

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel

Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Church At Home Packs
- The return of 'Notices'
- More Lock-down thoughts
- Big Brekkie!

Verse For The Week

So the Word of God spread.
The number of disciples in
Jerusalem increased rapidly.
(Acts 6: 7a)

Watch today's service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'We are still here!' menu and
click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)
(8.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

Church At Home Pack for everyone!

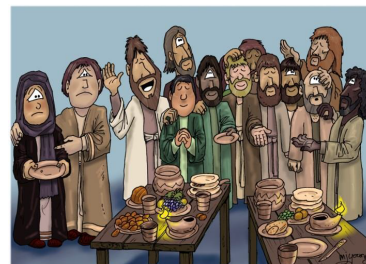
Since we began our online services, the Family, Youth and Children's Ministry Team (FYCM) have been producing Church at Home Packs and sending them to our families with children and teenagers. We've had a fair amount of interest from other people in our church family who said that they would like to have a Church at Home Pack too! At Christ Church, this Sunday would have been our All-Together Cafe Church Service - so, for this week we have created a Church at Home Pack for everyone!

Have a look and choose what's appropriate and helpful for you to do. It's another way in which we can be together whilst physically apart. Do let us know how you get on and maybe send us a photo!

Sermon Snippets

Acts 6: 1-7

Today is our All Together Service and if you want to recreate the Café Church at home, bring your own coffee and doughnuts.



We look at how the early church shared kindness and fairness in a difficult situation. The effort of helping others was shared out for in the church we can all play our part. We can think about what we can do in our current situation to share God's love.

Prayer Pointers

Monday

We pray for the Staff and Residents of Care Homes in our parish and/or homes that we know. Please choose one and visualise Staff and Residents. Please pray that they may know God's protection against the virus, God's wisdom and that they know God's love with them.

Tuesday

May we give thanks to God for the gifts that He has given to Nicky, Hayley and Angeline and pray for them for creativity and inspiration as they prepare on-line activities for our children's groups. May we pray for our own godchildren and grandchildren.

Wednesday

May we remember members of our congregations who may be isolated and alone. May we think of those who sit near us in church and pray for them and maybe even phone them to encourage them today. Pray especially those who are suffering from longer term bereavement as well as recent bereavement.

Thursday

May we pray for those within our congregation and wider in our community who have lost their jobs or contract work. Pray for them that they may have wisdom to use their time wisely and maybe even to rethink their future. Pray for any who are struggling financially.

Friday

May we remember those whom we know, either personally or through church, who need God's healing touch in their lives. We think especially of Brian & Val Kellock, Lyn Hill and Dodie Waterhouse. We also lift before God the family and friends of Janet Webb who sadly passed away this week.

Saturday

Remember Vicar Tom and those taking part in the online service tomorrow. May many hear the Gospel and have hearts prepared to receive Jesus as the Lord of their lives.

Newsletters

- Rosemary Aldis. You can find Rosemary's newsletter on the Christ Church website, under the 'We Are Still Here' menu and clicking on 'Keeping In Touch'.
- Mike and Helen Morrissey. If you'd like a copy of this please email me at the church office.
- ROC (Reaching Our Communities). This is also on the 'Keeping In Touch' page of the website.

Notices

Daily Hope Phone Line

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available now, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Telephone Chaplaincy

Representatives of the different faith communities in the Avon and Somerset police area have set up a dedicated phone-line offering 1-2-1 chaplaincy.

The Faith Communities Major Emergencies Team was established 30 years ago to provide faith-based face-to-face pastoral and spiritual support to people of all faiths and none in times of emergency. The service has been adapted to become a direct dial phone line for people affected by the COVID 19 crisis.

This faith-based service is especially for anyone facing end of life issues, bereaved or anxious about someone in hospital, residential care or isolated at home. Their concern could be for a family member, friend, colleague or neighbour, or someone they have been caring for through their work

To access this service, people can dial: 0330 229 1700 from 8am-11pm 7 days a week.

Coffee time after the Service...



How are our Life Groups doing?

How do you have a Life Group when everyone has to stay at home? If you belong to a Life Group you will know that the leaders are keeping in touch with their members by either phoning them regularly or emailing. We're looking out for each other and praying for each other, and those who are having difficulty with getting their shopping or medicines have been able to call on the Crash team to get what they need.

For those who are able there has been the chance to be in a WhatsApp group which is a bit like having a private page on Facebook. You can send messages and pictures through your phone. You can even do a Bible study with it, though it can take quite a long time to get answers to your questions! If you're really brave you can have a virtual Life Group meeting on Zoom. It's a video conferencing app where you can speak to each other in real time. Our group has been trying this way of meeting and it's really great to be able to see each other and keep up with our Bible studies.

Ian Girling has been recording evening prayer on You Tube for his group. It's available to anyone with internet. On You Tube, search Quantock Road Life Group. Hopefully many of you have taken part in Easter and Sunday services with Tom and others on our Christ Church website. You can carry on meeting Tom every day in the same way for Daily Prayer www.ccwsm.org >We are still here.

We are all learning how to be church in a different way. If you're not in a Life Group at the moment and would like to join please contact Bev Hall 01934 626590.

