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**Weekly Letter - 23 April 2023**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Luke 24.13-35**

The Great Christian hope, "You will not abandon my life to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see corruption". Ps.16.10

The road to Emmaus is in the same league as 'The Good Samaritan', and 'The return of the prodigal son', because they contain a bottomless pit (probably not the best words to use during Easter!) of meaning, truth and inspiration. So, as always I hope you will thoroughly enjoy reading the whole of Luke 24. Try reading it out loud, as this slows you down, and its meaning can more easily echo in your soul.

If you trust that your life has meaning and purpose, you then have to ask, "if this is true, then why would it come to an end?" Life for thousands of years in the west has been seen as sacred, irreplaceable, unique and therefore of ultimate value.

Therefore to say you believe in the resurrection logically means you acknowledge fully that life is sacred, and is sustained by a greater power than ourselves. We don't have the power to make ourselves sacred, and nobody can buy another one of you!

What is this power? It is the creative power of life and love, the One who stands before creation, before matter and cherishes every part of his creation. It is the one who is not tied to the law of physical death, for his power is greater than the power of death. That is why 'people of The Way' delight in singing or saying, "Alleluia", for today we celebrate the power of God, who respects his creation, without being tied to the laws of death.

**Stephen**

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Stephen Baker.  
Bible Reading: Luke 24.13-35

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton

## **Good Friday and Easter Sunday Morning Worship**

Both Services were well attended, especially Good Friday when we welcomed members of other Churches in Manselton/Brynhyfryd to share in our Worship, which we were unable to do during the years of the Covid pandemic.

On Easter Day we celebrated that **Jesus is Risen**. It was a lovely surprise that Jessie Griffiths (who had her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in February), was well enough to come to Christ Well with her daughter Carol to share in our Worship once again.

Thank you to Simon Walkling, Synod Moderator, for leading our Easter Services, and to his Son Ben for being his chauffeur as his Wife Sue was at home looking after her elderly Father.

Simon will become our Minister in September, and we assure him and his family of our care and support as they make preparations for their move to Swansea. God Bless.

## **Prayers for Every Household**

From the end of April we will be delivering letters to the houses in Manselton, to a different street each week. We will be asking that if anyone has any prayer requests, to let us know by phone, email or by posting them through the Church door. These prayers will be offered on the following Sunday.

If you would be willing to go on a rota to deliver the letters.

## **GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

On **23rd April at 3 pm** the Government is doing a test alert as part of the new Emergency Alert system. Mobile phone masts in the surrounding area will broadcast an alert. Every compatible mobile phone or tablet in range of a mast will receive the alert. Your mobile phone or tablet does not have to be connected to mobile data or Wi-Fi to get the alerts.

The alert will say: *"This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there is a life threatening emergency nearby."* e.g. severe flooding.

*In an actual emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself safe visit: [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts) for more information.*

If anyone has a secret mobile phone hidden from an abusive partner, remember to switch it off or put it in airplane mode or the phone will be activated with the loud alert on 23rd April. This may put victims of domestic abuse at risk.

You can opt out of emergency alerts. To opt out: search your settings for 'emergency alerts'.

Turn off "severe alerts' and 'extreme alerts'.

## **Notes from Spring Synod of the URC in Wales - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023, held on Zoom**

This was an excellent opportunity to hear about what is going on in the wider Church and to meet up with members of other URC Churches around Wales. For a small Church the URC, both at UK and Welsh level, achieves a great deal.

## **The Whole People of God Report**

This Report explores what it means to be the Church today and tomorrow, whether we are ministers, lay preachers, elders, members, youth, children, friends, or occasional visitors, this is for us. Together we make up the family of the Church, so how can we contribute from where we are to building up the people of God in and through our Church.

## **Called and Committed to Ministry and Service Report**

This Report is a reminder that God still calls people to serve within the Church of Christ. What skills do you have? God can use them. Do you have time that you could offer? God can use it. Do you have experience and expertise in a particular area? God calls you to commit yourself to use your experience in the service of God. For God still calls. God still equips us with the Spirit to empower us for ministry and service.

## **Listening to Children Report**

This Report challenges us to keep children at the forefront of what we do, and the decisions we make about key issues, and we should ask them how this would affect them. What would they want to contribute to our Church?

## **Creating quiet spaces**

This encourages us to think about those who find meeting strangers, a lot of talking, loud music, and concentrating for a long time when someone is speaking or preaching, very difficult. The Synod wants Churches to think about how we could help such people among us – they could be children, young people, and adults too.

## **Synod Moderator**

This was Simon Walkling's last Synod as Synod Moderator. The Synod's appreciation was extended to him for ten years committed and encouraging service, and our prayers were offered as he prepares for his new ministry here in Swansea.

## **God of Mercy**

(Lectionary Readings: Acts 2: Psalm 116: 1 Peter 1: Luke 24)

God of mercy and grace,  
You alone have the power to open eyes and hearts to  
receive your Son Jesus for who He is.

In your mercy, forgive us our blindness

Forgive us when we stumble in our own ways, giving little  
thought to your ways of goodness and righteousness.

Forgive us when this world bedazzles us:  
with fear and we cannot see your future,  
with temporary treasures and we cannot see your  
eternal rewards,  
with the limits of our own experiences and we cannot  
see your power of salvation.

Thank you, loving God, that as we turn from the blindness  
of our wrong thinking and wrong doing you grace us with  
your very self, your Holy Spirit poured out over us.

Spirit of truth, Spirit of wisdom,  
Spirit of holy fire and new creation-living.  
Come, Spirit of God!

As we meet mercy in Jesus, receiving redemption  
by his blood, stir in us a desire to serve you with compassion,  
kindness and self-giving love.

Hear our cry for mercy! Turn your ear to us and we will  
call on you as long as we live.

We will call on the name of the Lord – on the name of  
the Lord of salvation.

Amen.