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Epiphany 3 – 22 January 2023

Matthew 4.12-23

Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand” v.12

I often think that Jesus Christ is not only a heroic person, but also deliciously audacious. He seems to have a ‘lot of bottle’ to go around his fellow Jews saying, not only “God exists”, and “God really is God”, but also, “God holds in his hands the threads of your life, and the rest of creation”. Is that “bottle”, or just Jesus saying what he knows is true?

We know that God completely shaped Jesus’ life, for we can see in the gospels that Jesus’ entire day-to-day existence is God – centred. Nobody in history comes even close to being like that. So, perhaps, it didn’t take that much courage to say what was in his heart, for he knew that God’s kingdom is closer to you, than the breath you breathe in and out.

What might this mean in your daily life? Well, verse 17 begins with , “repent for the, which means before you can recognise and be inspired by what is going on, you need to turn away from missing the target, missing what is true and authentic – missing the point of your life.

Repent therefore means, do you want to continue to transform the way you think and live, and so allow yourself to be changed by the Good News?

Do you have a desire to live with less shame, disappointment, and therefore live with a greater sense of the dignity and honour that comes with seeing and feeling that God’s life is near and within you?

Christ is not asking to change you, rather he is encouraging you to continue to become more your true self – truthful, loving, and therefore someone with natural pride who can once again walk with God in the Garden. This he will encourage you to do every day, saying, “I know you can do it, so keep going!”.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, will be led by Rev Stephen Baker.

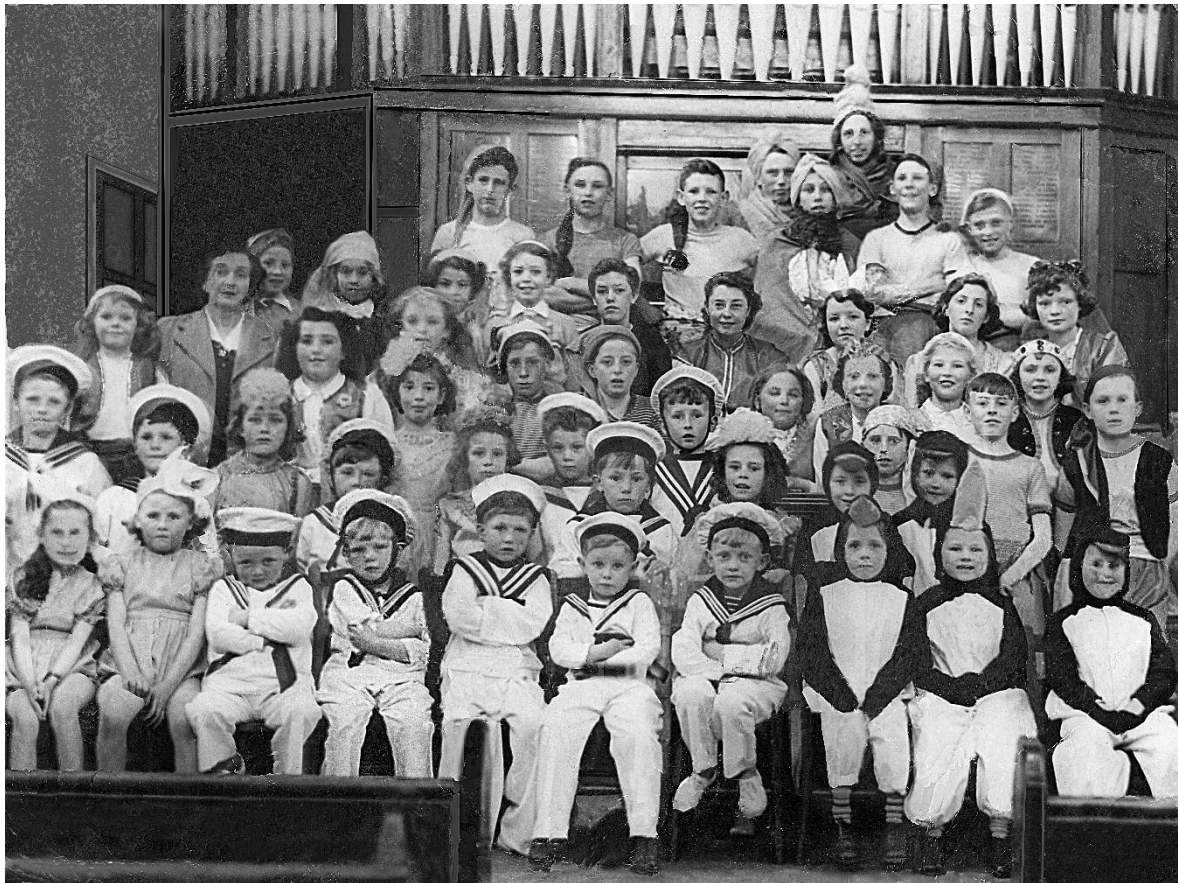
Bible Reading: Matthew 4.18-23

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

Tea and chat/winter hub in Christ Well – Tuesday, 24th January 2 pm.

Volunteering at St John's Food Bank

St John's would welcome anybody who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Bank from 12-3 pm on a Tuesday. Please contact Adella for further information.



This is a photograph from a concert organised by Mrs. Cadogan in 1955. A number of current members of Christ Well are in the picture but alas many have since passed away. Perhaps it will bring back happy memories from the past.

