

ChristChurch Wrexham



March 2020

Relay



Welcome to the March edition of the
ChristChurch Relay magazine

Key Dates

1st Early
Celebration,
Discovery Church,
The Meeting place,
Walk this Way,
#Sundaze

8th Leaders
Meeting

13th Wrexham
Worships

15th
Congregational
Meeting

19th Leaders
meeting

Scripture Focus for March

Hebrews 12:1-3 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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



Easter plans - we are all encouraged to join the Good Friday Service at the Salvation Army. Then join the Walk of Witness starting at 11am outside the museum walking to Eagles Meadow.

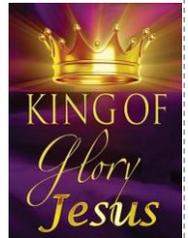
Jesus – King of Glory – ENTER IN

I have repeatedly been bumping into Psalm 24 of late. It keeps being brought to my attention from differing sources and in differing ways. I therefore thought I should bring it to your attention. It is a Psalm of David and can be described as a song of ascension. It likely first described the Ark of the Covenant being taken up to the Tabernacle and looks beyond that to the ascension of the King of Glory himself. It is therefore a royal Psalm of ascent which speaks to us about worshipping the God of all creation, who is the King of Glory, through 3 movements.

- 1) Praise of the Creator (1-2) [Glory in Creation](#)
- 2) Approaching the Lord (3-6) [Glory in Salvation](#)
- 3) Welcoming and receiving the King of Glory (7-10) [Glory in the King & His Kingdom](#)



The Psalm sets off reminding Israel that their God and Creator is the Lord of all the earth, not just the land and people of Israel. It, and we, belong to Creator God who is its, and our, maker. Do we always remember that? Do we see everyone as God's fearfully and wonderfully made creations? It puts a whole new perspective on how we view, relate to, and interact with our fellow humanity. Everyone is made in the image of God. The other dimension here is that humanity has been mandated to be good stewards of God's good, but now fallen, creation. That is a responsibility to all mankind that gets enhanced as we are born again as Christians. Christians should be climate champions and at the forefront of reduce, reuse and recycle. We offer ongoing praise and worship for Creator God by caring for His creation. This will need sustained effort, persistent prayer, creative attention and wise action over many years.



The Psalmist then asks the ultimate question ***'Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His Holy place?'***

In effect who has access to, and who is welcomed into, God's dwelling place and presence. The answer is he who has clean hands and a pure heart. Quite a challenge there then!!

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands
and a pure heart...

Psalm 24:3-4

Note it is a moral and ethical question that is posed rather than a ritual requirement which is striking in the light of Israel's sacrificial system. The Lord welcomes those with clean hands and pure hearts, those whose actions and attitudes are acceptable to Him. A picture of outer and inner purity. How is this possible? The good news for us is that it is possible through Jesus. His sacrifice purifies us and paves the way for us to boldly approach God's throne of grace. We are already clean because of the word He has spoken to us. Those who truly seek the Lord will find Him. In doing so

they will also find a blessing, along with the boon of righteousness through the salvation available 'in Christ'. Only through grace can we enter His presence, only through grace can we stand in His presence. Only through Christ's amazing grace and sanctifying love can we be purified inwardly and outwardly.

Finally, the Psalmist gives a mighty exhortation for the gates and doors of the tabernacle to open and swing wide so that the King of Glory can enter. Remember the Ark signified the presence of God. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty in battle, the Lord of hosts He is the King of Glory. A picture of the one who delivered Israel through the Exodus now returning to His dwelling place (amongst Israel) the Tabernacle. The place where the Shekinah glory – donating the presence, purity, peace and power of God – would fall. A place of in-
Just as God delivered Israel from the tyranny of Pharaoh and Egypt, so Christ, delivers us from the tyranny of sin, death and evil. Christ is our Champion, our Lord, strong and mighty in battle. Here is a call to us to lift up our heads – a picture of rejoicing – to welcome and receive the King of Glory. We are the tabernacle (temple) that God now has His dwelling in. Wow, what a mighty boon and blessing. Wow what a motivation to praise and worship God who is both Creator and Redeemer



The question the Psalm posed was who could enter into the Lord's presence (man → God) but now we see that the Lord (God → man) makes His presence in the heart of a penitent man. Absolutely awesome what God does for us 'in Christ'!! Thank you Father, Thank you Jesus, Thank you Holy Spirit.

