

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel
Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- It's All Saints' Day on Sunday
- Emmanuel Midweek Services
- 2 Chances to Make a Difference
- Book Review - Tom's Midnight Garden

Verse For The Week

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

(Ephesians 1: 7-8)

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

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All Saints' / All Souls' Day

The following is taken from a page of the Church of England's website:



All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls' Day both celebrate a mutual belonging to a company of saints, of which each of us is a part.

All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, and for the wonderful ends to which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living.

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.

Sermon Snippets

Ephesians 1: 1-10

This Sunday we're celebrating "All Saints Day" . . .and when we tend to think of saints we picture someone "holy" like the lady in the picture above. And yet Paul, in writing his letter to the Ephesians, describes them all as "saints" – yes the ordinary Christians are all included in this category.

"Saints" is the word used in some of our older translations (eg the KJV) but perhaps a more helpful description is the NIV's translation "God's holy people". That phrase reminds us it's not how we are but whose we are. Once in God's family we are made righteous, not because we're perfect, but because of Jesus Christ. . . .and now we're part of that family it can begin, bit by bit, to show itself in our lives.

Prayer Pointers

Father God we praise you for your constant faithfulness in this ever-changing world.

Church Family:

We lift up to you, Lord, our loved ones, those in our Church family who are sick, suffering, lost, lonely, hurting or bereaved.

Please take some time to reflect over the Remembrance Day services, for all the preparations, planning, for Tom and the leadership team as this re-introduces the 10.30 morning services, which at Christ Church is being broadcast live; for all the people who attend the services and those who are watching at home. Pray for Emmanuel for their preparations and planning as they re-start their Wednesday Morning service on the 11th November.

The Local Area:

As the colder weather approaches, we bring before the Lord the street we live in, the local town and community, those living on their own - perhaps still self-isolating, families on the edge and especially the homeless. Matthew 6: 32-34 "Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."

National Prayer:

We pray for our children in society today, for their education, for the youngsters who are at crisis point and slipping through the cracks of education, and also for child food poverty. We lift up to our Lord all who are working to support local schools, for school educators and school staff. Pray that the children may grow into the fullness that God has in store for each of them. Please take time to reflect in your prayers and think how God may be prompting each of us to make a difference.

Global Prayer:

Lord, we lift before you the country of Syria and especially the refugee camps, where social distancing and the wearing of masks is quite impossible, where amongst the ongoing conflict 40% of people tested positive for Covid-19. They have very few doctors and millions of people in these camps. Doctors are dealing every day with war injuries and now, in addition, the Covid-19 crisis. Lord, we ask for your hand into this situation and ask for healing and peace to fill this land.

Notices

Emmanuel Church Midweek Services

Just a reminder that Emmanuel Church are holding Parish Prayers on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 10am in church. We will be using the Oxford street entrance.

In addition, from the 11th November we will be restarting the Wednesday morning services on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10.30am.

All are warmly welcome to these services.

Remembrance Day Service 08 November

Don't forget that the 8th November is when the start time of services at both churches changes from 09.45 back to the usual start time of 10.30.

If you are thinking of going to the Christ Church service, please remember to book your seats in advance with Phil in the Church Office. This service will also be available to watch live online if you are not able to be there in person.

To watch the service online, go to the [Sunday Service page](#) of the Christ Church website. The service will appear on Sunday morning at the top of the list of services. If you are used to watching services on YouTube, go to the ccwsm channel as usual.

Christ Church 'Give-As-You-Live'



Since we as a church started using Give As You Live (GAYL) to help us raise much needed funds for Christ Church, thirty two of us have raised hundreds of pounds to date, costing ourselves nothing. So here is another way to raise even more money with store cards topped up by us and shown/scanned at the tills when shopping. The charity GAYL will then donate a percentage as usual to our church. For further details contact Heather Thomas or David White.

Coffee time after the Service...

A Chance to Make a Difference - 1

Christ Church and Emmanuel are in the business of making a difference to our communities in the name of Jesus. Emmanuel's work with homeless people has been making a difference for many years. Christ Church made a difference some time ago by getting Weston Hospice started. The Eco Church Conference and the Repair Café made opportunities for sharing and encouragement to care for God's creation and demonstrate the generosity of his Kingdom.

During the Lockdown we partnered with ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) to get essential supplies to those who could not get out of their homes, and we are still keeping in touch with those who are isolated to this day.

