

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel
Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Praying for the Children
- Holiday Club
- Congratulations!
- Wisdom and Learning

Verse For The Week

"The one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it."

(Matthew 13: 23a)

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)

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Don't Forget The Children



School Years 3 & 4 at last year's Christmas service at Christ Church

Over the coming week or so, schools all around the country will be saying goodbye to the children in their top years.

Due to the current situation Christ Church School have been unable to hold the annual Leavers Service for Year 6 pupils in church this year. This service would normally provide the important spiritual element in their transition from Junior school to Senior school.

Let us thank God for the connections that schools often have with places of worship, and for the commitment of those who bring the Christian gospel into schools. Let's pray that our churches will be able to welcome children, as well as adults, again very soon.

Sermon Snippets

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

The pandemic has shown us how people's response to something can vary greatly. This is a bit like the parable of the sower, where the same seed gets a very different response from different soil types.

Unusually this parable is given an interpretation, the evangelist wants to be sure we see the deeper meaning. We've all learned about the 'R' number. If it's >1 then there will be an increase, which can be exponential. So if we find something we see has a deeper significance, and we can share that in a convincing way with others, then it goes 'viral'. Just as did the teaching of Jesus.

Prayer Pointers

Monday

We have seen in the news that many families are struggling to pay bills and get enough food. Please pray for their needs to be supplied and that no-one gets forgotten. Pray for CAP and the Foodbank. Remember that you can contribute towards the Foodbank via many local supermarkets.

Tuesday

Ask God to lead government, national and local, as they try to recover our economy. They need wisdom, inspiration and compassion. Before the pandemic there was much discussion about the environment. Please ask that those issues will not be side-lined as we go forward.

Wednesday

Remember in prayer the various missionary links we have at Christ Church and Emmanuel, and the communities they serve in Jesus' name.

Thursday

Please pray for schools, colleges and universities; for students (especially those who will be moving on to new stages of their education), staff and volunteers. It is very difficult and complicated to balance varied needs. In particular we pray for Christ Church School and its governing body.

Friday

Thank God for the people who have been keeping our two church congregations in touch, preparing online services etc. Please pray for any who are ill or bereaved, lonely or just finding the whole situation hard. We think especially of Lyn Maggs.

Saturday

Again we pray for the online Holiday Club team, asking for the technical and logistical details to run smoothly, and for many families to register and to grow in their faith as they take part.

For further prayer topics, do have a look at the newsletters on the [Christ Church website](#), under the 'We Are Still Here' menu and clicking on 'Keeping In Touch'.

Notices

Please Pray for Wisdom

This follows on from the article in last week's edition of *Connected*. Leadership teams of both churches have been meeting this week to start to work out the logistics of re-opening the churches.

They would very much appreciate ongoing prayer support as they consider how best to go about this from spiritual, pastoral and safety perspectives.

Help When Church Re-starts

When services restart we will be hoping to live-stream the Christ Church services so they can be watched on YouTube and on the website. In order to do this we need a little more help on the AV team.

We would like to hear from anyone who intends returning to church as soon as services restart who would be willing to assist. You would need to have some computer knowledge but specific training will be given.

The main requirement is in setting up and packing up, so you would need to be at church about three quarters of an hour before the service starts. During the service the need is simply to keep a watchful eye on things. If you can help please contact Chris Cole or David White.

Crash Team Contacts

If you are a member of either of our two churches and are in need of some practical assistance, please call the Crash Team:

- Liz Cole (01934 782886)
- or
- Jane Milsom (07766 678446)

Insurance Offer

Our church insurance company, Ecclesiastical, have extended their offer to donate £130 to the church nominated by anyone taking out a new home insurance policy at any time this year.

Please go to www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130 for more details on this amazing offer.



Coffee time after the Service...

Congratulations!



You'll have heard Hayley tell us during last week's online service that she's moving to Stoke Bishop in Bristol to be Youth Minister at St Mary's church. It's a well deserved and really good move for her – also another plus point is that she isn't too far away!

Do be praying for her work with Holiday Club and also the preparations to move in early August. If you'd like to give to a leaving present for her, you'll find information on our website (under "Church life" there is a tab called "Hayley").

Our congratulations also go to Donna who has been accepted on the Diocesan Readership Training course. This was after an intense round of online interviews last Saturday!

Donna has been a real blessing to the people of Emmanuel church, and gives so much of herself to the work there.

Please pray for Donna, especially when she starts her 2-year course in September.



Wisdom and Learning

See John 10:10

It is real life that Jesus offers. He gives us a new view of the world. If all that Jesus said is true, this world is the training ground for eternity. The value of any action is dependent on the end for which it is done.

A traveller tells of being in a peasant house in a remote part of the Balkans. The daughter of the house spent all her time sewing. The visitor thought that she must be labouring away to earn a little more money at the sewing which seemed never-ending.

"Don't you ever get tired of all this stitch, stitch, stitching?" he asked. "Oh no sir," she said. "You see this is my wedding dress."

The object for which the dress was being made, made all the difference in the world to that which she had to do.

It made the difference between drudgery and glory.

*Lord, unlock for us the treasures of wisdom,
but first give us a heart for humble learning.*

Robin



Holiday Club - Running With The Heroes

Wed 22nd - Sun 26th July

Holiday Club is an annual event at Christ Church for children of school years Reception to Year 6. The event this year will be online, and resource packs will be delivered to each child who registers. To register, [click on this link to go to the Christ Church website](#).

Please pray for all the preparations, for the event to run smoothly, and for children and families to hear God speaking into their lives. We may need some help with delivering the packs. Please email Hayley (youth@ccwsm.org.uk) if that's something you may be able to help with.

Christians Against Poverty

Despite the current lock-down, the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) continues unabated.

Their latest newsletter is now available on the [Christ Church website](#). Do have a look at this, and pray for their amazing work.



More Coffee, anyone?

Office Opening...

The number of enquiries being received in the office has increased over the last week or so. I have therefore decided to return to normal Church Office hours - Monday to Friday, 08.30 to 12.30 with immediate effect.

...and Closing!

Having said that, I am going to be taking a few days off as I haven't taken much leave this year!!

The office will be closed:

- Mon & Tue, 13 & 14 July
- Mon & Tue, 03 & 04 August
- All week starting Mon 31 August

Thank you to those who have sent in articles for inclusion in *Connected* this week. There won't be a Link Magazine covering August and September, so I'm on the lookout for more budding writers!

Please email your articles to the church office and I'll do my best to include them in future editions.

One other point - if you know of someone who is not receiving a copy of *Connected*, please email me at the office, or you can phone and leave a voicemail if I'm not in.

There are now 26 people without a computer who are receiving a printed copy, thanks to a small team of dedicated deliverers!

Phil

Open e-Gardens photos keep sprouting!

This week's photo comes from Colin & Jennie.

Many thanks to them - it looks great!



Would you like to include your garden in this series? Simply email your garden photos in to the Church Office for inclusion in a future edition of *Connected*.



This is a photo of a letter which I received this week. Christmas has started in the Church Office!!