**Lift up your heads o you gates, swing wide you everlasting doors.
May the King of Glory enter in and His presence fully fill.**

Love and prayers,
Every Blessing,

GARETH 

In March and April this year Mark Davies and Rhys Williams will be hosting The Bible Course by the Bible Society.

The Bible Course



What is it?

The Bible Course is an 8-session course exploring the world's bestselling book – the Bible. Each session will last for an hour and a half, with a short video introduction, chatting and reflection, and of course some coffee and cake!

The sessions will create a unique storyline, mapping key events, introducing books and characters and how they all fit together. We'll discover the BIG picture and how the Bible applies to everyday life.

When is it on?

It will be held at Acton Community Resource Centre on a Thursday Evening from 7:30pm. The dates are 12th Mar, 19th Mar, 26th Mar, 2nd Apr before Easter and 23rd Apr, 30th Apr, 07th May, 14th May

Who is it for?

It is for everyone who would like to know more about the Bible, about how it all fits together and how it can be relevant to our lives today. It will enhance and inform your ongoing Bible study, whether you are new to the Bible or want to go deeper.

How much does it cost?

Its free! It will just cost 90 minutes of your time each week.

If you would like to know more about the Course or what's involved ask Mark or Rhys or have a look on the website

www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/

Don't forget the "Articles of Faith" Exhibition at the Wrexham Independent Gallery (tWIG) from Monday 6th to Monday 13th April. If you want to contribute a piece speak to Peter Burslem – items need to be ready by the last week of March.

An encouragement from Roy Whitney

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

Use this personalised rendering of

2 Peter 1:3-4

to meditate further on ALL that
God has done for us through Christ's sacrifice
& the great gift of the Holy Spirit

His divine power has given
me everything
I need for life
and godliness through
my knowledge of Him
who called me by

His are own glory and goodness.

Through these He has
given me

His very great and precious promises,
so that through them I may participate
in the divine nature
and escape the
corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

Use this personalised rendering of

2 Peter 1:5-8

to meditate further on ALL the
ways we lay hold of ALL that God
has deposited 'In Christ' in us.

For this very reason,
I will make every effort
to add to my faith goodness;
and to goodness, knowledge;
and to knowledge, self-control;
and to self-control, perseverance;
and to perseverance, godliness;
and to godliness, brotherly kindness;
and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if I possess these qualities in
increasing measure,
they will keep me from being
ineffective and unproductive in my
knowledge
of my Lord Jesus Christ.

Hello CCW! Here is the latest youth update from Adam

C2: I am very happy and confident with the start to the year. We've seen some good numbers and we've seen volunteers grow in confidence with the young people. Our impact on the community is always being felt. We have added a new youth leader in Chris, who coming to C2 a few years ago and is very faithful to the team. I believe that youth becoming leaders is an important part of their development and the role CCW has in their lives. We've had a new faithful group of year 7 lads that seem to really enjoy coming.

We are really thankful for them too. Going forward we need to start thinking about camps and laying a foundation for the future. We are exploring regular ways of advertising ourselves, and how we can begin installing respect in a way that isn't forceful. We are also grappling with how we can begin to overlap C2 and the other youth work at CCW, such as EAT and #Sundaze.

