

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel

Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Neighbourhood Prayer Network
- Remembering Captain Spensley
- Windows of Light Photos
- Two Book Reviews

Verse For The Week

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

(Matthew 25: 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)

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Neighbourhood Prayer Network

The vision of Neighbourhood Prayer Network is to see each street in the UK covered by prayer. They also have a number of videos which are worth watching.

Sue writes: *"I have enjoyed listening to their Prayer week on YouTube with 'Leading The Way', just dipping in and out. I have been inspired by passionate speakers who have been praying, sharing and discussing.*

Among the topics were The Church, The Family, The Government (including prayer time in the corridors of power), Entertainment, The Arts and Sport. Sunday was dedicated to Faith In Later Life, where we were encouraged to Whisper the Rumour of the Gospel."

For more information about their vision and how you can register, go to the [Neighbourhood Prayer Network website](http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.org.uk).

Sermon Snippets

Matthew 25: 1-13

At the end of any of Jesus' parables we have to make a decision. Here it is - will we be "foolish" or "wise"? In the story the foolish bridesmaids thought they would get away with a certain amount of oil, and if they needed extra they could sort that out at the last moment. The wise ones brought enough to last whatever the circumstances. It's one of the teachings Jesus gives us about his return – and this time no longer as a baby but as a reigning king. It's a warning that, if we think we can sort out our commitment to him at that last moment, it will be too late. Sadly, in the story, the foolish bridesmaids had to rush down to the shops to buy the extra oil, and missed the very event they'd come to celebrate. What about you and me – are we following Jesus now or do we think there will be wriggle room to put things right when he comes?

Prayer Pointers

"And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." (1 John 2: 17 NLT)

Church Family

"Lord, the one you love is sick." (John 11: 3 NIV)
We lift up to you Lord our loved ones, those in our Church family who are sick, suffering, lonely, frightened, hurting or bereaved. We pray that they may know God's presence amidst their pain.

Father God we bring before you those in our church family who are feeling stretched at this time. We pray that they can cope, and that they remain hopeful that God will bring strength and peace.

Our Community

Please take some time to reflect on our town, our neighbours, the road we live in, the homeless, our children, and families. We think of the struggle our families and children are facing as Christmas time approaches. We praise you Lord for all who have campaigned to make their voices heard which has resulted in further Government help being offered. We praise you and give you thanks Lord that we can bring this situation to you.

National Prayer

We hold up to our Lord the NHS, frontline workers, essential and key workers. As we voice our gratitude to all who serve, we pray that they will all be encouraged to continue to work among us. Help them to find the energy needed to carry on the work of their hands.

Global Prayer

Christians hunger in many countries around the world and the effects of this will be compounded by poverty and Covid-19. We pray for governments and hospitals, churches and charities as they seek to steward very limited resources to reach these people. We pray that wherever they live, we - God's people - will be generous with our resources in this life, because we trust God's promises for the next. "Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst." (Revelation 7: 16 NIV)

I would like to say a big Thank You to those who have written Prayer Pointers for *Connected*. It hasn't always been an easy task, especially during the periods of lockdown, but what each of you has written has been inspirational for many people.

phil

Reminders

CAP Christmas Hampers

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) organise hampers to be delivered to their clients each year, and this year is no exception. For more information on how to donate to this important work, please see the latest [CAP Newsletter](#) on the Christ Church website.

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 (01934 417776)

Churches open for Private Prayer

Despite being closed for public worship during this second period of lockdown, our two churches will be open for private prayer at the following times:

- Christ Church will be open Monday to Friday from 9am until 12noon.
- Emmanuel will be open each Wednesday from 10.30 to 11.30.

Watching Services Online

Because our churches have had to close, our services will once again be shown online - at least for the month of November.

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.

Traidcraft



If like me you are finding Christmas shopping difficult this year may I suggest you look at traidcraftshop.co.uk to see their selection of gift ideas.

Please e-mail or phone Liz Cole with your order. You will be helping the poor of the world and our church will be getting 10% of your order.

Coffee time after the Service...

Two Book Reviews

As we are in the middle of another lockdown I thought I might share a couple of fascinating books with you all, entitled 'Sitting At The Feet Of Rabbi Jesus', and 'Walking In The Dust Of Rabbi Jesus', both by Ann Spangler & Lois Tverberg.

