Thanksgiving 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters

We can read of the first settlers in America who in 1621, gave thanks for their first successful harvest. It is reported that they invited the local native Americans to celebrate and ‘give thanks’ with them knowing that it was only through their generosity in providing food and shelter that the settlers survived their first winter. We can imagine the joy and relief they must have felt in reaping the crops they had so carefully planted as seeds months before. It was indeed a matter of life and death for them that the crops didn’t fail.

And so, we come to our modern-day times. For the vast majority of us, we are far removed from the back-breaking work of preparing the soil and planting the seed; of hoping and praying for rain and sunshine; spending days and weeks removing weeds and protecting the crops from the wind and hail. We can simply go to a supermarket which has shelves laden with food on offer to us from all around the world. We don’t even necessarily have to cook the food as there are many options for ready cooked meals; fast food or for eating out. For these reasons the worries and concerns of our forefathers are maybe difficult for our generation to comprehend. On the other hand, we may not readily experience the same level joy and thankfulness in reaping the fruits of our own labours.

For us to have a desire to ‘give thanks’ we need to first of all reflect on what has first been given to us through grace and then to appreciate and treasure it. At a simple level of reflection, we can be thankful if we have access to the elements for our survival such as clean water, shelter and food, however, as we reflect more we recognise and appreciate deeper life-enriching gifts. In Romans 15:13, Paul explains that through our hope in God we receive joy and peace and that we will have an abundance of hope. This means we have more than we need and therefore should share our hope with those around us.

In a world where there is so much emphasis on receiving and taking, let us, like those first settlers, focus on giving and sharing our thanks and offerings to God for everything we have received out of His love. We can also use the opportunity to invite our neighbours to share in our joy, our peace and in our hope for the return of the Lord Jesus and eternal life.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

With love and greetings

David Heynes

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Ministers

Priest Nlandu Sila

Priest Nlandu Sila was commissioned as rector of Limerick congregation by our District Apostle Krause on 7th April 2019.

After missing my state diploma, being weak without hope, suddenly a friend invited me to attend a divine service. I responded to an invitation from the priest after the service to stay and talk about the New Apostolic faith; he convinced me with his words.

By surprise on the Tuesday of the following week, the priest visited me at home and I was touched, from there I did not stop attending divine service.

I am happy to serve my God and also to receive the servants of God in our congregation. I do worry when preparing for a divine service and thinking about serving God’s children and I find I can only become calm when service is over.

In my spare time, I read the bible so that I can acquire bible knowledge and repair everything that was done during the week, and sometimes my friends invite me to dinner together.
Sunday School
Voice of the child

Sunday school teacher, Joyce Winkler, provides a follow up report on what our children think about their classes.

In January 2019, congregations in the UK and Ireland were sent a list with questions to collect the children’s thoughts and opinions within our church. This article gives a short summary of the outcome.

At the end of the project, 15 congregations had returned their findings and in total 76 children had been asked to comment on 7 questions. The children were of a mixed age range (6 - 14 years old) and they all are part of Sunday School, Religious Instruction or Confirmation education.

Although all congregations use the same teaching materials, the circumstances under which children are taught can differ greatly. Some children are taught during the morning service, some are taught after the service or a mix of the two. Although the questions did not reflect the level of enjoyment of a church service, some children made comments on how they experience being part of the morning services.

Outcomes
- Children enjoy Sunday school. They enjoy the creative experiences and learning more about the bible and their faith. They often mention the same types of activities, not the wide range that is on offer on the teaching website.
- RI pupils enjoy the discussions and being active with faith related information. They enjoy this level of interaction and they miss that in the main service.
- Some RI pupils would like the teaching material to be more creative.
- Children who have experienced children’s services are very positive about this event. They enjoy the interactive element on the service and the fact that they have an opportunity to meet other children.
- The children feel mixed about traveling to other congregations. Some find it exciting, for other is too far or they feel out of their comfort zone.

These results were discussed within the Senior Leadership Team, especially with the Apostle and Priest Jeremy Dawson, which resulted in a plan of action. For example, we are exploring how we can make the RI lesson more interactive and how we can support teenagers in their interest in our church and the running of it. It is important to make our children feel welcome and increasingly part of the services by addressing them in more child friendly language and using examples that are of interest to them.