Please pray that our sphere of influence amongst the young people in the community would grow and not be diminished during this coming season. Last year we had some very inconsistent numbers and would like that to change. Pray also that with some of the new young people we wouldn't have any behavioural problems. Also please pray for the continual growth of us as a team in Christ. That we would be ever centred on His word and His work and that He would provide for us in this coming season. The key word for me in all the youth work CCW does is substance. I personally have seen numbers other youth groups would dream of and also numbers other youth clubs would dread, but a busy church youth club with no spiritual impact or depth may as well be an empty youth club. Seeking to foster depth in our relationships, depth in our approach to the gospel, depth in our own lives and our attitudes to God's word is the key part of any ministry. So please do pray for C2, mine, the volunteers and all of our lives about the depth we approach the work of Christ with.



School Pastors: I changed the day of the week that I did School Pastors from a Thursday to a Friday which was a great idea. Most of the kids I'm familiar with through C2 and Tin Can are in on Fridays where previously conflict with college courses caused a problem. It's still a great platform for relationships with young people to grow.

And another great point of contact with them to interact over the week. I see a lot of young people 3 times a week but thankfully with School Pastors some now 4 times a week. Please pray that CCW's sphere of influence with Rhosnesni High School would continue to grow. I would love to see us handle more assemblies, host lunch-time clubs or after-school homework clubs, depending on the impact that we have.

Tin Can: CCW has always been a faithful partner to the work at Tin Can. Volunteering time and helping to fulfil the Christ-centred vision of youth in Wrexham coming to faith in Christ. It remains a great after-school club for the young people to

come and get smashed by me on Fifa!! But, seriously, it has proven to be an excellent gateway into deeper and more substantive work for the gospel. Including youth church, alpha courses and camps, the New Year has brought with it different challenges such as a lot of year 7s which then put off some of the older, more regular members.



This was counteracted by a new regular Monday group for year 11s, which has so far ran very well besides inconsistent numbers. It also serves as a good litmus test for which young people are key to focus on in the coming season.

Please continue to pray for Tin Can, for CCW involvement and also for the work of the Anglican Church & Church Army. Pray that the ministry team would continue to have faith in the vision moving forward and would be blessed with the resources to continue that work. Also pray for the young people, for the year 11s that we've seen less of in this New Year. Pray that they would be encouraged to come back and also to be involved with the Christ-centred work being done at Tin Can.

Finally, I thought it would be good to update everybody on Youth Church. The vision of Tin Can was always to create a gospel centred community among the young people, where they would have ownership and control. That they would feel a part of it as much as the adult leaders do. Now that I have seen CCW's involvement in the new youth church started last year I can say I understand better than ever that vision. Now having seen it in practice, how everything was leading towards this idea of a Gospel centred youth community, worshiping together. The services run essentially the same as free church services with worship and a message. Although it's still early days, we've seen increasing numbers and we've seen the young people take a real ownership over it. I think it's a very significant ministry that we are involved in, in a place where multiple people had told me that Wrexham is hard ground ... barren to the seeds of the gospel. I can safely say that they are wrong. I've been privileged to have led them in a message recently and led them in worship all but one time that it has ran.

Please do pray that CCW involvement in that community would be strong and focused. That we would see even more fruit from it and that the youth in Rhosnesni High School, Acton and Caia would all be drawn to this community. Pray also that it would last longer than any of the youth workers tenures in the area. Pray that its foundations would be established solely on the word of God and that God would raise up prayer warriors to continue to hold it in prayer, and that the young people would continue to connect with God through the sung worship, as they have begun to do so powerfully.

I would personally like to thank everybody who has held the Youth Work of CCW in prayer. Any of our prayer warriors, anybody willing to raise their Ebenezer for us. Please continue, prayer is the lifeblood of ministry. We want to see more fruit of God, more work and a stronger foundation being laid by CCW into the youth of Wrexham.

GNF Orgovany – Hungary

Dear ChristChurch, Thank you for the financial support you have been sending to us for several years. It is a great help for the Good News Foundation (GNF).

