

the TREASURY

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WALES

From the Moderator as a new decade unfolds

Revd Marcus Robinson

At the beginning of a New Year and decade let us take the opportunity to pause and think, and even to be still and acknowledge that the Lord is God – eternally, and different to us mortals who live within 'time'! Here are some things to consider and reflect on.

Selecting the Best from the Past

Every family and individual have their memories, and often a stack of photographs from the past. I remember clearing the house after the death of my parents and having to select which pictures were worth preserving to hand on to the next generation. In each of our histories there can be bitter memories that have brought hurt. As members of the family



of faith it is important that we accept and show forgiveness and let go of the memories that can poison our relationships in the present. It is crucial to start the year with a clean page as we seek to take advantage of His grace to take the best from our past experience and enable us to deal with every new challenge that comes our way. In the same way as it applies to us as individuals it is also pertinent to the development of our Connexion! Let us look to the past and be reminded that God has not left himself without

witness in any generation and this should be our assurance as we move forward.

Seeing the Light in the Present

In a period full of cynicism and lack of faith we encounter negative attitudes when seeking to be positive about life. I am concerned that the sickness of negativism and fear has long infected our media. A friend gave his daily paper the title of "the Daily Misery" and that seems close to the truth! Whilst a young minister in Llanberis I was warned by one of my elders about one local character "Beware of him" he said, "the dark glasses are inside his head", I have ministered to many with "dark glasses" over the years and unfortunately they have a destructive effect on themselves and their churches! We pray for the guidance of the Spirit to accept our Saviour's invitation to be a light in the world.

Winning the battle for a positive perspective from day to day leads us to a hopeful future. Let us be assured that God, in his infinite love, will lead us ever onwards.

Sure of the Hope for the Future

Our attitude to the future asks for faith and trust, and the readiness to take practical steps that will ensure hope for the generations to come.

At a time when many are concerned about the environment and climate change (In the hope that you've had a look at the Connexion's draft policy document) it is important to foster an attitude of care towards our fellow human beings, and consider the impact of our way of life on the future of others. If we are to see positive developments in the attitude of our people we acknowledge the importance of faith in the process of changing the many who feel hopeless in the Wales of today.

At the beginning of a new period we pray for the blessing of the Spirit to transform us within and outside the family of faith and to lead us to a new experience of His grace, that alone is sufficient and sure to perfect us, even in our weakness!

Happy New Year

New Year Message 2020

Brian Reardon
Moderator of the
Association in the East

It has been said that the end of every year marks a new beginning. As 2020 begins, let us pray that it identifies a new start for our Connexion.

During my year as Moderator of the Association in the East, I have travelled the length and breadth of the Principality serving the English speaking churches through various responsibilities ensuring that we can progress our witness under our churches mission. One of the lasting experiences that have remained with me during my year of office has been the

friendship I have received from all in the different places I visited, especially our Welsh speaking Associations who made me very welcome as I joined them at their Association Meetings.

The whole of our lives seem to be controlled by events and times. In fact, everything we do is controlled, nothing is random even if we seem to suddenly take upon ourselves a particular task or suddenly decide to take an unplanned holiday. There is 'a time for everything', everything under the sun says the prophet Ecclesiastes (Eccs 3:1) God stands before us to guide and direct us during good times and bad, through high days and holidays. With the



passing of time, our lives proceed living each day at a time, often looking back over our shoulders at the year that has just gone measuring it against the success and failure of the present time.

Jesus often spoke about how we should live our lives not only

'one day at a time' or how we should think about tomorrow (Matt 6:34), but in ways that we can help those who walk with us on this great journey that we have all embarked upon.

As we examine our social conscience and evaluate our particular views on this problem or that, we still need to work together in the church to achieve our Christian goal of serving Jesus within the community where we live. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to our mission in any way during 2019, may the Lord bless you all that you have achieved in His name for our Connexion.

May your journey through 2020 be fruitful, faithful and in the service of our Lord. A very happy, peaceful and faithful New Year to you all.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES



Ewloe Green

EWLOE GREEN

Christmas Gift Appeal Fund – 7 December

It has been a tradition for many years at Ewloe Green to hold a Toy Collection Party before Christmas. Once more this

enjoyable event was well - attended and the number of toys donated, in response to the appeal, exceeded all expectations. The gifts were then distributed by Flintshire County Council's Children's Services.

BYE 2019.
HELLO 2020.

May the Lord bless our coming year with spiritual growth, love for people, and many opportunities to spread the Gospel of Life.

This January start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had.

2020 Goals:

1. Put God first.
2. Read the Bible more.
3. Pray more.
4. Trust God always.

GOD BE WITH YOU

TRINITY, WREXHAM

Celebrations for Christmas in Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wrexham started on December 22nd with an All Age Service. The minister, Revd David Jones with us for the service. During the service he presented Mr.

Geraint Williams, who was retiring as Church Treasurer with a card and gift, thanking him for his diligent care of the church finances over many years. Taking part in the service were the Handbell Ringers who played a Carol Medley arranged by the late Mrs Maureen Poole. This was a tribute to Maureen for her contribution to the Handbell Ringers over many years. Also taking part were members of Junior and Senior Sunday School who sang two carols from D. I. Y. Nativity. A cello trio, a Ladies' Singing Group and three soloists from Sunday School took part too. David's talk centred on the importance of realising the true meaning of Christmas. After the service everyone enjoyed refreshments in the Church Hall. The Evening Service was a traditional Lessons and Carols service with the Ladies' Group Singing two carols, one of which was written by one of our former organists. Bryan Evans. There was a service on Christmas Morning in Trinity led by our minister when it was good to see some visitors joining us. Everything was a true Celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [John 8:12]

Young people from Argyle/Rhyddings

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