Joyce says: ‘It is important to create further opportunities for children to meet other children by increasing the number of children’s services and making them more interactive. We are also developing ways for children to be part of larger events, like district services.’

Joyce Winkler

Ministers

Priest Pier Kooijinga

Pier Kooijenga was ordained on 13th July as priest in our Glasgow congregation.

How did you become New Apostolic?
My uncle was a self-employed truck driver and my dad joined him on a trip and they had an accident. At that point he was driving for the rector of the Sneek-Sperk-hem congregation in The Netherlands. After the accident, the rector visited our family home and testified to my mother and father and invited us to church. I was sealed alongside my mum, dad and older sister by District-Apostle Schumacher in Heerenveen in 1972.

What brings you joy in your ministry?
There are many things joyful in the ministry, having fellowship with Christ and being able to serve holy communion is an immense privilege and I hope I am worthyly serving it. I am joyful to be able to serve my brothers and sisters and spend time with my them in soul care visits and fellowship.

Any special experience you would like to share?
I spent my teenage years in care, first in foster care, which did not work out and subsequently in a residential children's home where I lived for nearly 3 years. I left care with no qualifications and spent a year in very dark, challenging and destructive conditions living with “friends”. I had a road to Damascus experience and was given a chance to work during the day and finish high school at night, which I passed with exceptional grades. I subsequently felt a movement in my soul that I should go back to church (I had not attended church from age 14 to 21). The ministers looked after me with soul care visits and I decided to choose for the Lord. When I had to do an internship for my degree my eye fell on Ayr in Scotland because there was a New Apostolic church not far from there in Glasgow. I subsequently met my wife and the rest is history. Looking back, I believe my heavenly Father has looked after me during challenging times.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I like watching films with my family. I also like hill walking and I am one Munro short from finishing them all. Another great hobby of mine is cycling and I did 2500 miles this year commuting to work.
Sister Johanna Price

Brynamman Congregation, Wales, UK.

My story begins in Poland, in a small town called Pabjienice near Lodz, where I was born on 6th June 1932, to a Folksdeutsch father and a Polish mother. I lived through WW2, but by 1945 I was an orphan. After many frightening adventures, in which the hand of God was ever present, I found myself in England aged 18, not speaking English and working as an au pair. I became friends with a German New Apostolic sister who introduced me to the church. At last I found peace and security, ‘I had come home.’

In those days, apostles visited only every two years or so. I was sealed by Apostle John Fendt Senior, (the grandfather of present Apostle John Fendt) in Woodford, London in 1951. In 1954 I met my husband on a blind date set up by a New Apostolic girlfriend.
Ron Price was a Welshman and after our first meeting, with typical Celtic passion, he began telling everyone I was the girl he was going to marry. I refused because he was not New Apostolic, but he did not give up and decided to learn everything about our faith. Ron knew the scriptures well and was a scholar in his own right. He went from pillar to post, soaking up knowledge, often discussing the doctrine late into the night. Only when he was adopted did we become engaged to be married. Ron was sealed and ordained into the deacon ministry by District Apostle Fendt Snr, in 1955.

In 1960 my husband was simultaneously ordained as evangelist and rector for the new London Central church.

At that time, we lived relatively close to London Central and consequently we were blessed by many apostles visiting our home. Once the District Apostle Michael Kraus was regaled by our budgerigar shouting out; "Let’s say prayers, let’s say prayers!” It was a bit embarrassing, but Ron explained the bird was only repeating what he’d heard so often!

I have many happy memories of walking through Holland Park with my four young children, singing hymns on our way to church. In those days there were two Sunday services, so our home was always full of members and families who could not get back and forth in time, but somehow there was always enough to go around.

In the late 1960’s, District Apostle Michael Kraus asked for volunteers to develop the missionary work in Ceylon and India. My husband began visiting Ceylon in 1968. By 1969 it was decided that permanent residence in India was necessary. Ron and I, together with his parents, had just moved to Surrey. Ron now faced a dilemma; he was about to finish his teacher training course, we had four young children, and Ron’s dependent parents to care for. As much as his heart and soul urged him, Ron decided not to volunteer; but if God asked him, we would go!