Now we have been invited to join an exciting project being introduced to Weston by Avon and Somerset Police in partnership with North Somerset Council. 'Intensive Engagement' is a process which has been used in other parts of the country and aims to:

- engage with communities which are experiencing social problems
- look at the problems from the community's point of view
- identify assets and skills and form a working group
- design solutions and implement them
- evaluate and escalate

The police have asked us to take part because they think we could help make the project a success, bringing our own particular abilities and viewpoint. They need people who desire positive improvements in Weston, are willing to learn, are team players – being supportive and positive. They will be trained and will see a massive and lasting impact derived from focused effort. The project is expected to last a few months and will not require a large investment of time.

This is an amazing opportunity for the church to work in our community and I am very encouraged that our determination to serve has been recognised by the police and the council. Please pray and think whether you could be part of this exciting project, then get in touch with me and we'll take it from there.

Bev

Church Services Correction

Here is an updated grid of Sunday Services for the next couple of months. Each of these services will start at 10.30.

| Sunday | Christ Church | Emmanuel |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 08-Nov-20 | Remembrance Service | Remembrance Service |
| 15-Nov-20 | Morning Service | Morning Service |
| 22-Nov-20 | Morning Service | Holy Communion |
| 29-Nov-20 | Holy Communion | Morning Service |
| 06-Dec-20 | Morning Service | Holy Communion |
| 13-Dec-20 | Morning Service | Morning Service |
| 20-Dec-20 | ONLINE SERVICE | Holy Communion |
| 27-Dec-20 | ONLINE SERVICE | No Service |

A Chance to Make a Difference - 2



Would you be interested in helping young people and families by providing support and a friendly ear as a Mentor?

ROC Community Mentoring, in partnership with COACH, aims to empower disadvantaged young people and families and build resilience in individuals through one-to-one mentoring.

We are looking for Mentors.

As a Mentor you will work with young people and their families through difficult times, and with goal-focused mentoring you will help them explore their strengths and try new things. You would be fully trained and supported.

The vision is to see young people flourish.

Is this something you want to explore? We will be holding an open house via Zoom on Tuesday 3rd November at 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for you to find out more and to ask questions about the scheme.

To register an interest, please email daveandpennyroc@gmail.com.

More Coffee, anyone?

Book Review - Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce

This story, first published in 1958, tells how Tom Long, aged about eleven, has to stay away from home with his Uncle and Aunt, owing to the illness of his brother. Tom's Uncle and Aunt live in a Victorian house, once very elegant, standing in its own grounds, in open countryside, but now divided into flats and surrounded by housing and with no garden at all. Tom felt he was in for a boring time – but how wrong he could be!

In the sparse entrance hall of the house, stood an ancient long-case clock with a very ornate dial bearing pictures of angels and a quotation from The Book of Revelation, chapter ten, verse six: 'And there shall be time no more'. The house belonged to Mrs Bartholomew, an elderly lady, living in the top floor flat. The clock kept good time, but would strike the hours erratically.

On his first night in the strange house, Tom couldn't sleep. In his restlessness he heard the clock striking. He counted, '...ten, eleven, twelve ... THIRTEEN!' Intrigued, he ran downstairs. The clock stood at midnight, but the hall seemed different. It was carpeted and furnished with fine antique chairs, and with oil paintings in gold frames on the walls. Tom moved to the back door. It was secured by one large bolt which Tom easily opened. He stepped outside and to his astonishment, found himself in a large and beautiful garden, with tall trees, lawns, paths and flower beds, and to one side a vegetable garden, with a greenhouse and potting shed. Tom spent what seemed ages in the garden, then realising the time, he ran back indoors and upstairs to bed. His bedside clock still showed midnight! Next morning, Tom raced downstairs, hoping to play in the garden, but when he opened the door, all he found was a small back yard for dustbins, enclosed within a tall wooden fence. Disappointed, he tried to relate his experience of the garden to his Uncle and Aunt, but they just became impatient and told him not to talk nonsense.

That night, at midnight, Tom went again to the garden. This time he encountered a girl about his own age, who told him her name was Hetty Milbourne. Over succeeding nights, Tom continued meeting Hetty, but sometimes she seemed younger than himself and at other times much older. Also, the time of 'day' and even the season of the year seemed to vary, and Hetty would upbraid Tom for not coming to play with her 'for weeks on end'. How the story continues, and Hetty's connection with the house, will not be disclosed, in case it spoils enjoyment for future readers.

I have a very strong recollection of listening to this book being read on the radio when I was a similar age to Tom. But as the first broadcast was not until 1967 (when I was 37) this couldn't have been so! My own experience of time slip, perhaps?

But this could have been the genius of Philippa Pearce, which has made this book timeless and enjoyable for people of all ages. Which may be the reason why it has never been out of print. Available from Waterstones at £6.99 or from Amazon. Also on DVD.

Barry

Signs of the Times

