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### **Weekly Letter - 14 June 2026**

#### **Genesis 18:1-15**

I wonder if you like soap operas? Or series like 'Succession'? Or programmes about history and archaeological digs? There are elements of all those in the series of readings we usually follow. Alongside more readings from Matthew, the lectionary is taking us through the stories about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (and their wives and families).

This week's reading finds Abraham and Sarah, their flocks and servants camped by the Oaks of Mamre. They are hospitable to three strangers who say they will return by which time Sarah will have a child despite her age. The letter to the Hebrews refers to the story, saying, 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.' (13:2), underlining that the three bring God's message. The 15<sup>th</sup> century Russian icon painter, Rublev, paints them as the Trinity, reflecting the switch to 'the Lord' promising to return (verses 13 and 14).

Sarah laughs at the idea, and then gets caught out and defensive, but that doesn't stop her calling her son 'Laughter', which is the meaning of Isaac.

We see the importance of hospitality, a real mix of faith and doubt, and a reminder that wonderful things are possible with God, despite the limitations we see in ourselves. Ponder how we can be open to God in the stranger, open to the messages God sends, and open to new possibilities.

Simon

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am led by Rev Simon Walkling**  
**We will celebrate Communion. Bible Readings - Matthew 9: 35-10:10; Genesis 18: 1-15.**

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

**Prayers for every household – Brondeg 34-72.**

**Refugee Week – 15-21<sup>st</sup> June <https://refugeeweek.org/>**

This week is refugee week, so please remember the work of Unity in Diversity, Swansea City of Sanctuary and their partners who support asylum seekers and refugees. Take the opportunity at some point in the week to mention to someone else that refugees make a positive contribution to our city.

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June – Tea and chat – 2-4 pm - Sharing different types of Card Games with one another**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June – Church Meeting, 7pm in Lounge**

**Manselton Mix – 20<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30-12:30 at Christ Well**

*Please support our community morning this year.*



If you have a book that you wish to donate for the Manselton Mix Book Giveaway please can you bring it to Church on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

**A request**

Thank you for your continued support to the UID Clothing Bank at UCS. Donations of double duvet covers would be appreciated please, and a young man has asked if he can have a rug as his floor is so dirty! Can anyone respond to this request please?. Thanks.

**Thanks – Christian Aid Week - 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

£1,600 which included Gift Aid has been sent to Christian Aid. Thank you to all who donated to this collection which is very much needed at this difficult time.

**Covenant Sunday**

In 1975, the United Reformed Church, The Church in Wales, The Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church of Wales and a handful of Baptist congregations, signed a covenant to commit to work together, recognise each other's ministries and work towards unity. The Sunday after Trinity Sunday was recommended as a way of celebrating the Covenant and reminding people about it.

The Commission of Covenanting Churches has worked on our behalf to make the aims of the Covenant a reality, but various schemes over the years have not got the agreement needed. There are those who say that the Covenant is not working, and other forms of working together have become more important. Please pray for wisdom for those who are involved in reviewing the situation.

## William Tyndale 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary translating Bible into English – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026

To mark this event, we are invited to join members of Upper Killay Congregational Church on **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June**, in their walk from **Sainsbury's at 10 am to Mumbles Pier (6 miles)**, or from the **White Rose to Mumbles Pier (1 mile) at 1.30 pm** They propose to hold an open-air service on the beach at Verdi's at **3.30 pm. All welcome.**

We thank God for the life of William Tyndale, and the fact he was willing to die for his faith. If we are unable to join them we are asked to pray for this event.



**URGENT APPEAL FOR FOOD DONATIONS** - from - Peter Hurst, Trustee and Treasurer, Swansea Foodbank  
We are writing to Churches across Swansea to ask for your support for Swansea Foodbank during a critical period.

Since the start of the Iran war donations of both food and money have fallen sharply, and are very low, just as we are preparing for the busy school summer holidays, which begin in just seven weeks. Without additional support, we may run out of food.

### How You Can Help

- Donate tins, packets, or other non-perishable food items.
- Make a financial donation to help us buy urgently needed supplies.

Financial donations are especially valuable because, if you are a taxpayer, Gift Aid increases your donation by 25%. You can donate online here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/28922>.

<b>Items Needed Most:</b>	<b><i>Other items supplied by Food bank</i></b>
Tinned Fish/Tinned Meat	Shampoo, Soap or Shower Gel
Long Life UHT Full Fat Milk	Deodorant
Long Life UHT Orange Juice/ squash	Adult & Children's Toothbrushes
Jars of Pasta or Curry Sauce	Laundry Liquid, Gel or Powder
Tins: Baked Beans, Soup, Tomatoes, vegetables, rice pudding, fruit and custard	Washing up Liquid Toothpaste
Instant Mashed Potato or Tinned Potatoes	Sizes 2 to 6 Nappies
Breakfast Cereal and Porridge	Toilet rolls
Pasta and Rice	
Instant Coffee, Tea bags, hot chocolate	
Biscuits	

If you wish to respond to this appeal donations of food can be left in the Food Bank box in the Concourse. Donations of money can be left in the Church Office, and will be collected as usual. Thank you for any support you can offer.

**LAUGHTER** - Mikie Roberts (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

(Lectionary Readings: Genesis 18.1-15, (21.1-7) and Psalm 116.1-2,12-19:: Exodus 19.2-8a and Psalm 100:  
Romans 5.1-8: Matthew 9.35-10.8, (9-23)

God, you cause us to laugh, and it is a precious gift.  
Sometimes our laughter is a questioning snicker. How could this be happening?  
Other times, overcome by joy, we laugh unrestrained.  
**We give thanks for the gifts of joy and laughter.**

You invite us into the symphony of laughter;. a new born baby taking delight in the mundane,  
Amused children at play, teammates savouring the thrill of winning,  
lovers basking in each other's presence, fun-filled family moments,  
with hushed laughter reliving precious moments.  
**We give thanks for the gifts of joy and laughter.**

Be with those who find it difficult to laugh. Overwhelmed by life's injustice, laughter evades them.  
Where is laughter for those living in the midst of war? Hear those for whom there is little laughter.  
As bodies and minds are healed, over time, may the tears of sorrow give way to tears of laughter.,  
**We give thanks for the gifts of joy and laughter.**