I remember the night he knelt and made that commitment to God, he was suddenly daunted by his promise of 5 years in a strange country, but he knelt down again and cried out: ‘Lord, I mean it, if you ask, we will go,’ and the District Apostle Kraus did ask! We packed up and left our home for India early January 1970.

The journey itself was an adventure because the Suez Canal was closed in crisis, so our ship had to sail around the Cape of Good Hope, with many stops. In Cape Town and Durban, we received a wonderful welcome from our brothers and sisters and spent time with the late Apostle Gut. When we eventually arrived in Delhi the region had not seen rain for ten years; clay villages had risen out of the dry riverbed, but that year the Lord blessed us with the miracle of a life-saving monsoon! Children danced with joy, but many homes were swept away. We saw poverty and disease as never before, however, also experienced many blessings and miracles. There are too many experiences to recount here, but in one poor rural compound a young woman had suffered a miscarriage resulting in extreme depression; she had not left her tiny hovel for 2 years. Her husband asked Ron to pray for healing. During that service she came out and sat among us. In due course she would stand at his side as translator.

In that year, the Indian government brought out harsh anti-conversion laws: if missionaries without ‘proper employment’ were reported and caught, they could be imprisoned and/or deported; sadly, the church sanctioned our return home before the end of the first year. The memories of our time in India are still vibrant today and lifelong friendships have enabled my children to revisit India many times.

In 1978 my husband’s father passed away leaving instructions to be buried in Wales. This was the catalyst for Ron to return to ‘The Land of His Fathers’. Faithful brothers, including our dear Bishop David Middleton, had worked for many years serving individuals in Wales. So, we were on the move...
again; the first service held in Brynamman was service for the departed in March 1980.

In 1990 my husband, aged only 61, suddenly passed away from cancer. This was a great shock for us all. His favourite saying was: ‘My Faith is My Life, and My Life is My Faith.’ It is the epitaph on his grave where he lies buried alongside his parents overlooking the valley.

In due course, my sons, Morgan and Owen, were ordained priests, but I want to express my thanks to the faithful ministers who travelled long distances to support us after my husband died.

It became my mission to have our own church in Brynamman. I admit I became the ‘persistent widow.’ I relentlessly pursued the apostles in my quest, especially the late Apostle Wagner. I contacted the trustees of the derelict old Gospel Hall in the village and put forward our case. Ten years after Ron’s death, in January 2000, our beautiful church in Brynamman was built and dedicated by the Apostle John Fendt.

In 1997, the congregation was augmented by the arrival of the Mergler family from Germany. In 2002, Shaun Jefferson arrived from Zimbabwe; in due course both were ordained deacons and, in 2009, priests for Brynamman.

My next mission was to live next door to the church so in my old age I could be near my heart’s desire. This was a tall order as housing was in short supply, but once again a miracle occurred and since 2009, I have been able to walk the few steps from my door to the Lord’s house.

The next project was to seek funding to build our Remembrance Garden; we now have a beautiful garden and decked area, with many plaques in memory of loved ones and friends. There also stands an old oak tree bearing the words, ‘My Faith is My Life and My Life is My Faith,’ in memory of my dear husband.

Perhaps one day, I will also stand in spirit in our Garden of Remembrance, awaiting the return of our Lord. I should like my epitaph to be: ‘For the word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.’ Hebrews 4:12 KJV.

I’ve learned during my long years, there is no point in dwelling on our sufferings; our lives are just a passing moment. If we work hard to develop a persistent and honest prayer life; then our personal relationship with God will become ever stronger and we will have nothing to fear and will have the strength to endure.

Everyone is invited to visit beautiful Wales and experience the love of Brynamman Congregation; better still, move here and you will receive a warm and lasting welcome.

Ministers

Priest Stanley Chirwa

Stanley Chirwa was reinstated on 13th July as priest in our Glasgow congregation

How did I become a New Apostolic?
In 2009, I met Josephine, a dedicated member of New Apostolic Church but I was from a different church. I was interested to know more about her and the church she belonged to. We started dating within the same year and I used to go with her to church. Gradually, with so much help from Deacon Isaac Silo, I started understanding the doctrine of the church until I was adopted in 2015. Honestly, it is the only church I have known which has provided answers to many questions I had about my faith and future as a child of God.