Kori and Sylvi continue their mission to Izsak and are now partnering with the Apostolic Church. Here at GNF we continue our own mission to gypsies mainly in Orgovány (in church and in GNF activities). We put emphasis on continuous help for those who show real change and love for Christ. My parents (Charles and Agnes) still do some counseling! Praise God.

Current activities involve the following:

1. Counselling those in our church, they need spiritual support and advice very often because of their unstable attitude.
2. Help Romas and Hungarians finding a way to worship God in one room together (not easy) and how they can be a blessing to each other in faith.
3. Help kids in their studies (at the moment we help only a very few but it would be good to put more emphasis on it).
4. Try to involve them in faithful ministry (like we started with Kori) - we have worked with Tüendi and it seems we can help her being faithful and useful as an employee so we have been employing her for two years full time. This way we also helped her explore her gifts and we can help others to be raised from their financial difficulties. We are in the process of starting employing another Roma person now.
5. A vision to produce simply written Christian materials to make it easier to read and understand. There is also a need to print short materials and Bible chapters with very big letters for those who have poor eyesight and read weakly. Among the gypsies' there are many like this. A longstanding dream but we couldn't go ahead so far.
6. Most of the moms in Mary Home are gypsies. We need to buy them food, diapers, medicine, and we also have to give them lifts to hospital, doctors etc so we pay for petrol, too. We separated the 3rd room and made the 4th room available, too. We needed to build a little piece of wall, buy some new things like a door, cornices, etc. Now 4 separate rooms are ready to serve.

I wrote this to help you understand more about Hungarian gypsy mission here. We strongly believe that the Hungarian gypsies' can be raised only through a combination of Christ and education. We have experienced it and we are doing it.

May God bless you abundantly, my friends.

Donat Ficsor

Wrexham Street Pastors 2019 report from Laurie Serle

Wrexham Street Pastors was founded in 2006 and has humbly continued to serve the community of Wrexham within the overarching vision of engaging with people on the streets to care for them, listen to them and helping them when they are in need of help.

As a partner within the night time economy of Wrexham we have continued to engage with our partners and with the community at large to foster lasting relationships to help to make Wrexham's Town Centre a safer place for people to enjoy themselves.

The team consisting of 30 volunteers has undertaken seventy seven patrols during the last year. During these patrols 2440 positive engagements were made with people on the streets of Wrexham. We had the pleasure of handing out 572 pairs of flip flops to ladies who needed them. As part of assisting to make the town centre safer, 1130 bottles and 1432 cans were removed from the town centre streets. We also provided 31 meals to vulnerable persons and handed out 20 bottles of water. We also assisted 53 vulnerable persons by taking them to the Welfare Centre where the British Red Cross was able to provide further medical assistance. On seven occasions we had to intervene and arrange for A&E to come and provide medical assistance to persons who were in desperate need of medical help.

We want to firstly give glory and honour to our Lord and Saviour for a team of dedicated and committed followers of Jesus Christ for the work that was undertaken during 2019. A large proportion of the 1326 hours that were spent on the Wrexham streets were spent in cold, wet and sometimes atrocious conditions. We are proud of the team and we appreciate every one of them. We also want to take this opportunity of thanking every prayer partner who provided intercessory prayer cover during the nights when the teams were out on the streets. The five School Pastors also made a positive contribution at the Rhosnesni High School.

We also enjoyed two very successful social events during the year which help to build camaraderie and team spirit. We are however going through a challenging time as a number of our team members are experiencing various health challenges and they would appreciate further prayer support in this regard.



If you are interested in supporting Wrexham Street Pastors please chat to Gareth. New members will always be welcome and any financial contributions will also be appreciated.



A view from out East, 'On the Park'.

Russ, Reflections, Refurbishment, Residency, Resources, Rhythms, Refectory.

Thank you for the invitation to your 25th Anniversary service and meal. It was good to see **Russ** and Lesley, who have brought you advice these 25 years. Well done good and faithful servants.

