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Weekly Letter – 15 March 2026

John 9.1-41

The Light disintegrates the darkness

I absolutely loved reading this record of Jesus healing a man, because you can see real people operating, thinking, acting the role of 'stuck in the mud', and being transformed. Some of the key figures are those who claim they just 'know', while some just steer clear of being involved, and finally there is one person who has his heart opened to the light, and the world is transformed.

I recognise myself in all three of them, and perhaps you can see yourself in all three of them?

I'll begin with those who confidently think and believe they understand God's nature and what he offers. It's not their understanding that is false for they have always believed that Yahweh (God) is real. Rather, their understanding is good enough to keep them going from day to day – that is, they have an idea who they believe in – perhaps he is a symbol/an archetype of goodness and faithfulness. But, this idea of God is not the same as God himself. God is real in the same way moonlight is real. Real enough, to be sure. But not actually real, for what they see is a reflection, not its SOURCE. I have lived in that world. And you?

Then there are the parents of the son who was born blind. Their strategy is to keep everything at arm's length. "Let's not get too enthusiastic, or I might be challenged, or even worse seen as a fanatic. So, let's play it cool, and just tick along, and we will see what happens". That approach is part of me. And you?

Now we come to the man who was born blind. After the miracle, at first he says, "Well, that's happened". It's not till the end that he sees, 'the light of the World', because he starts to engage with him. Before this genuine involvement he accepts with his mind that God is real. The encounter with Jesus creates a new personal relationship, and he discovers that it no longer makes sense just to talk about God, for now he talks to God. It's no longer necessary to think about God (keep him at arm's length), for now he listens to God. It is this recognition, this awakening and free submission to the truth that creates this transformation. God has not changed, but the man who was once blind has. The 'knower' has converted into a worshipper, for he now knows God personally. This is what causes him to see the world, life and the future in a completely new light. And you?

The contrasting figures in this exceptional event shows the difference between 'acting as if God exists', and experiencing 'The Light of the World'. It's the same chasm between reading, thinking and believing in love, and falling in love yourself. Knowing the rules, the doctrine, the idea is a great starting point, but it will never be equal to the freedom of knowing love and being loved.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Miss Sue Raad
Bible Readings: Exodus 2.1-10: Luke 2.22-40.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty

Tuesday 17th - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – What's this?

(Guess the object photographed from an unusual angle)

Tuesday 17th - Church Meeting will be our AGM - 7pm in the Lounge

Wednesday 18th – Lent Bible Study - Lent Connections – Wednesday 18th March, 2:30pm in the Lounge

During Lent we have been looking at Bible stories, with opportunities for reflection and conversations. This week we will be meeting in the Lounge and responding to different occasions in Jesus' life and how they link together. What highlights would you share about Jesus' life?

Twmpath – St James Church SA1 4QA, Friday 20th March at 7pm

Swansea City of Sanctuary are holding a twmpath to share together and raise funds (£10 a ticket including free drink). Find your dancing shoes and join the fun, or chat and provide a welcome for people from around the world.

LORD, THIS IS ME (Lectionary Readings: 1Samuel 16.1-13: Psalm 23: Ephesians 5.8-14: John 9.1-41)

You know me, Lord,
Everyone else know how tall I am,
what I've chosen to wear today,
the expression on my face and the tone in my voice.
You look at my heart.

Lord, this is me.

You know me, Lord. Everyone else seems much more qualified,
has much more experience and
I'm sure they are more important than me.
You look at my heart.

Lord, this is me.

You know me, Lord. I've got so much on my to-do list,
with responsibilities and roles to fulfil, and it's exhausting keeping it all together.
You look at my heart.

Lord this is me.

You know me, Lord.

I am nothing without you and the precious grace of Jesus.
Anoint me with your Holy Spirit. Come live in me.
Make me, me.
You look at my heart.

Lord, this is me.

