



Tel : 01792 415222

Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

WEEKLY LETTER – 9 OCTOBER 2022

Luke 17.11-19

This highly evocative passage about ten people in which all we know about them is that they were seen as the walking dead. This tiny period in Jesus' life probably only lasted a few minutes, in which there are fascinating insights into human nature, the gift of trust in a person, and once again the reputation of Jesus as a healer.

Right at the end of this episode in Jesus' life, Jesus says "rise", or in some translations, "get up! Rise or get up are all words associated with the resurrection and new life.

As you know one of the main reasons why Jesus Christ lived 'among us' was to proclaim new life, therefore the gift of new life is given to numerous people, a boy seized by an evil spirit, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus, Zacchaeus the tax collector, blind Bartimaeus ... a gift to everyone.

When the ten unnamed people call out to Jesus, "have mercy on us", you sense not only their desperate emotional outpouring, but you also wonder how do they trust, for trust is a gift and cannot be created by human will or effort? Or, as they cry out to Jesus, do some of them have a genuine sense of hope, while others have their hearts in their mouths? No doubt as they walk to Jesus, some are all full of fear and anxiety, with their hearts beating wildly, for they longed to be released, and yet they must also have feared, that their awful suffering will just go on, and on?

Perhaps, when they suddenly realize they are healed, they experience too much joy, too much disbelief, and tears of happiness pour down their faces? Possibly, they are also surprised by the extent of their faith in Jesus?

They obviously knew of Jesus growing reputation to heal, and that the God of life was at work in him. Was it their desperate plight that caused them to ask for God's mercy? It is highly likely that they had been taught about the importance of trusting God, and therefore quite possibly it was not some kind of vague hope that they were expressing? Rather, what comes through in this brief episode of Jesus' life, is the sense that they expressed something from their hearts. They see Jesus, they ask him and asking makes sense. Once again Jesus responds to a person's heart.

This very short passage is clearly well worth pondering over, and thinking about with other people. I hope you will.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Sue Raad.

Bible Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11: 2 Corinthians 9.6-11: John 6.24-35.

CELEBRATION OF HARVEST

As usual we will take a collection for Christian Aid. We will also be collecting for the Food Bank in St John's. Donations of tinned/dried goods will be gratefully received and used in our local area.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – Tabernacle, Mumbles.

Prayers for Every Household – Manselton Road odd nos. 1-73

Sunday - 2nd October – A Service of Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of the URC

It was good to welcome our former Minister (from 1987-2000), Kevin Watson (accompanied by Lynne, Ruth and Sam) to lead our Worship, and to have old and new friends join us in our Jubilee Celebration.

The occasion was also an opportunity to meet informally afterwards and to share a meal together – something we haven't been able to do so for so long because of Covid 19. What a lovely time we had – it did feel like a celebration. Thank you Kevin, and also thank you to Jennifer for preparing the food, and to all who helped in the serving of the meal, and the clearing away and tidying up afterwards!

URC 2023 Prayer Fellowship Handbook and 2023 Diaries are now available.

If you wish to place an order please speak to Cynthia.

Tea and Chat - Tuesday, 11th October – 2-3 pm.

WINTER IS COMING

Come and meet Bradley Evans, your local Energy Awareness Officer for money saving advice

Bible Study - change of date

The final Bible Study of this series will be held on **TUESDAY** October 11th at 7pm on Zoom

Please pray for the next Meeting of Wales Synod which will be held in person, or on Zoom, in Llandrindod Wells, on Saturday, 15th October 2022 . Ken Wheeler will be representing Christ Well.



EAST AFRICA HUNGER CRISIS APPEAL

East Africa and particularly Ethiopia and Kenya, is again suffering from its worst drought for over 40 years, exacerbated by climate change and amongst inflation on basic foodstuffs, with general inflation at 66% as a consequence of Russia's war on Ukraine. This is leading to a true threat of famine like that seen in the 1980'.

Working through local partners, Christian Aid is responding to the severe drought in Ethiopia and Kenya and helping over 300,000 people by:

- Repairing wells
- Handing out water purification kits
- Providing cash support
- Trucking water to drought affected communities
- Providing fodder and medicine to keep valuable livestock alive

If you would like to donate to Christian Aid please send a cheque payable to Christ Well Manselton URC to Wynford or bring cash or cheque to Sunday Morning Service, clearly marked in an envelope for Christian Aid. Also if you Gift Aid and are giving cash please indicate who you are. Please try to make your donation by **23rd October**.



REFORM INTERVIEW

Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid

talks to Stephen Tomkins (Editor of REFORM)

Biography

Patrick Watt studied theology at Cambridge and international development at the London School of Economics. He started working for the charity sector as a researcher for Oxfam in 1997. He worked in senior positions at Action Aid, World Vision and Save the Children, before joining Christian Aid in 2019. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer in May 2022.

(The following is an extract of an interview printed in the October 2022 Issue of Reform)

The United Reformed Church has had a close relationship with Christian Aid throughout its 50 years, hasn't it?

Absolutely. The URC has played an outsized role in Christian Aid as one of the Churches most actively committed to our vision of justice. It has been particularly Important to our campaigning voice.

The URC has added depth and weight to the work we do, and I hope that will continue to be the case. The URC is one of our sponsoring churches that is also very active on domestic social issues and I think there's a kind of integrity there in the way it approaches both domestic and global issues. The collaboration we've had with the Joint Public Issues Team has been an important part of that story.

But I've not personally had the opportunity since I've been at Christian Aid to spend time in any URC congregations talking about our work and hearing from supporters so maybe this interview can be a request for invitations from congregations.

