

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel
Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Thanksgiving Service
- Harvest and Help Reminders
- Shoeboxes are now available
- Consider Time

Verse For The Week

The Lord enabled her to conceive,
and she gave birth to a son.

(Ruth 4: 13)

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)
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Giving Thanks to God



Photo: Skitterphoto / Pixabay

This Sunday, the 4th October at 4pm, we are holding a Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church to remember those who have passed away during the coronavirus pandemic, whose funerals we were not able to attend. Unfortunately, only those who have already booked seats will be able to attend this service, but for those who are not able to be there in person, we ask that you join us in spirit, perhaps remembering any loved ones close to you who are no longer with us.

We will be inviting those present to lay a stone, forming a memorial for the service. If you're not coming on Sunday, do please contact Ian or Tom and we can ensure a stone is laid in memory on your behalf.

Please note that there will not be a 9.45am Sunday Prayers service at Christ Church this Sunday. The 9.45am service at Emmanuel will go ahead as usual.

Sermon Snippets

Ruth 4: 13-17

From here to eternity?

It's Rom-Com week at Christ Church.

A warm romance between a faithful woman and a generous man that yields a surprising harvest.

Prayer Pointers

Monday

We pray for all University Students; for protection against Covid-19, the supply of all practical needs, and for those experiencing lockdown. Lord, combat the loneliness felt by many students while separated from normal family contact.

Tuesday

May all school pupils, their families and teaching staff, be kept safe as they begin expansion of the vital education that all pupils need.

Wednesday

We pray that our Government will find the proper balance between financial responsibility and wise support for business, industry and commerce, so that all employees may survive the present economic storm.

Thursday

Please pray that all NHS staff, care home residents and carers may be protected from the Coronavirus, and all may continually receive the medical resources needed.

Friday

Lord, inspire scientists and researchers to achieve rapid success in discovering a permanent cure for the Coronavirus. Lord, banish the spirit of fear that might add to the virus's potency.

Saturday

We pray, Lord, that the NHS and all medical agencies may not be distracted at this difficult time from giving full attention and appropriate treatments to those with terminal illnesses or other challenging health issues.

For more prayer topics, including the very latest newsletter from Christians Against Poverty, please have a look on the [Christ Church website](#), under the 'We Are Still Here' menu and clicking on 'Keeping In Touch'.

We have also received the latest prayer letter from The Morrisseys. If you would like a copy of this please contact Phil in the Church Office.

Reminders

Harvest Donation Suggestions

- Donate food or money to Emmanuel's work at The Beacon, or Somewhere to Go
- Donate food or money directly to the [Foodbank](#) in North Street
- Make an extra purchase and place it in the donation box at your regular supermarket
- Make a donation to [CAP](#), [Christian Aid](#) or [Tear Fund](#)

Above all spend a little extra time praying for the millions of people who go hungry.

Help at Emmanuel

Please pray for the changes in leadership at Emmanuel. Donna is stepping back as warden so that she can undertake Reader Training with the Diocese. Pat will have completed four years as warden come next April and so also will be stepping back.

This situation is a challenge but also genuinely an opportunity to move forward. To prepare for two new wardens, we're looking for folk to take up small responsibilities which will help us engage with church and lighten the load on the new wardens considerably.

We are hoping many can help – the more the better! There are a variety of roles – do be in touch with Pat Blake (or Phil in the office) if you think you might be able to help.

Bible Notes

Reminder. Anyone wishing to make any alterations to their Bible Notes subscription for 2021 is asked to inform Barry (tel 01934 812940 or email barrysj@freeuk.com) by Friday, October 9th.

'From Lamentation To Hope' service

This service, led by Bishop Ruth and the Dean of Wells, took place online on the 30th September and was aimed specifically for those bereaved during the coronavirus pandemic.

People were asked to send in names of those whom they mourn, so in this respect the service is not current. However it is still available to view on the [Bath & Wells website](#) for any who would like to see it.

Coffee time after the Service...

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are now available for collection from the lobby at Christ Church. Please do come along and collect one (or two!) between 08.30 to 15.30 Mon to Wed, and 08.30 to 12.30 Thu and Fri. Don't forget to collect a leaflet with each box.

If you are unable to get to the office, please let Phil know and he will arrange to get one to you.

- Details of Operation Christmas Child can be found on the [Samaritan's Purse website](#).
- Details of how you can get involved can be found on the [Christ Church website](#).

Vacancy for a School Governor

Are you bored, and feeling that the current restrictions are preventing you doing anything for God? Do you need a bit of experience to help getting into work, something positive for your CV? If so, we have just the job for you.

We have a position as a voluntary Foundation (i.e. church) Governor at Christ Church Primary School. It takes just a few hours a month and is a great way of working with our community. It is vitally important, especially at the moment; governors scrutinised the anti-Covid measures and helped decide how and when the school re-opened. At present it can all be done from home as each monthly meeting is currently online. You will get access to this via the school email address that you will be given.

