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Weekly Letter – 10 August 2025

Luke 12:32-40

Be prepared!

In this week's passage from Luke there is the encouragement to be prepared for Jesus' return and there are two parables: the first is about slaves being ready for the return of their master from a wedding banquet – if he finds them ready he will serve them a meal; the second says that if a houseowner was ready for the thief, he wouldn't have been burgled. The first sounds like a positive reward, the second sounds like it is based on fear. Maybe this 'being prepared' was more significant for the first Christians, expectant for Jesus' return or in fear of persecution?

When we hear 'Be Prepared' perhaps there are echoes of it being one of the Scouting mottoes – being ready to do your duty of helping others 'and also by having thought out beforehand any accident or situation that might occur, so that you *know* the right thing to do at the right moment, and are willing to do it.' For Guides there was also the suggestion to have things in your pockets to carry shopping, entertain a small child and money to make a call from a phone box. Baden Powell presented 'being prepared' as a mixture of readiness, risk assessment and having resources to hand.

So are we to hear 'Be Prepared' as being in a constant state readiness, which could lead to anxiety (and there are plenty of Christians who will see the next war or famine or spread of disease as a sign of the end of the world), or is it a reference to a belief which has become less significant over 2,000?

Perhaps we can navigate these dilemmas better by understanding 'Be Prepared' as 'Be Aware!' Be aware that God is with us, within us, and all around us, and that remains true whatever happens, so we do not need to live in a heightened state of worry. Be aware so that we can be ready to see the opportunities God is giving us and ready to pray and act. Be aware that God equips us for the work he calls us to do. When we are aware that God is with us, we can be prepared for anything.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Linda Woollacott

Bible Readings: Luke 12.49-56: Hebrews 11.29-12.2

Cycle of Prayer in the Region - Temple, Gowerton

Prayers for every household – Manor Road nos. 74-118 and 129-135

Christwell.co.uk – our updated website is up and running, so please take a look and even make suggestions about different things to add so that other people know what goes on in Christ Well:

<https://christwell.co.uk/>

Community Fun Day – 9th August, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm

An important part of the day is conversations with neighbours in the community. Please drop in and help us provide a welcome. You may talk to someone else after hearing Swansea Male Voice sing at 11 am or after the video about the Swans, or over doing some craft. Or bring a picnic to have in the hall at 1:30 pm to see how the morning has gone.

Letter from Christian Aid

I am just getting in touch as I wanted to pass on our thanks to everyone at Christ Well URC Church. We are so grateful for your support and your prayers throughout the year; please do pass on our thanks for your recent donation to the Myanmar Earthquake appeal and Christian Aid Week. Thank you for standing with us as together we seek to challenge poverty and injustice.

Inspire your church to act for a just peace: new films and resources Christian Aid has just released three films featuring the voices of Palestinians and UK Christians, to encourage churches to pursue a just peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. There are a range of resources including: films, The Lord's Prayer Just Peace Reflection, an Order of service and a discussion guide.

You can find all of these for download here: [Inspire your church to act for a just peace - Christian Aid](#)

Synod Moderator - Rev David Salsbury has been appointed as Ecumenical Canon of Newport Cathedral in Gwent, and will be installed in Newport Cathedral at a service of Choral Evensong at 4pm on 16th November.

David said 'It is an honour and privilege to have been invited by the Bishop of Monmouth, Bishop Cherry Vann, to serve in this role. The Cathedral has been working hard in recent years to strengthen ecumenical relationships within the city of Newport, where I reside. I am delighted to be able to contribute to this journey of ecumenical pilgrimage and discovery as we seek to share God's love in this city'.

Reflective Prayer

'As part of Christ Well's Green Journey, I invite you to join me in reflective prayer in the peaceful surroundings of Manselton Park on Sunday 17th August, meeting at 3pm at the Manor Road entrance. We will start with a short time of group prayer before we walk reflectively round the park enjoying the beauty of nature and the stunning views across Manselton and beyond.

Our time together will end with another group prayer, leaving the Park at 4pm. I look forward to sharing this special time with you. Thanks. Adella