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Weekly Letter – 24 August 2025

Luke 13.10-17

God is happening

What we discover in the gospels and in the Creeds are not grand high brow moral principles written by highly educated ancient philosophers. Instead we discover the genuinely bewildering news that a man hardly known beyond a small community, in an insignificant part of the Roman Empire, struck out on his own aged 33 or 34 years old, and captivated people with his words about God and man, and their mutual relationship. What is also staggering is that he was only doing this for two years and a few months. During these years, this strange and complex Jew became a well known exorcist and healer in the areas he visited. Combined with his fame as a miracle worker, he revealed his unique remedy for humanities deepest wounds, for he showed that each and every person can be rescued from their unbearable pains.

Reading the gospels you can see that Jesus of Nazareth attracted both positive and negative attention - eg, 13.17 and 13.14. Therefore these miracles may well have caused alarm amongst the authorities who finally brought about his death. But what was and still is of greater significance is how his actions, his words, indeed his whole life helped and still helps people to know that 'God is happening', for Christ is the unique mediator between God and humanity. Jesus Christ showed and still shows God is immediate, at hand, without distance, God is here, "up close" for this was Jesus' joyful proclamation to all.

Stephen

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

Bible Readings: Hebrews 12.18-29: Luke 13.10-17

Cycle of Prayer in the Region - Christ Well

Prayers for every household – Elgin Street nos. 1-23: 2-34.

RULE BREAKING SPIRIT ...

(Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 1-10 and Psalm 71.1-6: Isaiah 58.9b-14 and Psalm 103.1-8: Hebrews 12.18-29: Luke 13.10-17)

Rule breaking Spirit,
nudge us,
inspire us,
empower us.

When we are stuck
in how church has always been
rather than how it could be.

When we are sticklers
for rules and regulations
rather than embodying compassion.

When we are stiflers
of newness and innovation
rather than cultivating creativity.

Rule-breaking Spirit,
equip us to dream more inclusively and expansively
to create communities of love and compassion
where all creation can thrive. **Amen.**

Nicola Robinson (URC Handbook 2025)