The first book is a rare chance to know Jesus as his first disciples knew him. What would it be like to journey back in time to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples? How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you lived? This book takes you on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus, offering inspirational insights that can transform your faith. The authors paint powerful scenes from Jesus' ministry, immersing you in the prayers, feasts, history, culture and customs that shaped Jesus and those who followed him. You will hear the parables as they must have sounded to first century Jews, powerful and surprising. You will join the conversations that were already going on among the rabbis of his day. You will watch with new understanding as the events of his life unfold; and you will emerge with new excitement about the roots of your own Christian faith. By looking at the Jewishness of Jesus the authors take you on a captivating journey into the heart of Judaism, one that is both balanced and insightful, helping you to better understand and appreciate your own faith.

When you have finished reading this you may like to find 'Walking In The Dust Of Rabbi Jesus', equally a thoroughly good read to better understand the Jewishness of his culture and himself. "Our modern society, with its individualism and materialism, is very different than the tight knit, family oriented setting Jesus lived and taught in. What wisdom can we glean from this Eastern, biblical attitude towards life? How can knowing Jesus within this context shed light on this teachings for us today?"

Both books can be downloaded onto a Kindle, so no need to go out and shop during the lockdown.

Heather

Windows of Light

Following on from her article in last week's *Connected*, Nicky has shared pictures of the Window of Light she has created:



Nicky says:

"Using whatever you have available at home why not have a go at creating a Window of Light! You could use card or paper from your recycling box to create some silhouettes; you could put up some of your Christmas fairy lights and send a message of hope out on to your street. You don't have to be super crafty, just tap into that wonderful imagination that God gave you!"



Why not have a go at creating your own Window of Light? Send your photos in to Phil at the Church Office for publication in *Connected*.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1: 5)

More Coffee, anyone?

Some Early Memories

I remember my Grandad's leg,
it stood in the corner, just next to his bed.

And brown sticky ribbons hanging upside down,
a low wattage light bulb with flies buzzing round.

The last time I saw him was on that day
for quite soon after he passed away.

I remember my Welsh Granny too,
who told me rude stories - that's what Welsh Grannies do.

Pauline who bit me at my first day in school,
she said "it were funny". I thought she was cruel.

With my best friend Gordon, whose family were poor,
drinking tea from jam jars on the steps by his door.

Open air swimming in the cold and the rain,
hot canal water from the factories' drains.



The smell from the Mersey and the mists rolling down,
a sign of hot weather for us kids from the town.

A planned trip to Buxton but not very far,
'cause the engine caught fire when Dad parked his car.

Dad's car ran on 'Freeman's' from contacts he'd made.
I look back and smile at the petrol he'd saved!

David

Signs of the Times



Dr. James Richardson Spensley

In the week of Remembrance, and the dedication of the interment of the unknown warrior in Westminster Abbey 100 years ago, we remember all the lives lost in conflict since the First World War. It is only when you start researching into their lives and war service that you realise what they gave up to ensure we remained free. It is most humbling when you are able to piece together some of the history behind the names of the fallen.

James studied medicine in London, and afterwards for a short time in Sunderland. He then settled in Genoa in the early 1900s and spent the next 17 years as a port officer there. He became Chief Commissioner of the boy scouts in Italy. He was also a journalist, boxer, football player, football manager and referee. He was a key figure in the introduction of the Italian football associations as they are known today.

When war broke out, he volunteered for service in the RAMC. Although he had been offered a commission in the Italian Army he wished to remain under British command. He was first believed to have been killed in September 1915. It was reported that he had been killed helping a wounded soldier under the most appalling fire. His obituary was published in October 1915, but it was later discovered that he had been taken prisoner of war and was seriously wounded and held in the officers' prison in Mainz, Germany. He did not recover from his wounds and died on the 10th November 1915, aged 47. He is remembered with honour in the Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel.

He was the only son of Rev. William Spensley, Minister of Grange Congregational Church, Sunderland, and Elizabeth Heathfield (nee Richardson), of Ellenborough Park, Weston. He was born in 1868, and is remembered on the Emmanuel Church War Memorial as Captain Spensley. There is also a plaque on the house where he lived in Genoa which reads:

"Here lived the English doctor James R. Spensley, sportsman, a great friend of Italy, a great pioneer with the Genoa Cricket Club and Football Club, founder of Genoese scouting."

ROD