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Weekly Letter – 5 October 2025



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

Lamentations 3:17-24

This coming Sunday is our Harvest Thanksgiving, we remember our dependence on other people for our food, our care for creation, and our reliance on God. It completes our marking of the Season of Creation.

We began with a reflection on Isaiah 32 with a prophecy about the palace being overrun with animals (did you see the news item this week about polar bears taking over a Russian weather station?) which ended with the hope of God's Spirit being poured out to make fruitful fields and safe dwelling places.

We end with these verses from Lamentations, which is a book of five hymns written as if the poet was standing in the ruins of Jerusalem after it had been over-run by the Babylonians and the leaders exiled. There are vivid images of the reaction to the walls being breached and the Temple destroyed in 587 BCE. I can imagine similar despair about the current destruction in Gaza, or of Homs in Syria in 2014, or Coventry and Dresden in World War II. Human inability to resolve problems without violence leaves behind a trail of destruction.

Yet the poet finds hope: the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, as fresh as the morning, as sure as sunrise. A source of resilience, a basis to rebuild lives laid waste and communities reduced to rubble.

The climate crisis is part of the reason for marking the Season of Creation. The increased risk of extreme weather with floods and droughts affects harvests but will also have an impact on where and how people can live. We may hope for a technological fix, or for creative ways of holding companies and nations to agreements to tackle climate change, but we also point to God who calls all humanity to account, and trust in God's continuing unfailing love and mercy.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling
We will celebrate Harvest and Communion. Bible Readings: Mark 4: 3-9. Lamentations 3: 17-21.
Gifts of tins and dried good, toiletries and cleaning products will be donated to the local food banks at St John's and Penlan.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region - Hall Street, Llanelli

Prayers for every household – Manselton Road no. 2-48

Tuesday, 7th October – Tea and Chat – 2-4pm – Autumn Craft

Swansea Floral Arrangement Society - Wednesday 8th October at 2 pm at Christ Well

Floral arranging Demonstration 'I'm in the Mood for..' with Sharon Dower. All welcome. Entrance £8.

JOY OF CREATION

Peter Ball

(URC Prayer Handbook 2025)

As we look around us at the wonder of nature, Lord help us to see as you see, and to recognise the fragility of life. Give us eyes to see the beauty around us and the hearts and arms to embrace your gift and to treasure and nurture it for the good of all humankind.

Help us be aware that we all have a part to play in sustaining our world and helping it flourish for future generations. Show us how the decisions we make day by day might abuse or nurture our earth.

God of wonder, we pray as a people in awe of the continuous provision you offer us through the realm of nature. We raise our prayers of thanksgiving to you, our sustaining and life-giving God.

As we look to you to renew the earth and us to your glory.



CHRISTIAN AID 80th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – 17th SEPTEMBER

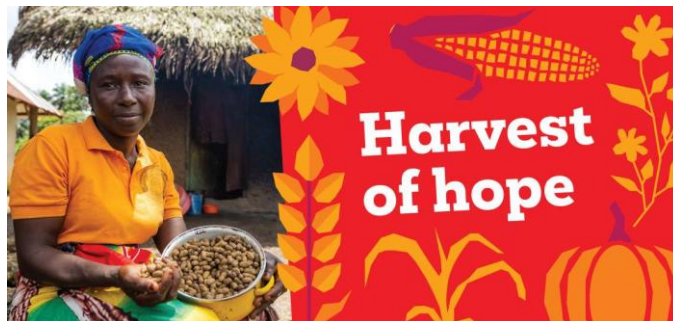
On a very wet evening we attended the Anniversary Service in Tabernacle, Cardiff, with a very big thank you to Elaine for driving us in such rotten weather.

The great organ playing and full chapel made the hymns sound wonderful. The speakers included Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, and Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and Chair of Trustees, who gave a short history of Christian Aid, its humanitarian work and campaigns through the decades. We also learned that the first Church in Wales to support Christian Aid was Mumbles Baptist.

There were short videos on work in India and Sierra Leone. Dr Rowan Williams read a poem he had written for the anniversary, and Jane Hutt MS spoke very thoughtfully about the need to continue working to ensure Wales remains a welcoming and inclusive country.

Representatives of the sponsoring Churches joined with the congregation in speaking words of re-commitment. The URC was represented in this by Rev David Salsbury. The bilingual Service ended with the Blessing and a rousing version of Gariad dwyfol uwch pob cariad/Love divine all loves excelling.

HARVEST OF HOPE



The climate is making it harder than ever for families to grow food. Flooding and drought are destroying harvests. Crops that one fed communities are now failing.

But hope is growing.

In Sierra Leone, Maryarna is adapting. After floods damaged her crops and income, she joined a Village Savings and Loans Association supported by Christian Aid. With a small loan, she was able to pay her children's school fees, secure her farm and invest in the future.

'Step by step, I loaned for the first period, and after repaying the loan I could do again for another. It has been a blessing'. Maryarna.

Your support this Harvest means farming families like Maryarna's can secure harvests and strengthen their hope in the face of climate shocks.

In Sierra Leone, unpredictable rainfall causes devastating floods that wash away crops, start landslides and destroy the road to market. In the dry season, scorching heat sparks drought that withers plants. Even experienced farmers are struggling to cope.

Envelopes are available if you would like to donate to this Harvest appeal by cheque or cash. If by cash, and you Gift Aid, please indicate who you are, and make cheques payable to Christ Well Manselton URC.