Bev

As will have been the case for a number of us, it was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Janet Webb earlier this week.

At our last Ladies Together meeting, just a few short weeks ago, both Janet and Christine Baker were sat, as they always were, together on the front row. I have such happy memories of them each week arriving together either by taxi or the community bus and often walking in on the arm of the driver! Always with a smile of greeting, always happy to see folk and always looking colourful and bright.

Other particularly strong memories are of Christine and her stockpiling of Fairtrade chocolate whenever Liz had her stall - and Janet's immaculate hands as she took such care over having her nails done regularly. In their own way both have encouraged and supported me over the few years I've known them and I'm sure this is the same for so many of us, not just our Monday afternoon ladies.

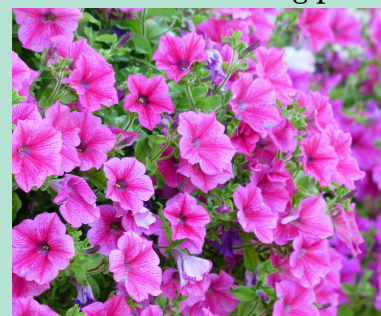
So while at present sad, I'm also very thankful for times spent with each of these lovely Christian women. They will be missed.

Chris Webber

Thank you Tom for Morning Prayers, they put First things First in my days without routine. Thanks to our Christ Church family for cards, gifts and calls on my 80th birthday. Special thanks to Hayley for sparkles in the day.

Sue

I have lots of time and a big garden and greenhouse, so I've grown hundreds of extra bedding plants.



These could be collected while taking daily exercise, either from outside church or our driveway (while staying socially distant!!). There are petunias, lupins, cosmos etc., in trays and also tomato and runner bean plants in pots.

If anyone wants to make a small contribution to church funds, they could do so. I would be happy for people to contact me, either by phone or e-mail.

Thank you for the weekly news sheets. We're loving the on-line services and daily prayers and all that the team are doing to enable us to still 'be' church.

Penny Lester

*Christine
and Janet*



More Coffee, anyone?

This is in response to Hilary's question last week as to how we are all managing to keep connected.

At Emmanuel, for all who are on email, we have an Emmanuel family email running. This probably only works as we are a smaller church family, but it is great for all of us keeping in touch. Everything goes on from Pat getting bored and dying her hair to Carl wrestling with RSPCA matters. It is very entertaining! The few who are not on email have designated people to pass news on by phone. I shall miss the emails when all this is over.

Meg

Big Brekkie @ Home



Many of you will remember last year's Big Brekkie at Christ Church to raise money for Christian Aid week.

Mike Hall cooked a magnificent Full English and we had a great time together. Of course, things are different this year. One of the consequences of corona virus and the lockdown is that almost all charities are seeing a massive drop in fundraising events and this puts their wonderful work in danger.

Right now, our attention is taken up with how we are managing our daily lives that are so radically changed, and we do have to think about those things. But it's good to raise our eyes above the horizon too. People living in poverty are often worst hit by any kind of disaster. They don't have the resources we have, to keep themselves safe. So let's see if we can help by having a Big Brekkie @ Home.

Here's what to do: during the 2nd week of May make yourself a Brekkie – anything from a boiled egg or a bowl of corn flakes to a Full English Breakfast – take a photo and send it to the church office and make an online donation via the church bank account. Details to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Bev Hall.

Next Sunday's *Connected* will be a V.E. Day Special Edition! If you have any photos you can scan in, other contributions or even if you have faint memories, please email them to the church office and I'll do my best to include them.

"We had thought ..."

Reflections on the Lock-down.

2020 was going to be a great year for our family. Four significant Anniversaries all occurring on the same date. A grand gathering of all our descendants; children, grand children, and their spouses, great grandchildren – a total of twenty seven of us, plus a number of friends. A venue booked two years ahead, air travel and accommodation reserved, invitations issued. Then – wham! – lock-down! "We had thought ..."

The verse "All things work together for good to them that love God" seemed to have a hollow ring. The same thing happened to the couple walking to Emmaus. "We had thought ..." How disappointed and downcast they sounded. Yet, amazingly, things turned round! It was well summed up in the cartoon Tom put in last week's *Connected*. All churches closed down? Not a bit of it! Now one in every home!

Our disappointment is insignificant compared with that of so many others. Grand weddings reduced to a handful of guests. Eagerly anticipated sporting events cancelled. Family holidays put on hold. Urgently needed surgical operations delayed – and above all, the thousands of families mourning the loss of loved ones who have been taken from them. What is God trying to teach us in all this?

Again, on a personal level there has been an upside. We are incredibly blessed in living in a lovely place with a nice garden and a road full of friendly neighbours. Every Sunday afternoon, an increasing number of us are gathering – suitably spaced apart – on the wide grass verges; bringing our tables, chairs and flasks of tea or coffee and talking together - at a distance. It's getting quite elaborate; table cloths are appearing, china cups and saucers. We even brought a candle stick and a candle with us to put on ours "in case it got dark before we finished!" All quite hilarious.

No Open Gardens? No grand family party? Unfortunately not – but this isn't bad!

Barry & Glenys



← A table design suggestion for next Sunday, Barry!