



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

Tel : 01792 415222

Weekly Letter – 1 March 2025

Matthew 20:29-34

Jesus stood still and called them

Jesus is leaving Jericho on his way towards Jerusalem, where people will greet him with Palms and Hosannas, but he knows that he is on his way to rejection, betrayal, suffering and death. Two blind men call out to him, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' Jesus stops and calls them. He doesn't keep moving so that it would be hard for blind people to find him; he stops and calls them. He has compassion on them, touches their eyes and they regain their sight.

There are lots of parallels with the account of Bartimaeus in Mark and a similar encounter in Luke. Blind people can 'see' who Jesus is, even though others do not get it.

There are also parallels with a similar incident in Matthew 9:27-31, where the healing happens behind closed doors, and Jesus tells the men not to say anything to anyone. Maybe at that stage, nearer the beginning of his ministry, he doesn't want his role as Messiah to be misunderstood. As he approaches Jerusalem on a collision course with the authorities, the blind see, as a sign that the Messianic age prophesied by Isaiah has arrived (Isaiah 35:5, 43:7).

As well as standing still and calling to the blind men, Jesus asks them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' It gives them choice and a voice. Jesus reaches out with compassion, touches their eyes and gives them sight. With it we assume they also have insight to go with their calling Jesus, 'Son of David'.

Reflect with thankfulness that Jesus wants us to find him. Ponder on what title for Jesus comes most naturally to you. Wonder about what you would want Jesus to do for you.

Keep journeying through Lent to Easter.

Simon

Lent Connections – no meeting this week

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: Matthew 20: 29-34; Philippians 4: 4-9.

Welcomer – Claire

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – Tabernacle, Mumbles

Tea and Coffee – Elaine and Moira

Tuesday 3rd - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Love Spoons craft
Preparing for the 2026 Big Plastic Count (Greenpeace)

PASTORAL NEWS

We offer our sympathy to Maureen Morris on the death of her Sister-in-law Doris. Doris attended the Health Support Group which used to meet in Christ Well on a Tuesday afternoon so would be known to many. God bless you Maureen at this sad time.

It is with sadness we heard that Christopher Pike, who was organist at Carmarthen Road, died on Tuesday, 17th February after a lengthy illness. He was aged 74. Chris was the Musical Director of Swansea Amateurs for many years, and was well known in the Swansea area for his musical talents which he used for the pleasure and benefit of many charities. We offer our sympathy to his Brother Roger, and Sisters Judith and Elizabeth, and all the members of their family at this sad time. God Bless.

Mary and Hywel Thomas have very happy news. They are delighted to announce that their son David became engaged to Sophie Dannett on 18th February. David and his sister Helen attended Carmarthen Road until they left Swansea to go to University.

We offer our congratulations to David and Sophie and wish them a very happy life together.

Alan Willcocks had a hip operation in December. He has made a very good recovery and was able to join us again for Morning Worship last Sunday. It was good to see you again Alan and looking so well.

Looking for a Church Treasurer

Wynford has given notice that he would like to pass on the role of Treasurer to someone. He is willing to work alongside them during a hand-over period.

The new Treasurer does not need complicated financial knowledge, but it would be a great help if they are computer literate and methodical. There is work to be done each week with banking the collection. There is work to be done each month in entering the transactions, making sure that they match the bank statement, and giving a report to the Elders Meeting. There is work to be done each year in arranging for the accounts to be checked and reporting to the Church Annual General Meeting (though the computer program prepares the accounts).

The Treasurer does not need to be a current Elder, but please pray that we can find someone whom we could trust to do this work. We will talk more about this at the Church Meeting on 17th March.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR JOURNEYING

(Lectionary Readings: Genesis 12.1-4a: Psalm 121: Romans 4.1-5, 13-17: John 3.1-17 or Matthew 17.1-9)

Guiding God, we give thanks for the gift of movement,
for your call on our lives drawing us unto exciting and unknown adventures.
We thank you for Sarah and Abraham, for their example of courage and faith
believing that blessing awaited them in places new.

We thank you for the richness of cultural diversity,
for borders crossed, and hospitality received,
for the opportunities to meet, to mingle to enrich.
May we be as ready today to express gratitude for those who travel,
who like Abraham and Sarah, step out in search of safety and blessing.

And as we raise our eyes to the hill, whether plotting a new course
or in readiness to welcome strangers, remind us of where our help comes from
so that we might be ready to bless, as freely and richly as we have been blessed. **Amen.**

Jonnie Hill. (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)