



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

Tel no. 01792 415222

### Weekly Letter – 3 May 2026

#### John 14:1-14

Where? How? And What? Answered by 'Who'.

This passage is part of the conversations Jesus has with his disciples as part of the last supper in John's gospel. Jesus gives his followers comfort and hope, and these words are often used to give us comfort and hope at times of loss. As well as the hope of Jesus preparing a place for us in our Father's house, I also find comfort that the people closest to Jesus, like Thomas and Philip, didn't always understand him.

Some of us grew up with hearing, 'In my Father's house are many mansions' and more recent translations say 'rooms' or 'dwelling places'. Both 'mansion' in Latin, and the Greek word that John uses comes from the verb 'to abide' or 'remain', and that's a key idea in John – remaining or abiding in God's love present in Jesus (John 15). 'My Father's House' also links to the Temple: the 12 year old Jesus tells Mary and Joseph, 'Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?' But in John, Jesus body becomes the Temple, the meeting place with God, which if destroyed will be raised in three days (John 2:19). After Jesus is risen this is no longer a geographical place, but he takes us to himself 'that where I am, you may be also.' Where is the Father's house with room for everyone? Where Jesus is the living, loving presence of God with God. The answer to 'where?' is the 'who' of Jesus.

This isn't quite enough for Thomas who says, 'Lord we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus says, 'I am the way, and the truth and the life.' The earliest Christians were called 'followers of the Way' and truth and life amplify this. 'Truth' reminds us of God calling us to worship 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24) so that's more about faithful relationship than factual accuracy. 'Life' reminds us that in Jesus was life 'the light of all people' (John 1:4) and he comes that we might have 'abundant life' (John 10:10). The answer to Thomas' 'how?' is the 'who' of Jesus.

The conversation goes on to talk about Jesus' followers doing greater works because Jesus is going to the Father. We might ask, 'What greater things?' Out of all the signs Jesus does in John, the action Jesus tells his followers to copy is washing each other's feet (John 13:14). Jesus' greatness is seen in service. His glory comes in being lifted up on a cross. Whatever we understand by being able to 'do greater works' than Jesus, it includes service and self-giving. The answer to our 'what?' is the 'who' of Jesus.

That's a long-winded way round to suggest that we pray to be more Christlike in our relationship with God and in our words and ways. Start by praying that we may be aware of Jesus presence through God's Spirit.

*Simon*

**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: John 14: 1-14; 1 Peter 2: 2-10.**

**Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli**

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May – 2-4pm –Tea and Chat**

**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)

## **RECYCLING OURSELVES**

(Lectionary Readings: Acts 7.55-60: Psalm 31.15, 16-16: 1 Peter 2.2-10: John 14.1-14)

The last place we expect to meet you.

A line of labelled skips wait for our offering of the old and unwanted.

We call it *The Dump*, where the useless ends up.

Meeting you there reminds us that nothing is worthless.

Seeing what is discarded, we can imagine lives changing but continuing:

a baby's buggy – no more children? An old bed – mourning a grannie's death?

In time, archaeologists will think this midden a treasure trove.

Besides, astro-physicists tell us that all matter was there from the beginning.

In nature nothing is lost and everything re-cycled.

Depositing a mirror, kept in the garage since moving house,  
we see ourselves in it, now older.

But there's hope for us in your words,

*I am making all things new.*

One day we will be useless, through our essential elements,  
existing from the beginning, will go on and on.

But we knew that already. Awaiting us isn't a dump but a room for us – in your house.

*Tony Burnham*

(URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

