



Email: [manseltonurc@gmail.com](mailto:manseltonurc@gmail.com).

Tel no. 01792 415222

**Weekly Letter – 26 April 2026**

**John 10.1-10**

**'I came so that all might have life and have it abundantly'**

Jesus' great promise is to give life in abundance to everyone. For sure, you've heard this before and we also know everyone desires heaps, if not tons of the best in life. But what is it? Where do we find it? Do you need some kind of code to acquire it, and, is it an option for everyone?

Jesus follows on this promise by saying, "I will show you where to find the best pasture, and the spring of life. Great idea, but you quickly feel a little lost with images of green pastures, springs of life and food for eternal life. It's all rather mysterious. So what is Jesus offering?"

Man lives on truth, on being loved: on being loved by the truth!

Life in abundance is given to you by knowing truth, through your willingness and desire to live in truth. Immersing your life in truth releases the energies within you to live a life with greater hope, joy and, yes peace. Truth liberates people and enables them to find their true identity/their spirit/their heart. While people who roam away from truth cannot even find themselves, and therefore will never lie down in peace.

You will know that certain people in your life have given of themselves for your future. The 'Good Shepherd' follows us through the thorns and deserts of our life, and will ultimately give his whole life for us so we know truth. As he follows us through the troublesome sections of our lives, and the times when we have felt empty and lonely, he often, without us knowing it, has carried us to the spring of life – to truth – home. For it is because of him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit that we discover truth – truth that opens up the fullness of life in abundance. There is no other way. There is a very good reason why Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life ..." John 14.6.

***Stephen***

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

**Bible Readings: John 10.1-10: Acts 2.42-47.**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Christ Well**

## **ECO Church Update**

*'We worship a God who loves the Earth he created and calls us to care for it.'*

The Eco Church group has been meeting regularly to think about how we can help care for all of God's creation. This covers many areas from speaking about environmental and climate concerns in Sunday worship to encouraging each other to think just a little bit more about reducing, reusing and recycling.

We are doing this within the A Rocha Eco Church scheme. Having previously obtained a bronze Eco Church award we are now trying to upgrade this to silver and, just as importantly, thinking carefully about how our own actions can affect the environment.

Recently, as part of the Buildings and Energy section of the award, we have been measuring our carbon footprint - this estimates the effect of all the energy and other resources used in the building. We hope this may help highlight areas where we could possibly reduce our footprint in the future without reducing any of our activities.

As part of this exercise we looked at the number of activities in the church building in a typical week. We found that as well as Sunday church services there are on average 9 meetings/activities happening each week and approximately 250 people passing through the doors. These visitors include, for example, babies in Rubba Bubba on Mondays, children and helpers in Thursday club and Brownies, friends in Tea & Chat, clients of Slimming World, neighbours who are older or have additional needs singing with the Musical Memories choir and our own meetings like Elders and Eco Church. We estimate this gives a grand total of about 13,000 visits a year!

This also means that the energy we do use is being shared out among a lot of people!

We are hoping to look at the Caring for Land and Nature section of the award next. As Christ Well has only a small paved area and no green space we will be looking for ideas on how we might possibly link up with others in the local community to care for and protect Nature and any suggestions will be very welcome.

We are also looking at travel and we will be carrying out a simple travel survey soon. This is definitely not to make anyone feel uncomfortable about how they travel to church but to have an idea of our journeys and perhaps encourage some discussions around transport options locally.

## **Wales Synod Finance & Property Board visit – meeting at Christ Well on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

The Finance & Property Board and Trust are visiting some of the chapels in the Swansea Region and will be meeting at Christ Well on Wednesday. Please pray for them as they work on ways of supporting chapels.

## **Election information – Cytûn have produced a briefing about the parties' policies**

<https://www.cytun.co.uk/en/elections-2026/>

This Senedd election on 7<sup>th</sup> May, we can cast our vote for one party. The parties get seats in our constituency in proportion to how many votes they get, so every vote counts. Knowing about the parties' policies can help us decide who to vote for: [https://www.cytun.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Cytun\\_Senedd2026\\_Manifesto\\_Briefing\\_v3\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.cytun.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Cytun_Senedd2026_Manifesto_Briefing_v3_ENG.pdf)

## **Advance Notice - Christian Aid Week – 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May**

The Quiz will be held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm. Get your teams ready for an evening of fun and laughter and brain-teasing questions with our usual Quiz Master. See you there.

## **A door of grace**

(Lectionary Readings: Acts 2.42-47: Psalm 23: 1 Peter 2.19-25: John 10.1-10)

Jesus, Shepherd of our souls,  
gate of belonging, voice of hope,  
you call us by our names,  
through stillness and storm.

In a world where doors are shut to strangers,  
you fling them open wide  
welcoming all to green pastures of care.

Thank you for those who gather the fragments,  
for Christian Aid partners who hold open doors  
for the weary, the wandering, the war-torn.  
May our churches mirror their welcome  
and may our lives echo their mercy.

Form us into a flock of compassion,  
where no one is lost or left behind,  
and every table is a table of grace.

Lead us, Christ, not into complacency,  
but into the fullness of life  
where justice and mercy kiss,  
and to the in-between places  
where you are found. **Amen.**

*Dionne Gravesande*

*(URC Prayer Handbook 2026)*

