



Rivertown Voice

Sunday 12th November 2023



The
United
Reformed
Church

SUNDAY Hymns:- **1.** *for the healing of the nations.* **2.** *What shall we pray for those who died.* **3.** *Lest we forget, O God of love, remind us.* **4.** *I have a dream, a man once said.* **5.** *Let there be peace on earth.* **6.** *Lord for the years.*

Bible Readings.

Micah 3.5-12; Psalm 23;

1 Thessalonians 2.9-13; Matthew 5.13-20

11am Remembrance

Sunday Service

Revd. Johnny O'Hanlon

Followed by refreshments

Next Sunday Worship

Revd. Johnny O'Hanlon

God's voice thunders in marvellous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty down-pour.' **Job 37:5-6**

Prayer pointers from Open Doors.

Please pray

That God will have mercy on Israel and Gaza, and bring an end to the conflict.

That the church in Israel and Gaza will be strengthened and offer hope to their communities.

For God to pour out His peace and healing over the nations and comfort all who mourn.

Visit [open doors uk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org)
for more information

Walking for Pancreatic Cancer

Our wonderful Sheila is taking up the challenge!

Would you like to support me?

Dear friends

I've taken on a challenge to raise money from Pancreatic Cancer UK.

I've pledged to walk at least 24 miles during December. Pancreatic Cancer is a cruel disease which is mostly undetected until too late, and research funding is vital. My brother, Chris, died from Pancreatic Cancer.

If you'd like to sponsor me and help in the fight, here's a link to donate online. I'll also have a form for 'in person' donations!

Thanks & blessings, **Sheila K**

<https://fundraise.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/fundraisers/sheilakavanagh>

Christmas shoebox appeal.

T4U Teams for you shoebox appeal.

We will be collecting goods during November. Please add them to the box in the porch or give them to me directly. If you would like to cover and fill your own box you are welcome to do that too.

See Ruth for more information

Follow us on:

Facebook Rivertown URC

and the internet at

WWW.Rivertown.Org.UK



A Christmas present for Frola.

As we draw towards Christmas we thought it would be lovely to send a gift to Frola Edwards the little girl we have been sponsoring for the last couple of years.

**A present for Frola would be £10,
A food hamper for her family £25**

There will be a donation box for us to add to on the coffee bar when we have coffee over the next couple of weeks. I'm sure Frola's grand mother would be extremely grateful if we could manage to collect enough for a hamper to help her feed her grandchildren. More information about Frola and her family is on the notice board in the coffee lounge and on the window ledge in the church.

It would also be lovely to send a photo of our fellowship both to Frola and to add to our shoe box donations.

Hoping we can do this after worship in the next couple of weeks so wear your best smiles. **Ruth**

Happy times with Bill and Joy Hewitt

Bill & Joy have been staying in Llandudno for a couple of weeks (respite care), and several of us have had the real pleasure of visiting them. Firstly, a report from David Clarkson - he and Irene went on Thursday 2nd:

'We've been in Llandudno today to visit Joy and Bill. They're enjoying some time in respite care.

Both are well and coping with advancing years. We shared some time chatting, laughing, remembering, and comforting. We even joined the dancing and singing along to 'Sweet Caroline', 'Save the last waltz', and 'Love me tender' - with Joy leading most of the words. They were wanting to know all about the chapel, and the news of how folk were. They send their love and greetings and ask to be remembered to Rivertown & Garden City.

The communion table (ex Gdn City) is a solid reminder of all the blessings shared over many years.'



Co-incidentally, Sandra and her husband David (who's related to Joy) were with Joy and Bill that same afternoon, and they very kindly took Irene Ireland and myself along when they went again last Tuesday. How lovely it was to see them, and how very pleased they were to see us! Joy doesn't see too well, and Bill doesn't hear too well, but that did not dull their enjoyment or stifle conversation. Sandra played a message for them which Johnny had recorded, and they were quite overwhelmed; Joy prayed aloud for Johnny and his ministry. We left them to their lunch and returned home blessed by our visit to such wonderful, faithful friends.

If you'd like to hear more, just have a word with one of the people involved! And the graphic? A plaque on the wall in the home in Llandudno.

Blessings, **Sheila K**

Progress on our vision for our building



You might be feeling that things have gone a bit quiet lately, so we'd like to update you on progress. The pace is continuing - so much so that Chris has found himself asking God to just slow down a bit!

The architects have redesigned the front of the building to make it more attractive and inviting, following feedback from a potential funder.

Planning permission was granted a few months ago and the Quantity Surveyor has provided costings for the building work (£1.7m).

Our funding strategy is to seek funds in three streams:

- large grants of up to £500k from 3 funders
- smaller targeted grants of up to £100k
- Operating costs for early years until we become financially stable

Johnny and Chris are contacting grant funders and gathering relevant information to prepare bid documents tailored to their specific criteria.

We have already passed Stage 1 for Wales Government strategic funding for £500k and will move to Stage 2 early next year. The typical time to secure funding is 6 to 9 months.

In partnership with FCC Regeneration, we have engaged a consultant, Marc Roberts, to create our business plan. He will present this to both FCC and the building team on December 8th. In the meantime Marc will be holding an open consultation on Monday 20th November from 12.45 to further develop ideas on what we can deliver for the community. All are welcome and existing user groups will receive a personal invitation. Your views are important, please come if you are available.

We have great support and enthusiasm from a variety of local and national organisations, who see Rivertown as a key strategic building and activity to improve things for the people of Shotton/Deeside and add great value to the town. These people include Wales Government regional development team, FFCs Migrant, Communities and Regeneration teams, and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council. All are full of positivity and passion for the project.

Great links continue to be formed as local people are heard, helped and enabled. Coleg Cambria and Theatr Clwyd are strategic partners, and BCUHB Public Health are exploring with us the possible incorporation of a permanent clinic space into the new building.

Finally, a few weeks ago members of the team had the chance to look round the old catholic school off Charmley's Lane car park, with a view to using the building whilst our own building is being renewed. We discovered that the school was not only in good shape but would easily accommodate both Rivertown Fellowship's needs and those of all the current groups. Using the school, which belongs to the Council, would not only ensure continuity but also enable work to go ahead smoothly and potentially save time and money.

Please continue to pray for and support the work we're doing - and if you want to know more just ask a member of the team!

Blessings from the Building Team

Johnny, Chris, Glenis, Linda and Sheila

Welsh places quiz.

1. On Saturday 14th. July 1962, the Beatles played their first ever Welsh concert in? **A. Swansea. B. Rhyl C. Llandudno**
2. In 1196, where was the home to the first Eisteddfod ?
A. Cardigan B. Carmarthen C. Boduan
3. Where was the first castle built in Edward I's "Iron Ring" of fortresses across north Wales to subdue the Welsh? **A. Harlech B. Beaumaris C. Flint**

Last weeks answers A the Trent. B. The Danube A. The Congo