



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com.

Tel no. 01792 415222

Weekly Letter – 12 April 2026

Matthew 28:16-20

‘some wavered’ ‘remember I am with you always’

The end of Matthew’s gospel has become known as ‘the Great Commission’ – go and make disciples of all nations.’ It goes alongside the Great Commandment to love God and love others to remind us of key parts of our calling. We will be thinking about that aspect of this passage in worship, but here I want to think more about v17 ‘they worshiped him, but some doubted’ and v20 ‘remember, I am with you always’.

We often think of ‘doubt’ as the opposite of ‘faith’ and that’s largely because we often think of ‘faith’ as assenting to beliefs about God and Jesus, thoughts in our heads which compete with other thoughts about the laws of physics and the way the world works. Faith is broader than that, it is more of a relationship word, that involves heart and mind and will. It includes ‘trust’ the opposite of which is anxiety and ‘fidelity’ for which the opposite is unfaithfulness or idolatry.

The literal translation of ‘doubted’ in Matt 28:17 is ‘wavered’ and perhaps ‘doubted’ was chosen because of the traditional interpretation of Jesus’ encounter with Thomas in John’s gospel. ‘Wavered’ suggests to me more uncertainty about the appearance of Jesus and whether it was him or appropriate to worship him. The antidote to this wavering is not argument or persuasion, but presence – ‘remember, I am with you always’.

Being aware of the presence of Jesus and the love of God through God’s Spirit continues to be the way to deepen and strengthen our faith. We may find it easier to hold certain beliefs when they fit with our wider world view, but our faith in God is primarily a relationship of trust and faithfulness, which develops through worship, prayer, reflecting on the Bible and talking about our faith with others. Pause to connect with God in praying that our faith may grow this Easter season.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling.

Bible Readings: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 2:22-32

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton

St David’s Uniting joining us on Zoom – Sunday 12th April

We are hoping that the congregation of St David’s Uniting will be joining us for worship on Zoom on Sunday. This is part of making the most of our technology funded by a grant from the Synod.

Welcome back!

We welcome Adella back from sabbatical. We look forward to hearing about her Gower pilgrimage walks and to our future work with her.

Tuesday, 14th April – Tea and chat – 2-4pm – Sharing memories of a holiday in Vietnam - Ros

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(Lectionary Readings: Acts 2.14a, 22-32: Psalm 16: Peter 1.3-9: John 20.19-31)

Christ, be patient with me.

In this journey of faith, at times

I grapple with believing.

I struggle to embrace our God's sovereignty

when chaos is pervasive.

As cries of lament are washed with rivers of tears, I wonder where is the God of justice?

As the earth's resources are exploited for human greed

I subdue my praise at the wonder of creation.

Christ, be patient with me.

In this ambivalence, I confess it is hard to believe.

Yet I am afraid for others to know my doubts.

Would they be as patient with me as you are?

Do they have their own moments of doubt?

Unless you intervene and reveal yourself,

I fear that my doubts will consume me.

Unless I see you and touch you, I fear that my faith will dissolve.

Christ, you are patient with me.

You see my doubts and fears.

You enter my life and your presence is reassuring.

You console me and comfort me.

You give me your blessing

and you give me hope, because ...

when you stay, I can go on believing. **Amen.**

Mikie Robets (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

