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WEEKLY LETTER –14 AUGUST 2022

Luke 12.49-56

Perhaps you were as shocked as I was when I read this morning's reading. In fact I was so shocked and baffled by it, I read it through twice, and I was still puzzled! So after much scratching and pondering I realized that however much you and I would like to forget about inevitable judgement in Jesus' remarkably diverse and at times surprising 'Good News, it will stubbornly remain in the gospel?! We all need reminding.

In many ways this is a fascinating Bible passage as Jesus talks about his journey here on earth – "I have much to accomplish!" v.50. Here Jesus makes reference to what is always ahead of him, the cross – what could be referred to as 'The red crown', we should not forget Jesus' humanity as well as his holiness.

Like any human being, the terror of crucifixion was full of tension. In other words, accepting the 'inevitable' end was no stroll in the park for Jesus of Nazareth. Perhaps he even had terrible nightmares about crucifixion? I've absolutely no idea, but what we do know is that this choice he makes, this sacrifice he accepts represents a strange yet perfect form of freedom, because in effect he is saying, "I am freer than you all". He asserts his moral freedom, for freedom is rooted in self-surrender and is in direct contrast to the freedom promised to day which favours the glories in the individual will.

If you find this difficult to fully comprehend, so do most people! It is in direct opposition to the world we live in today. What is also out of favour is judgement. Very rarely will even Christian preachers dare to mention 'judgement'. And here it is, and there's no getting away from it!

The challenge is that we are all so open to Jesus' message of forgiveness, new hope, love, etc. but perhaps we forget that life is full of beauty, goodness but also pain.

Jesus was steeped in warnings from the prophets. Do read Micah 7.6, which he makes reference to. Perhaps Jesus is shocked by people becoming too comfortable and forgetting about what they had been taught. In other words, wishing judgement to go away. For his fellow Jews were called to be a 'light to the world', but they continued to go against God's desires. And perhaps today, especially those who choose bible readings should be more careful about not omitting key aspects of Jesus' goodness, which inevitably includes, high standards, judgement and therefore warnings. In truth Jesus' message is not for the 'easy come, easy go brigade'!

Stephen

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

Bible Readings: Hebrews 11.29-12.2

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty.

Prayers for Every Household – Cecil Street nos. 65-99

Prayer Walking in Manor Road - meet at Christ Well – Tuesday, 16th August – 6pm



WHAT'S GOING ON AT CHRIST WELL?

As the playgroup sadly closed on 21 July you may be wondering what is going on at Christ Well. Below are the activities that are currently taking place and some that are starting in September.

A **'Cook and Taste' for Asylum Seeker Families** is taking place in the hall during August. The idea is that families who access the food bank at St John's to try different food and are shown how to cook it. The dates are **17 August, 24 August and 31 August** and we look forward to welcoming the families on this initiative.

On Tuesdays we have a 'Cuppa with a Copper' from 11-12 noon where anyone can drop into see the Police Community Support Officers for advice or a chat. As we go to press **Time to Meet** are considering coming back on Tuesdays from the end of August for activities and lunch. This is to be confirmed but it will be great to have them back...

Tea and Chat takes place **every 2nd Tuesday of the month between 2-3 pm** (Concourse). The group shares views and news and there is a different activity each time. It is a great way to catch up with everyone.

A weekly **Slimming World** class takes place in our Hall on **Tuesdays** - open to the public from **4.30 pm – 6.30 pm**. Amanda is a well-known Slimming World advisor.

Weekly we have the fabulous **Musical Memories Choir** organised by Helen Hunter (Red Community Project) and Ros Evans. This take place **on Wednesdays at 11-12.30 pm** and is now well attended with new people joining weekly. Old favourites are sung with enthusiasm and afterwards there is time for a chat with tea/coffee and biscuits.

3rd Manselton Brownies takes place every **Friday evening from 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm** in our hall. We are so pleased they returned in September 2021 (see separate report).

From 8 September the MS Society will be moving from the Mary Cave centre to Christ Well. We are looking forward to welcoming them and building on our strong past. Howell who has been our volunteer for years also volunteers for the MS Society and we are looking forward to him being in our kitchen once again. The MS Society will be at Christ Well (lounge) on a **Thursday from 10.30 am – 2.30 pm**.

We look forward to the **Children's Club** re-starting on **Thursday 15 September at 6-7 pm** with Moira Jones at the helm. It has moved from a Tuesday night and we are hoping to encourage more children from the area to attend with stories, games and lots of fun.

Swansea Floral Society is trialling a monthly **Floral Arranging** Session in our Hall from **Wednesday 7 September**. The June event was well attended. The September event will have one of Swansea's best demonstrators – Sharon Dowal Floral Innovations. Tickets are £7.

We are looking to the future...