Being with you gave me the opportunity to **reflect** on our situation 'out East' on Caia Park.

www.facebook.com/StMarkOnThePark



Sitting at Acton I found myself **reflecting** on several things. Do you remember when we first moved to Acton Community Centre? The place was subject to vandalism and had a definite 1950's feel about the building. That's just the situation at St. Marks. The building is 60 years old, and rather sad looking. But we have a vision and a challenge that with God's help we will see £300,000+ raised to **refurbish** the building and create a modern community and church facility.

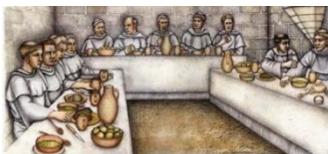
I also **reflected** on the Tiddler's sign at ChristChurch. I think having a Mum's and Toddlers group was a dream we had at ChristChurch from the earliest days, but moving to Acton there was already in the Yellow Building a well-established group with Aunty Barbara. Now after all these years in **residence** at Acton that piece of the jigsaw appears to have fallen into place. P.T.L.!

At our monthly 'Prayer on the Park' in February one person saw that in the season ahead we needed God's help to put several pieces together in a jigsaw in which God would reveal His purposes and how He would have things moved forward. It was lovely to worship with you as part of a sizeable congregation with talented musicians. At St. Marks very often we are pleased if our congregation reaches double figures, and amongst that number can be 3 souls in their nineties. Human **resources** in the church are very faithful, but very thin on the ground. God is good. See how He sent to the Park the Church Army team and Dave and Ruth Rowlands at Rock Chapel in Smithfield. Please pray the next pieces of the jigsaw fit into place for ministry in this community.

At your Anniversary a couple of us were reflecting on the wonderful **rhythms** that undergird Anglican worship (something that can be lost in modern charismatic non-conformity). But a challenge on the Park is how God wants us to present that **rhythm** so it is accessible to our neighbours, some of whom, from the youngest to the oldest live very chaotic lives. One initiative we have each Sunday is Holy Kids. Please pray for our team. By the way, toast features at those Sunday morning Kid's sessions. - Remember ChristChurch Toast Club in those early days?

Despite few human **resources**, St Marks reaches out & seeks to be a good influence, and through our presence, offer a helping hand with the Food Bank Outlet and our Holiday Hunger Project, the Kid's club, Bingo, a Brownie group and our hosting Prison Fellowship. We can only maintain these outreaches with the help of many friars, & volunteers, many from no church or other churches.

We have felt our approach to Holiday Hunger is effective, accessible and economic (compared to other models). So we with others lobbied the Welsh Government, and they have now allocated £1million towards the scheme's development across Wales in the next 12 months. One local Councillor said recently 'you seem to punch above your weight'. May it be God's hand in the glove!



On Shrove Tuesday our Friars turned St. Marks into a **refectory** to host our volunteers to a meal – pancakes included!! *Art*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbkNICet7iE>

	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th
		Communion	Offering	Communion	
Setting Up	Gareth	Andrew	Richard	Rob	
IT	Rob	Dan	Dan	Rob	Rob
PA	/	Huw/Rhys	Rob/ Adrian	Huw/Rhys	Rob/ Adrian
Music Group	TBC	Lesley/ Genni	Adam	Adam	Lesley/ Genni
Celebration Leader	Sue	Sue	Rob	Liz	
Speaker	Sue	Gareth	Rhys	Andrew	
Prayer Team					
Tea	John, Ffion	Andrew, Liz, Joe	Elaine, Dorothy, Lynsey	Jennie, Bill, Rhianna	TBC
Mega Quest	No Junior Church	Andrew, Liz, Genni	Sarah, Katy	Jean, Bekki	Sarah, Claire
EAT		Sally/Kev	Sally/Kev	Sally/Kev	Sally/Kev

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

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We meet at the following location

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Overton Way
Acton
Wrexham LL12 7LB



Our postal address is

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

