

Welshpool & Bro Hafren Methodist Circuit

Home Worship Sheet – 1st November

This short act of worship has been prepared and written for you by Graham Smith.

Call to worship:

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so that someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We come together – in spirit – to Celebrate and Share God's love'.

A Prayer:

We

Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all around seems bleak
On God's good promise they rely so while they live and when they die
How forcefully they speak the strong who once were weak

We

Give thanks for those whose hope is clear beyond mere mortal sight
Who seek the city God has planned the true eternal promised land
And steer on toward that light a beacon ever bright

We

Give thanks for those whose love is pure a sparkling precious stone
They show by what they say and do an inward beauty warm and true
For God's concerns they own - His love through them is known

We

Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today
Though often by this world despised
their hearts by God are richly prized
Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.

Our prayer we bring in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Martin E Lechebusch (1962)

Hymn: For the healing of the nations

To listen to the hymn in a new tab: press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#).- Close the tab after the hymn.

- 1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow brief life's span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929–2009)

Ephesians 2: 1 - 10

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 5: 1 – 12

To listen to this reading, by David Suchet from BibleGateway in a new tab press Shift and Ctrl together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the reading.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, he said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

New International Version

Reflection

I could very easily present to you today, a LONG, long list of some of the 'saintly' people in my life who helped get me to where I am right now in my faith-journey with God. You will almost never read about them in any church history book, but those names are, I feel sure, written in the Book of Life. Those names and faces are recorded in our hearts and our memories.

There will never be any days in the church calendar set aside to honour and remember them. No, they are just ordinary folks like you and me, but in the course of seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, they ended up touching my life in ways that changed me and had a profound effect on who I am today.

You know, I really can't remember much in particular that they taught me, but I do remember THEM. For me to remember someone from 20, 30, 40 years ago means they must have been special to me. Somehow, by their example and witness to the love and grace of God, they made an indelible mark on me.

What about you? Who are the ones you remember? Who are the 'saintly' folks in your life who guided you to wherever you are right now, sharing in this (unfamiliar) service today, worshipping and praising God, even in these unprecedented times of uncertainty, fear, pain and loss?.

Some of them are long gone, others are more recently departed whom we remember today, and some of them are still alive and still play an important part in our lives.

But the one thing that all these good people have in common is their love for the Lord, and their willingness to allow the Lord to use them in reaching out to and ministering to others, allowing the grace, love, compassion, and generosity of God to shine through them and flow out from them to us and to those around us.

Ephesians Chapter 2 verse 10 reminds us:

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

To me, one of the finest examples of a modern ‘saint’ is an ordinary man, who was born to a German Jewish family in May 1909. The family, moved to London (in 1907) and converted to Christianity.

Later in his life, at the age of 30, this ‘ordinary man’ saved 669 children from the Holocaust. 50 years later, his family and the wider world, discovered his identity.

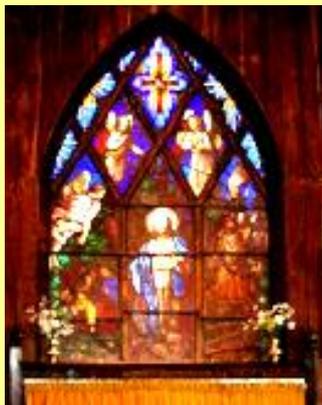
In 2014 it was estimated that around 6000 people, were alive because of that ‘ordinary man’. Who, to my mind was –

God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for HIM to do.

Nicholas Winton would not have called himself a saint. And what he did would not be known to most people had his daughter Barbara not been encouraged to write her father’s biography (“If it’s Not Impossible....”). (Sir) Nicholas Winton was ‘called to higher service’ July 2015 at the age of 106. Where, I feel sure he heard the words of his maker “well done thou good and faithful servant”

God chooses who He will to accomplish His purposes in the world – look at the (very ordinary) disciples who were chosen to establish the early church – that has never stopped growing! Look at Saul the persecutor – we call him now....Saint Paul! – a Lighthouse of the Christian faith.

There have, and always will, be 'saints' in every generation – they may not be easily recognised – but we each recognise those we regard as 'our' saints.



Like a stained-glass window in church depicting the saints of times past, what makes them a saint is.....that the light of the sun SON shines through them!.

