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Weekly Letter – 3 August 2025

Luke 12:13-21

'I will pull down my barns and build larger ones'

This week I heard that it takes more energy to train an Artificial Intelligence program than the average westerner uses in a lifetime. I remember seeing news items a couple of years ago about the heat generated by a data centre being used to heat a swimming pool. And this weekend Google are launching the next generation of their artificial intelligence search tool. It looks a bit like part of humanity is building bigger digital barns whilst others are struggling to grow crops in a changing climate. We will be able to do more complex searches for information on the internet, but we need to share the blessing with others and find solutions for peace with justice.

Jesus' parable of the 'rich fool' tells the story of someone who dealt with excess income by building bigger barns. It gave the impression that he had security. The fool converted a natural blessing from God into private property, rather than as a gift of God to be shared. He thought it gave him control over his life, but that too was in God's hands.

Our lives are not so closely tied to the vagaries of harvests, but our energy prices change when there is war and supplies are disrupted; our pensions or savings are affected when 'the market' is spooked; and climate change affects the price of food. The parable of the rich fool is still relevant where illusions of control and the power of vested interests accumulate wealth whilst others are struggling.

Give thanks for the blessings you have received and pray for wisdom in how to share. Pray a verse of Jeffrey Rowthorn's hymn 'Lord you give the great commission'

Lord, you show us love's true measure:

"Father, what they do, forgive."

Yet we hoard as private treasure

all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us

to a just society:

With the Spirit's gifts empower

us for the work of ministry.

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Simon

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling
We will celebrate Communion. Bible Readings: Luke 12.13-21: Colossians 3.1-11.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region - Tabernacle

COMMUNITY FUN DAY – 9TH AUGUST, 10:30 TO 14:30

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 1:30pm to see how the morning has gone.

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/>

YOURS

(Hosea 11.1-11 and Psalm 107.1-9,43: Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14: 2,18-23 and Psalm 49.1-12: Colossians 2.1-11: Luke 12.13-21)

Let me smile a contented smile ...

If I am rich, I am yours. If I am poor, I am yours.

If I am powerful or powerless,

I am yours.

Whatever I have and whatever I do,

My very life is yours.

So, help me to live this life well –

openly, joyfully, generously –

Resisting the temptation to grab, and store, and pile up

that which can never be truly mine.

Instead, let me live - and love – right here, right now.

Because in the end, my life is all I have –

and my very life belongs to you.

Karen Campbell

(URC Prayer Handbook 2025)