Tom Webber, Stella O'Brien, Ray Pilgrim, Carol Au Yeung and Pat Hurst are all governors and can tell you more.

Interested? Please contact Tom.

Stella

Dates For Your Diaries

Sunday 4th October at 9.45am

Sunday Prayers service at Emmanuel church only

Sunday 4th October at 4pm

Christ Church Thanksgiving Service -

Sorry, only for those who already have seats reserved.

Wednesday 14th October at 7.30pm

Christ Church Annual Church Meeting.

Please contact the office to book seats if you would like to attend in person. If you can't attend you will be able to watch the meeting 'live' online.

Monday 19th October at 3.30pm

Emmanuel Annual Church Meeting in church

Sunday 25th October

Deadline for Shoebox Appeal donations

Sunday 1st November at 4pm

Memorial Service at Christ Church

Giving From Your Phone

The ability to donate funds to Christ Church has moved into the 21st Century!

Thanks to David, people now have the option of being able to scan the QR Code shown below and donate using their Apple Pay or Google Pay apps. The QR Code is also displayed in church.

Don't worry if you have no idea what I'm talking about - Standing Orders, Direct Debits, and all the other ways of giving still work fine!

If you didn't know, a QR Code is basically a two-dimensional barcode designed to be read quickly by smartphones. (QR stands for Quick Response).



Consider Time

I've been thinking about 'Time' quite a lot lately. It plays a dominant part in our lives and the Bible has quite a lot to say about it – either directly or indirectly. The Preacher in Ecclesiastes speaks of there being a specific time for every activity and stage of life: "A time to be born and a time to die", "A time to weep and a time to laugh", and so on (Eccles 3. 1-8). But generally he seems to have a rather pessimistic view of life: "What's the point of it all?" he asks. But later, in Chapter 12, he advises: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth", and goes on to describe what life will be like as we advance into old age and eventual death.

We are often admonished not to 'waste time'. Time is a precious commodity, and we only have so much of it. It also seems to vary in speed at different stages of life. As a child, a year seems to stretch on forever between one Christmas and the next, and between one Birthday and another. But now we say: "Wherever has this year gone", or "Good heavens – is that the time!" One thing about time seems common to us all – we never seem to have enough of it! Isaac Watts, the 18th century hymn writer wrote: "Time like an ever-rolling stream bears all its sons away. They fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day". James, in his letter, says much the same thing. "What is your life?" he asks. "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." Jesus was very much for living one day at a time. Thus we pray: "Give us this day our daily bread". He chides the farmer who told himself to put his feet up and take it easy, as he had 'goods laid up for many years'. "You fool", says Jesus. "This night your soul will be required of you!"

When Glenys and I lived in Sittingbourne we once visited a very Godly man. On his mantelpiece he had a small card, bearing just two words: "Perhaps Today". It certainly makes you think. Now obviously we don't want to be morbid about all this. Of course we make plans, book holidays, arrange to see friends, and so on. But we should never take life for granted.

Time and distance are strongly linked, thus we measure speed in miles per hour. That's fine for terrestrial distances, but far too short if we want to measure how far away the stars and galaxies are. For this, the speed of light at 186,282 miles per second becomes the unit we use. On this reckoning, the sun is just over eight minutes away, and the nearest star about four light years. Some of the far distant objects in the visible universe may have ceased 'shining' centuries ago, but we continue to 'see' them, as their light is still hurtling towards us through space.

The English poet, Sydney Carter (1915 – 2004) gives us an amusing reflection on life in his poem 'Run the Film Backwards', which begins: "When I was eighty seven they took me from my coffin: they found a flannel nightshirt for me to travel off in." In verse eight, after various stages in his ever-younger life, he finds himself as a toddler. To him "The trees are getting taller and the streets are getting wider. My mother is the world to me: and soon I'll be inside her". In the final verse he is in the darkness of the womb and his last plaintive thought is "Wherever can I be?"

Wherever indeed! Psalm 139 gives us a possible answer: "You saw me before I was born. Every day was recorded in your book." What implications may all this have for us as we affirm 'I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting'? If we run the film backwards the broken cup on the floor comes together again and leaps back on to the table, full of un-spilt tea. If time were to run backwards, the dead would indeed come back to life – but only once again to pop back inside their mothers. Not much point in that! So let's stop the clock at –say – 30 years of age. But time and motion are linked – so not much point either in being frozen in time and not able to move! We need another dimension altogether. In Revelation 10.8 an angel declares: "There shall be time no longer." 'Eternity' perhaps, a different dimension – not meaning a 'very long time', but a different state altogether, one we cannot comprehend at the moment. We shall just have to wait and see.

Barry