*(Window of St Mary's Church, Trelystan, Leighton)
I was a teenager when I first sat looking at this window, in all its glory, lit up by the morning sun. I have never forgotten that awesome experience.*

On this Day, as we remember the special people in our lives, the question I would ask myself and you is, "Will anyone remember me? Will I be remembered with fondness and gratitude and thanksgiving on some November Day 10, 20, 40 years from now?"

Think about this for a minute: We have encountered lots and lots of people in our lives - relatives, friends, colleagues, teachers, neighbours – lots of people. Why is it that some of them stand out in our memories, while so many others are just.....well,.... there?

I remember a grumpy, old lady – a devoted and regular church goer who never seemed to have a kind word or a warm smile for anyone. All I learned from her was how to avoid her, and when she died, I felt sad that her church going had seemingly had so little effect on her life.

What makes the difference in how we remember someone?

Perhaps a clue is found in our Gospel reading for today where Jesus begins the Sermon of the Mount with the familiar Beatitudes.

Who are the blessed ones? Who are the ones that Jesus holds up as the example and model for us? What are those admirable characteristics displayed in Jesus' own life?

Jesus tells us:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit
- Blessed are those who feel the weight of the world's suffering,
- Blessed are the humble,
- Blessed are those who hunger and long for what is right and good,

- **Blessed are those who show mercy and compassion,**
- **Blessed are the ones who are pure in heart, who don't have any room for bitterness or anger or selfish greed,**
- **Blessed are those who work for peace and reconciliation in the home, the church, the community,**
- **Blessed are those who are willing to accept the ridicule and cruel treatment of others in order to stand up for what is right and good as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Wesley brothers were among them.**

The people that I remember, the 'saints' in my life, were and are people like that! And I suspect that the people that YOU remember today share those same qualities and characteristics.

And so once again we get back to that question, "Will I be remembered?"

Will you be remembered in the years to come? And, how will we be remembered?" How would you hope to be remembered?

Doesn't it seem to make sense that if we are to be remembered in the same way that we remember THOSE saintly people in our lives, then we need to be developing those same traits and qualities and characteristics that Jesus holds out before us today? To be living today in a way that puts into practice what Jesus teaches, in a way that follows the example of those special people in our lives.

The bible encourages us to let love, compassion, forgiveness, peace, humility, generosity, graciousness characterize our lives. Take a look at yourself and see if you are becoming the person you want to be, the person God made you to be. Strive for the qualities that you admire and respect in others so that you, too, might be numbered among the saintly folks that we honour and thank God for today. What was good for them can surely be good for us.

We are called to be loving, kind, compassionate, generous, faithful people. This is the way God created us to be, and when we are anything less than that, we diminish our own lives, and we diminish the lives of those around us.

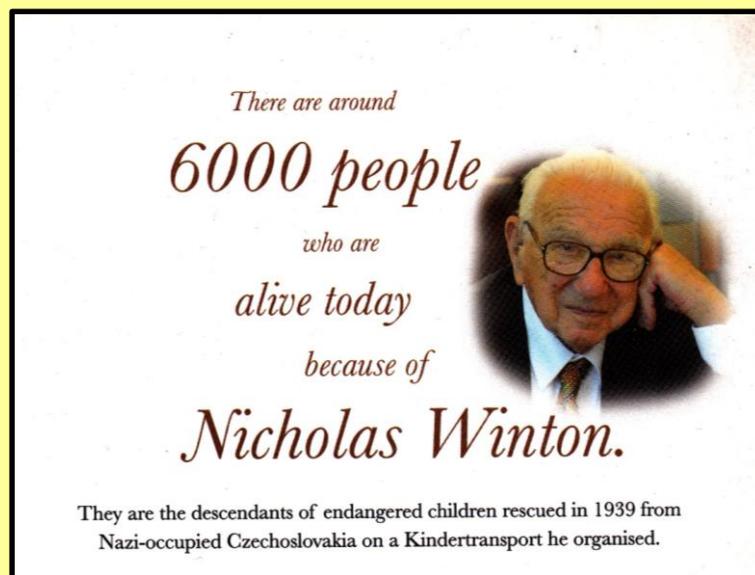
But when we live according to God's will, we end up experiencing life to

its fullest, and we bring joy and happiness to those around us. And those are the kind of people that we remember – aren't they?!

