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## WEEKLY LETTER – 18 DECEMBER 2022



Matthew 1-18-25

### The wonder and joy of being a just person

You will know this beautiful section in Matthew's gospel so well, for here we find that Mary and Joseph are to be married. While Mary is betrothed to Joseph she continued to live in her parents' home, and under their protection. After a year, Joseph will invite Mary to be with him in their new home, and this act will seal their marriage vows.

What follows is a devastating blow to Joseph, because he will assume that Mary has broken their engagement vow. All his experience, the inevitable emotional distress and humiliation in discovering that his wife to be is pregnant meant he should end their relationship. We are then told, "Joseph being a just man ....." and this changes everything, and I mean everything.

For these words express wonderfully the heart of a good person. For they point to Joseph having a living relationship with God's word, and who delights in the law of the Lord. The picture we receive is that Joseph is like a tree, planted beside the flowing waters, constantly and consistently bringing forth fruit, for Joseph's roots are sunk into the life of God. He therefore is a "happy man" who lives a 'blessed' life, because he trusts the Living God. This choice made by Joseph enables him to understand the Jewish law correctly, for Joseph interprets and applies the law with love, and therefore cannot, nor will he give Mary up to public shame.

Joseph does what is right, even in his hour of profound disappointment and personal sadness. He somehow shows that the Laws of God and love are unified, and this understanding enables Joseph to accept the most incredible news.

Let us pray that you too, will continue to have a desire to be just, so that others will see that the precious pearly of the gospel is a gift to all, and changes the way you can see life.

**Stephen**

**Sunday Morning Family Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Mrs Judy Harris  
Bible Readings: Luke 2.1-20: Matthew 2.1-12**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – Hall Street, Llanelli.**

Tea and Chat/Winter Hub in Christ Well will next meet at 2 pm on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

## *CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY*

Mount Calvary Sunday – 18<sup>th</sup> December – 6 pm Carol Service  
Friday – 24<sup>th</sup> December - 2 pm Christmas Eve Celebration

Wesley, Eaton Road Methodist – Friday – 24<sup>th</sup> December – 4 pm - Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Christ Well Sunday – 25<sup>th</sup> December – 10 am Christmas Day Service



Volunteers needed please .... for the Community Christmas Meal being held at Christ Well on Christmas Day. Please get in touch with Adella if you would like to help. A good time will be had by all.

### **Future Ministry in Christ Well**

We are delighted to announce that after the Church Meeting on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, when Christ Well voted unanimously to extend a Call to the Rev Simon Walking (who is currently Moderator of the Synod of Wales), to be Minister of Word and Sacrament among us, and to serve within the Swansea Region of the URC.

Simon has now written to accept the Call and the Synod Pastoral Committee has concurred unanimously with the Call. We thank God that we have been led to this moment and now look forward to working in partnership and ministry together in the coming years.

Simon and Sue will be moving to Swansea in the summer of next year. We pray God's blessing on them as they prepare for this new ministry in a new area.

Noel Davies



## **The excitement and pleasure of Christmas dinner is one of our most cherished traditions...**

In Malawi, it's something that families - like Fyness' - cherish too. But hunger has grown, due to the climate crisis. Sadly, many families will have little or nothing left to eat this Christmas.

Hotter temperatures, drought, destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing food shortages. This year, many will struggle even to have their staple food of maize porridge.

[As Fyness tends to her bountiful garden](#), she remembers what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I was lacking food. I struggled to find food,' she says. Now, she's able to share the festive joy of a plate piled high; of plates filled with delicious chicken and rice as the special, once-a-year meal.

Your gift could enable someone like Fyness to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate change. So please, reach out and share the greatest Christmas tradition of all – love.

**This Christmas, could you give a gift of love to help mums like Fyness lift their families out of hunger?**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

On Christmas Day all the loose collection will be added to the donations received in the Christian Aid envelopes.

#### **Christmas Cards**

In previous years we have decided to give a donation to a local Charity rather than send Christmas cards to Church Members. We would like to do the same this year, and the Elders are suggesting that we support Unity in Diversity.

If you wish to be involved please give your name to Cynthia by Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, and it will be included in next week's letter. If sending a cheque please make it payable to Christ Well.

### *The Magic of Christmas*

It's nearly Christmas and seen all around  
Are bright lights in windows and Christmas sounds;  
The darkness of night lit up by bright candles,  
While outside the doors are wreaths and gold handles,  
Away from the snow and brisk outside cold,  
Trees decorated with ornaments and tinsels of gold.  
It's a magical time for families everywhere –  
With turkey and stuffing. It's the season of care.  
The presents at Christmas are such a delight

As Santa arrives as you sleep in the night.  
And across the night sky, snow falls slowly –  
The birth day of Jesus is extremely holy.

*Jacob Ackroyd (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)*