MANSELTON BROWNIES – NEWS FROM MAY 2021-JULY 2022

I can't believe that the Brownies finished up on 13th March 2020 and didn't resume until May 2021, when we were then able to meet outside due to Guiding Regulations, and before starting back all our risk assessments had to be passed by the Guiding Association.

The first six weeks were spent in Manselton Park, where we managed to adapt our programme to being outside; we were also able to do a few crafts, e.g. made rockets, flags and games. The last four weeks before we broke up for the Summer 2021 we decided to meet in Penllergaer Woods. The Brownies enjoyed their walks where they saw a Heron on the top lake, plenty of squirrels in the coffee shop eating the birds food.

We were able to do many activities in the woods such as tree and leaf rubbing, a woodland scavenger hunt, chalk pictures, and also a presentation evening at the coffee shop, when the Brownies were presented with their badges on the last evening before breaking up for the summer holiday in 2021.

I would like to thank the Church for all the help we received starting back indoors in September 2021, and a special thank you to Bob Davies and Ken Wheeler for supplying me with the Church Risk assessments that had to be sent to Girl Guiding with my own risk assessment.

Our first week back we had a games evening, and a leaving party. During the months of September and October we had been looking at our skills builder's badge called Take Action, we made a few Autumn Crafts, and looked at endangered animals.

November-December

We made Christmas Stars, Christmas Cards, Snowmen and Marshmallows.

17th December

Adella, Cynthia and Mary visited our Brownies and run the Meeting with Christmas Crafts, and helping the Brownies with the Christingle. The Brownies thoroughly enjoyed the evening and I would like to thank Adella, Cynthia and Mary once again. I hope we will be able to do this again at the end of the year.

January/February

The Brownies were provided with Pebbles and they wrote all their positive thoughts on the pebble.

February

We started to make our Thinking Day Cards ready to send off to other Units. We celebrated Thinking Day on 22nd February, this is the Birthday of our Founder, Lord Baden Powell. We also made crafts from different countries, e.g. Danish Baskets, Doves from Sweden and Fans from Korea. They also made Passports ready for our Thinking Day Celebrations. We played games from different countries.

March-April

Still working towards our Take Action, they had to make a monster out of materials that they would have thrown away, plus trash fashion. They also made Mother's Day Cards which were superheroes and a chocolate bar inside the card.

Judy Harris, our Children and Development Officer came to our Meeting to run Easter Party Games. We had an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bonnet Parade, and many other party games. Again the Brownies had a lovely evening. Thank you Judy.

May-June

We walked around Manselton as one of our Unit Activities was Environmental Detectives.

27th May – We had Squash Instructors from Ashleigh Road giving a free taster session. Our Brownies again had a lovely time.

9th June

Our Brownies walked down to St John’s Community Garden to plant flowers in the raised bed which was provided for us. The Brownies brought their own plants, and a Brownie’s Dad kindly provided us with some garden equipment. At the Centre they left some lettuce plants which we planted in the Asylum Seekers raised bed. Thank you, Adella, for arranging this for the Brownies. Unfortunately we haven’t been able to get there every week with myself away on holidays, and then having Covid, but we have been very lucky as a gentleman from the community has been watering our plants, and the plants seemed to have survived the warm weather.

We have also been looking at charities Badge (Interest Badge). The Brownies decided on two Charities, Ukraine and Llys Nini. They were all given a tube of Smarties to take home. First of all they had to eat the sweets and then fill up the tubes with 20p pieces. When they eventually brought them all back, we raised £90, and with our donation of £20 they then decided they would like to give £60 to Llys Nini and £50 to Ukraine.

12th June

We went to Llys Nini to present the cheque. They enjoyed their tour and I am sure if they had big enough pockets they would have taken a few animals home.

15th July

We had our Division Jubilee Fun Day which was held at the Scout & Guide HQ, on one of the warmest Sundays in July. Our Division had managed to receive a grant which provided us with a Bouncy Castle instructor from Sofit Fitness, and also Ben Rock. They were provided with plenty of Jubilee crafts, and they all went home with mugs, badges and everyone had a lovely day.

22nd July

We had a Tropical Party where the Brownies made Tropical Crafts, played games and activities.

I would like to thank everyone in the Church for all their support.

Brownie Leader

For the sake of the harvest Lectionary readings : Isaiah 5:1-7: Psalm 80.1-2, 8-19: Hebrews 11.29-12.2: Luke 12.49-56	
We thank you, God, for prophets old and new, for wise words helping us discern the signs of our times. Make us listen Help us see when what we sow yields a harvest of inequality and despair; when peace withers for want of justice; the innocent suffer and the land lies desolated. Make us respond Shake us up and gather us as one people – held together with passion and compassion, for the good of each other	Renew us Breathe new life into your people. Inspire new ways of living so that all can be refreshed and thrive and grow. <i>Then</i> we will reap a harvest of love - singing songs of praise, unity and harmony, and freedom for the whole wide world. Amen. Sheila Marsden (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)