I want to make clear here that I am not saying that if you are a grouchy, grumbling, stingy ole Scrooge....that God doesn't love you and you'll never make it into heaven! No, fortunately for us, for all of us, God's grace and forgiveness is extended to everyone who comes to Jesus Christ in faith and trust. God's love is offered to all willing to receive it. We, as Christians, focus on the ETERNAL LIGHT of God's love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, the ONLY power that HAS and WILL continue to defeat the darkness that so often threatens us all.

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

Are we, the ordinary folk, called to be the 'saints' of our day?



*There are around
6000 people
who are
alive today
because of
Nicholas Winton.*

They are the descendants of endangered children rescued in 1939 from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia on a Kindertransport he organised.

The graphic features a portrait of Nicholas Winton, an elderly man with glasses, resting his head on his hand. The text is arranged in a vertical column to the left of the portrait, with the name 'Nicholas Winton.' in a larger, bold font. Below the portrait, a small caption explains the significance of the number 6000.

We bring before God the needs of our world

Lord, we pray for a world weighed down by many troubles. May your light and wisdom guide those who hold positions of responsibility and power in our nation and in our world. May they be guided in the almost impossible decisions they are called upon to make. They especially need your help in these dark times.

Lord, we live in a greedy world where so many people are misused and exploited by others. Hear our prayer for those who are homeless, those

who live as refugees and those who struggle in places of vulnerability and poverty.

Loving Lord, make your church in every place compassionate, strong and courageous in your service. Though we feel inadequate and unable to do much to help, may we seek your power and be open to receive your love; so may we be willing and able to celebrate and share your love with others, in our words and actions.

Gracious Lord, hear us as we pray for ALL in need today: there are so many who are grieving, many more who are lonely, worried or anxious. We pray for all who are ill, wherever they are, especially those affected by the Covid 19 virus. We pray for their care, treatment and recovery, and for the health and safety of all who are caring for them, and for all skilled and dedicated front-line workers.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves, and for those that we love. As we continue to come to terms with this horrible pandemic we pray for the life of our communities: for schools, shops and all places of work. As we plan and work to re-open society may we do so safely, and always with care and thought for others. We think of those who have lost jobs or businesses, and we pray for those who are continuing to self-isolate, for all who feel they remain vulnerable. May we all act with care, looking out for one another and keeping safe ourselves. We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught His first disciples.....

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen

Hymn: Now praise we great and famous men

To listen to the tune in a new tab: press **Shift** and **Ctrl** together and click [here](#). Close the tab after the hymn. (Played to the tune Domius Regit Me –‘The King of love my shepherd is’)

- 1** Now praise we great and famous men,
The fathers named in story;
And praise the Lord who now as then
Reveals in man His glory.
- 2** Praise we the wise and brave and strong,
Who graced their generation;
Who helped the right, and fought the wrong,
And made our folk a nation.
- 3** Praise we the great of heart and mind,
The singers sweetly gifted,
Whose music like a mighty wind
The souls of men uplifted.
- 4** Praise we the peaceful men of skill
Who builded homes of beauty,
And, rich in art, made richer still
The brotherhood of duty.
- 5** So praise we great and famous men,
The fathers, named in story;
And praise the Lord who now as then
Reveals in man His glory.
- 6** In peace their sacred ashes rest,
Fulfilled their day's endeavour;
They blessed the earth, and they are blessed
Of God and man forever.

7 So praise we great and famous men,
The fathers named in story;
And praise the Lord who now as then
Reveals in man His glory.

William George Tarrant (1853-1928)

Blessing

**Give thanks for saints of ages past and saints alive today
Though often by this world despised
their hearts by God are richly prized
Give thanks that we may say we share their pilgrim way.
Amen**

A VERY RELUCTANT HERO

NEW ANNUAL: Sir Winton with rescued Czech boy

By Monica Porter

Sir Nicholas Winton is a man who has spent his life in the shadow of his own heroism. At the age of 101, he is still treated like royalty for selflessly saving hundreds of children's lives. He just can't understand what all the fuss is about.

'I'm not a hero, so many people assisted me'

The children he saved have their own families now.

At the age of 101 Sir Nicholas Winton is an idol, still treated like royalty for selflessly saving hundreds of children's lives. He just can't understand what all the fuss is about

'The children he saved have their own families now'

PHOTO: Sir Nicholas Winton with the children he saved during the evacuation of Czech children to Britain in 1939.