine

Scripture Focus for February

Philippians 3:10-11 ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—
yes, to know the power of his resurrection and
participation in his sufferings, becoming like him
in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to
the resurrection from the dead.

If you are searching for Lent resources take a look at
these websites



<https://40acts.org.uk/>

<https://www.compassionuk.org/lent/>



Reminder we will be having a love
offering on Sunday 23rd Feb to give
money towards the EAT/#Sundaze
Alpha Weekend Away in April.

Zambia reports - We have received a copy of the
report from CCW's visit to Zambia last year,
written by the church leaders in Zambia. There
are a few copies on the desk, or see Sally G.

Key Dates

2nd - Early
Celebration,
Discovery Church,
The Meeting place,
Walk this Way,
#Sundaze

9th - Leaders and
LinkUP Meeting

16th - CCW 25th
Anniversary
Celebration

20th Leaders
meeting

25th Shrove
Tuesday

26th Ash
Wednesday

**Date for your
Diary - Mission to
Wales will take
place on 24th to
28th June**



Walking with the Lord.

My first article of 2020 was a commendation of this well-known & much-loved verse from Micah 6 as a focus for the year. If we truly lived out this verse with passion & integrity – walked the talk – we would be a massive blessing to people & places.

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? **Micah 6:8**

I want to explore what Micah the prophet, under the Spirit's guidance, was exhorting the people of God to do. Social justice, a reoccurring theme of the Major & Minor Prophets, lies at the heart of his prophetic message. Christian faith must make a difference not just to individuals but to communities & wider society too. The Gospel carries the power & potential to transform both people & places & ultimately the planet itself.

There are important 'DOING' words in the midst of this exhortation: ACT or DO / LOVE / WALK. True faith in God produces faith filled actions & works. Faith ► Works.

FAITHWORKS

We produce godly actions out of our deference (wonder & reverence) of the One True God.

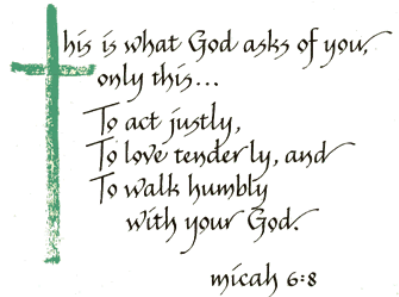
God in His goodness to us has shown us what is good (right). God reveals to us that He is looking for (seeking & desiring) his people to live out those things that are pleasant, acceptable & agreeable in His sight. In the verse we are exploring justice, mercy & humility.

Justice is making right judgements & decisions. The kind of decision making & judgements that fully line up with God's heart & Word. It is bringing about justice for people & places.

The kingdom of God is about justice in the power of the Holy Spirit & the people of God must be bearers & bringers of justice.

Mercy means we are those that dispense goodness & kindness. Faithfully & practically exhibiting God's loving-kindness. We have experienced mercy through the sacrifice of Christ & we must let mercy flow from us, & through us, to others. This is practical good deeds & godly piety in action.

Humbly means moving & proceeding submissively & exhibiting modesty in all our ways. We in humility willingly take the low place, laying aside our own agenda's we put the best interests of others before our own. We follow the model & example of Christ in this regard.



Art for Easter.

About 6 months ago I got around to sculpting a cross shaped section of an apple tree from our garden, which I had cut down about 2 years ago and left to dry out. As I contemplated the piece before I started working on it, I was struck by the shape and pose of it. The arms were slightly out of level with each other and crooked, and there was a bent forward pose, which looked almost human. The experience of shaping it and deciding how to enhance and add to it, proved to be quite moving. Having finished it, I then wondered what to do with it. I felt I didn't want it to be in a church setting, where mainly the faithful would see it, but in a completely public space. The next thought was to have an exhibition around the Easter weekend – a week either side – and see if I could get other Wrexham artists/craftpeople to contribute. I then began looking for possible venues in Wrexham. (As a side line, which hadn't occurred to me initially, it led to me talking about my Christian faith to the people who ran the venues.)

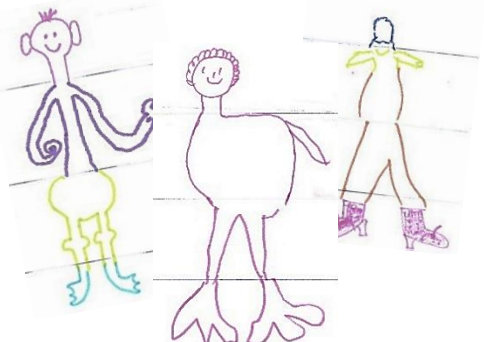


The upshot of this was a definite yes from the Wrexham Independent Gallery (tWig). They have decided to use the whole of April to encourage anyone, regardless of faith, to exhibit on the theme of Easter. See their post on Facebook, or their webpage for more info. The gallery is not huge, but big enough for my first attempt at getting specifically Christian art into a public space. The gallery is run by volunteers and is not-for-profit. They will charge a fee of £4 per item to display it, and, if it is sold, take 20% commission to give the gallery some income. Any pieces for the exhibition will need to be ready at latest by the last week of March. You should also be prepared to put a price on your work or mark it 'not for sale'. This information will be circulating around the Wrexham churches by the time you read this in the church magazine. I hope I will see pieces that are inspiring, original and moving.