Any special experiences you would like to share?
Ever since I joined New Apostolic Church, I have seen the hand of God in many things in my life and that of my family. Yes, I have many experiences which I can gladly call them testimonies. I will only mention one I had recently.

My experience started just after my wife got her scholarship to study in the UK which is a testimony of how God works. She came to the UK alone and I was in Malawi awaiting completion of my studies. She left in October and my plan was to join her after I graduated. Things did not go as planned. My graduation date kept on changing. All that we knew was to remain faithful. Finally, the day for graduation was scheduled and it was in December 2018 on 20th but my name was not yet on the list of students graduating. You can imagine how depressed I was and how this could affect my trip to join my dear wife in the UK. Plans started to change I started to wait for a later date of graduation in April 2019. On 19th December 2018, just around 10 a.m. I received a call from school asking me if I am coming for rehearsals because I was on the list of students graduating the following day. This was God. The moment you are about to give up it is when the answer is around the corner. I finally graduated and joined my wife a couple of months later.

How do you spend you free time?
I spend my free time mostly home with my family whilst listening to music and watching movies. Some of my free time I use to visit friends and church members. Now that I am in the UK, I also have lots of exciting places to visit and see

What brings you joy in your ministry?
Preaching and teaching the word of God brings me joy. In Malawi, I was one of the New Apostolic Church committee members who were tasked to bring the teaching of the church to all, even non-NAC members.
How did I become a New Apostolic?

On 11th November 1989, I got married to my high school sweetheart; she was born New Apostolic. I went to church on Sundays with my wife and sat and listened to the word that was given to us.

There were many days I prayed to the Lord and asked Him, ‘please let me understand and open up my mind and heart to grow my faith in thee.’

Some days it would feel as if the priest was just talking to me and knew what my concerns and challenges were at that time. I realised that this is God’s work giving us the word and guidance in our daily lives that will keep us on the right path.

This is when I know I am in the right place; this is the church I want my children to be in and we will grow in our faith together and stronger as days go by. It made it easy for me to have the strong support from my wife, who would always help me understand and explained to me questions I might have after a service.

The support from the ministers in my time becoming New Apostolic was endless. There was a time when I had the opportunity to work with my father-in-law and we would talk about the church and how we would prepare ourselves for the day the Lord comes.

Experience I would like to share?

I have a lot of experiences but this one is special to me.

It happened a long time ago when I was sent on a job deep up in Africa about 1600 miles from home. I worked on a contract where it took me all day and all night to complete the work so that we could eliminate the down time on the site. I finished the job at 8 a.m. and packed all my tools to head back home to be in time for my daughter’s birthday. I knew I had the whole day and still the whole night’s driving ahead of me and prayed to God and asked: ‘Please Lord help me and give me the strength to get home safely.’ I drove that whole day without stopping to rest only to fill up with diesel. The worst was still to come and that was driving at night on this long dark road. I had no sleep for more than 30 hours.

It soon became darker and darker and about 9 p.m. I realised that I was not feeling tired at all. While driving on this long black road I could not miss the bright star in the sky shining through my driver window. I drove for 3 more hours or so still looking at the bright star and I realised this is The Lords work; He was keeping His hand over me and kept me safe. I never got tired and it felt as if I could drive for days nonstop. I arrived back home at 5 a.m. with the star still shining right above me, realising that I had been awake for 48 hours and still felt as strong as a bull. That can only be the work of God.

How do I spend my free time?

When I do have some spare time, I go riding on my super bike over the mountains on Isle of Man. I also like to watch moto GP.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and wishing you all a blessed day.
him. Darius, who was a pagan king, could eventually recognise and express via their experiences together that there was only one God.

When we feel and experience signs and wonders, we become aware of the greatness of our Lord, let us remain together and have the goal of our faith in our hearts.

Continue to invest our gifts and talents into the Lord’s work so that He can bless the whole congregation and remain following the chief apostle and Jesus Christ.