So, Christ Church artisans, are you out there? Are you up for it? Could you express your faith in some sort of art or craft work on the theme of Easter and let the public see it? Let's face it, for Christians, the choice of Easter as the subject should be a good starter for 10!

Thanks in advance, Peter Burslem.

We had an excellent **TI Church** in January on the topic of decisions and choices. Starting with delicious soup and several goes at "Would you rather". Sam had created a choose your own adventure based on Little red riding hood - if you would like to have a go speak to Sam! Then Sue gave a brief talk, followed by a game of consequences - we did some picture ones, as you can see. Then finished by singing along to Frank Sinatra and "Would you like to swing on a star".



My time in Thailand. October 27th - November 30th 2019 – Lucy Fogg

My first impressions of Thailand were, the heat (over 30 degrees), the traffic (no set lanes and apparently no laws for using phones, how many could ride on one motorcycle, or giving pedestrians the right of way!) the road side food stalls, and food markets, and the beautiful and lively young people.



I had responded to David's invitation to come to teach in the branch (one of seven) of the Santisuk ('peace' in Thai) centre of teaching English to young professionals, where he is the director. The English teaching is used to reach Thai people with the gospel and build bridges with the church by establishing cell groups of new believers.

I had also followed what I believed to be God's call when I asked to have more opportunities to share the gospel with people. In the words of Isaiah 6 v 8 I had said "Here am I, send me".

I was made very welcome with a party organised by the lovely Philipino teachers, Rhesa and Christy, along with students. It was also David's 83rd birthday that weekend, so the first weekend was all about food and eating out! I was quickly introduced to Thai food which I soon got acclimatised to. I celebrated ordering my first meal myself at a mere £1.25 and 50p for a long fruit drink.

The teaching was in small classes, in some cases only two students and I had a morning class and an evening class. The teaching materials were easy to follow, but I soon discovered the Thai sense of fun and their love to know how English is really spoken and all the wonderful idioms we use e.g. off the top of my head, twisting your arm and butterflies in my stomach!

Each part of the lesson includes a comprehension passage from the Bible, with questions and a chance to discuss. The two Level 2 students were amazed at Jesus calming the storm, healing the sick and when we got to the empty tomb, breathed in amazement "Is it true?" and "Where is He now?" which questions lead to very natural conversations about Jesus, who He is, and the gospel. It was like a breath of fresh air and I loved the teaching which, David said from his office, was accompanied by gales of laughter! I also got opportunity to play with each of these students.

My Level 6 Advanced English conversation class with two Thai vets was in the evening and we followed the story of Joseph. One of them couldn't wait, she said, for the next instalment of the story! I had meals out with all of these students which gave opportunity to get to know them better and to continue conversations informally.



Rhesa asked me to cover her Basic 3 class while she had visitors, and though normally this requires a Thai speaker, I was thrown in at the deep end (English idiom!). This required me to prepare more carefully as the pronunciation was American English, which I had to adjust, (think toon, toob and stoo-dent) plus some spellings and different language for grammar. When I asked them after the first lesson how much they understood one student said 50%!! Thereafter, it did improve and we had some lively sessions.

After one such lesson, one student stayed behind and confessed she was unhappy and

lonely, and she wondered why I and the other teachers were so happy. Again this led to an explanation of the gospel and she said that if Jesus could make her happy, she wanted to know Him too. I prayed with her and she is being followed up by Rhesa.



At the weekends, I attended the International church with David, and the cell at Santisuk but Rhesa also organised day trips or a weekend with other students to places of interest, like the Ancient City, the old capital, a floating market, the biggest tourist market in the world!?, a water festival and an orchid farm. Transport included taxis, trains, tuk-tuk, two-rows, vans, buses, bicycles and I did have a ride on an elephant! Again opportunities came up for informal English lessons and discussions about Christianity and Buddhism.



In my spare time, I had the local swimming pool mainly to myself, took a bike ride round the local island, visited the local markets, read or slept during the heat of the day.

On one visit to the island with David, I was introduced to two of his acquaintances, one a Thai playing classical guitarist, and was asked why I looked so happy, and what my philosophy of life was. This again led to the sharing of the gospel with them.

David's vision is to see at least two people to convert to Christianity and to join the cell group there, and he is praying for a Thai Christian man to lead that cell before he leaves in two years time. He also would like more British Christians to go out and volunteer for a month or more. The Thai people love to converse with British English speakers (Philipinos speak American English) and I was the first from the UK to do so!

I would thoroughly recommend the experience, and felt that it fulfilled its promise of being able to share the gospel with young and older people who have never heard it before! It was such a contrast to the reception of the truth here in the UK, and though so far, David has not had any conversions. a young couple are enquiring, being taken to church by David and spending time talking with him.

So please pray for these lovely young people, all so busy working, learning English and enjoying life like all young people but also hearing God's Word for the first time. And consider going out to Thailand yourself!!?

Thank you from Roy and Doris

As most of you will know, Doris had a fall on Sunday 22nd December breaking her left elbow and tearing the skin on her arm in the process which caused a lot of bleeding. As a result, we had four consecutive visits to the Hospital, Sunday A & E, Monday Fracture Clinic, Tuesday revisit Fracture Clinic, Christmas Day A & E. We are glad to say that since then we have settled down to scheduled appointments.

May we say a sincere 'Thank you', to all at ChristChurch who have, and are praying for Doris's recovery from this debilitating broken left elbow. Members have been very kind in visiting, doing shopping, and supplying us with excellent meals, and cakes. All of which is very much appreciated". Many thanks to you all, love and blessings, Roy & Doris

Thank
You

Russ and Lesley Christmas 2019

Celebration - Last year Russ celebrated his 70th in Hungary. This September we planned a joint celebration, 'holiday of a lifetime', cruise in the Med, in September. Before and after the cruise went well, so we had a good time in Rome and Florence. Unfortunately, once on board, it was most memorable because we were both ill for half of the time and missed the places we most wanted to see, Barcelona and Herculaneum. We may do a couple of city breaks over time to make up for that.



Lesley's Mum is 92, keeping well, after a recurrence of Lymphoma last year. She is still gardening, driving and playing bridge, often winning the £5 kitty! Maintenance treatment for Lymphoma every 2 months is going well. She will be joining us for Christmas and New Year.

We celebrated Lesley's 70th this year in Paris, visiting the Van Gogh Immersive Exhibition and enjoying a special meal on the river Seine.

Travel - With 2 Holidays and work Russ has been abroad every month since April except for August. With travelling in this country as well, we are now glad to be at home again until March.

Hungary: The Charity we work with, The Good News Foundation, is developing an exciting Creation magazine project which is taking a lot of their focus at the moment. We are looking at different ways of developing Ministry there next year. We may go just once but do more from Pensarn cottage by way of Skype meetings with individuals and with Leaders, all of which will need to be coordinated with interpreters! We are also tentatively looking into having a web conference.

Less is more - We met with our Advisors through the year and the consensus was that we should take at least 2 days off a week, take more holiday and to 'declutter'. We have made a good start but, with commitments we already had, we have been fitting 6 days into 5! We need 20/20 vision in 2020 to cut down our workload.

Like many friends, we have decided to cut down on some of the things we have traditionally done at Christmas, like giving cards and presents. We hope you will understand. Increasingly we send out our Christmas mailshot by email but still post out several hundreds. We are very happy to do this but it would be helpful to cut down where possible. If you have received this by post, please LET US KNOW if you are happy to receive this by email and let us have your email address. Thanks.

Russ' Advent Sermon at Hoole Baptist Church this year was about 5 different journeys. Jesus – from Heaven to Earth; Mary – a growing understanding of her son; The Wise Men – seekers after truth meant physical displacement; Joseph and Mary – to Bethlehem; the Shepherds – go to Bethlehem to see if what they were told is true.

On the whole this year we have both been well in ourselves. We've both had aches with our teeth, hands, backs, knees. Otherwise we are in good health! We only had to rearrange one engagement this year for health reasons.

Those who have seen our house at Christmas in years gone by will know that we have a vast collection of Nativities. We needed to cut that down so we hired a unit in a local Emporium till Jan 31st. Things are selling well.

We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and every blessing for your journeying in 2020.
Russ and Lesley

Please note new email address - replah65@gmail.com

	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd
		Communion	Offering	Communion
Setting Up	Gareth	Andrew	Richard	Rob
IT	Rob	Dan	Dan	Rob
PA	-	Rob, Adrian	Huw, Rhys	Rob, Adrian
Music Group	Natasha	John	John	Lesley, Genni
Celebration Leader	Sue	Rob	Gareth	Sue
Speaker	Gareth	Gareth	Russ	Gareth
Prayer Team	Val, Ffion	Alan, Sue	Paul, Gill	Marilyn, Lucy
Tea	Lucy, Dorothy	Campbell, Glenys, Rhianna	Elaine, Marilyn, Lynsey	Natasha, Joe, Angela
Mega Quest	No Junior Church	Andrew, Liz, Claire	Sarah, Katy	Jean, Bekki
EAT		Kev, Sally	Kev, Sally	Kev, Sally

If you have any queries please call
Gareth Jones – ChristChurch Senior Church Leader on 01978 354805

www.christchurchwrexham.org.uk
admin@christchurchwrexham.org.uk
www.facebook.com/christchurchwrexham



We meet at the following location

Acton Community resource Centre
Overton Way
Acton
Wrexham LL12 7LB



Our postal address is

ChristChurch C/o 7 Heol Penally, Little Acton, Wrexham LL12 8JT