**Assisting ministers.**

**Priest Elvis Beya:** It’s wonderful be here and serve the Lord. We heard how loyal and connected Daniel remained to God. I can imagine that although Daniel knew God was with him, he was still human and would still experience emotions of fear.

We are encouraged to have fellowship with one another and use our gifts and talents to serve the Lord. Today we have been called to have a connection with our ministers and Jesus Christ. Our Lords counts all of us as important let us strive together to the goal of our faith.

**Priest Tim Clement:** Under the word today I was reminded how much more should we be an example and praise our heavenly Father. We have been rescued again and again throughout our lives and in turn we can help each other. We know that God desires all mankind to be saved; wherever we are, let us be thankful and share this with others.

**District Evangelist Karl Milton:** We serve the living God; being steadfast in our faith, despite the winds of doubt. When we come into His house we can be rejuvinated by the holy spirit. Daniel interpreted the King’s dream - however, he asked to be alone and to pray to his God before advising of its meaning. He drew close to his living God. When we do this our Lord sees our hearts and can bless us.

**District Apostle Krause:** the peace of the risen one has the same power as it did the very first time with Jesus. He is not willing to look back to the past, He knows what we need now. This allows us to learn and become closer to Him. Let us have a deliberate rest and quiet in our heart to prepare ourselves for holy communion.

The congregation could witness a little child receive holy sealing and holy communion was celebrated for the departed. Everyone enjoyed some time together in fellowship after the service.

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**Meet Jessie Parker – music co-ordinator for the South-West**

Jessie lives in Swindon and has three children – she is a member of the chamber choir and is a talented multi-instrumentalist.

Being a co-ordinator and music ambassador means being a point of contact for the music leaders, organising resources and helping develop music talent.

Jessie works as a claims assessor in insurance and plays piano, flute, recorder and is currently teaching herself the trumpet and cello.

She says: ‘Music helps me relax and process life – I love singing and there is such a positive community and friendship in the chamber choir. Music really does bring me peace.’

Juggling work, family life and church commitments clearly gives Jessie a lot of joy and she has further plans for the region. She adds: ‘I would like to develop the music further and be as welcoming as possible, especially for the children. Hopefully inspiring them to learn the recorder and to sing – I get such a kick out of trying new things and it would be wonderful to have a children’s community of music in the south west.’
Since July 2019
Ordinations, Retirements and other events

Ordinations / Reinstatements:
P. Kooijenga, Priest, Glasgow
S. Chirwa, Priest, Glasgow
J. Van Wyngaardt, Deacon, Isle of Man

Retired:
Dcn R. Anderson, Glasgow

Divine service
Apostle Heynes’ schedule in the UK

02.10.19 wed Divine Service Romford
05.10.19 sat Divine Service Limerick
06.10.19 sun Divine Service Tullamore
09.10.19 wed Divine Service London - Harrow
13.10.19 sun Divine Service Birmingham
16.10.19 wed Divine Service Thames Ditton
20.10.19 sun With Chief Apostle Mulhouse
23.10.19 wed Divine Service Cambridge
27.10.19 sun Divine Service Leicester
03.11.19 sun with District Apostle Kaltenkirchen
06.11.19 wed holiday
10.11.19 sun holiday
13.11.19 wed holiday
17.11.19 sun Divine Service Camberley
20.11.19 wed Divine Service Corby
20.11.19 wed Divine Service Corby
23.11.19 sat Divine Service Estonia
24.11.19 sun Divine Service Estonia
27.11.19 wed Divine Service Camberley
01.12.19 sun Divine Service Walthamstow
04.12.19 wed Divine Service Brynamman
08.12.19 sun Divine Service Trim
08.12.19 sun Divine Service Carrickmacross
11.12.19 wed Divine Service Thames Ditton
15.12.19 sun Divine Service Sheffield
19.12.19 thurs with District Apostle Swindon
22.12.19 sun Divine Service Manchester
25.12.19 wed Divine Service Chelsfield
29.12.19 sun with Chief Apostle Stade

A note from the Editor…
Some of you who have taken the time to write to me advising how much you enjoy reading the newsletter. It really is a team effort and it touches our hearts to hear from you. Thank you so much.

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