

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel
Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Caring for the Environment
- Book Review - Into God's Presence
- Changes to Christ Church Website
- Church of the Confused Chicken

Verse For The Week

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory."

(Matthew 25: 31)

Watch today's service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' 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

Caring for the Environment



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

We might be in the middle of a second lock-down, but we still have a responsibility to care for God's creation. There are many ways we can each play a part.

Here's a suggestion from Hayden:

"Homes are really important, and God calls us to play our part in giving nature a home too. Is your garden lacking a bird feeder ahead of the long winter months when it's particularly hard for wildlife to source food? Could your balcony or windowsill do with some plant life? Why not gather your housemates, friends and family to discuss how a new recycling, heating or transport arrangement might work for you all - you'll go further together!"

Please email the office with any tips you might have. We'd be happy to publish them in future editions of *Connected*.

If you would like more information, click on the Eco Church logo below. They have lots of pages of great resources, suggestions, and links to further information.



Sermon Snippets

Matthew 25: 31-46

Christ the King, Jesus, the King of an everlasting Kingdom, the King of Love, will return in judgement so we need to be prepared. When Jesus returns there will be an enormous sort out. Sheep on the right, who are invited into his Kingdom, and goats on the left banished to eternal punishment.

The King decides who goes where according to how the marginalised, the needy and the overlooked are noticed, loved and attended. We are the kingdom of those who love, whether we feel like it or not, because God first loved us.

Prayer Pointers

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

Church Family

We pray for Tom and the church leadership team, as they prepare for the possibility of being able to hold Christmas services. We pray for opportunities to reach people, that these will lead to church growth.

"Lord, the one you love is sick." (*John 11:3*)

We place into your hands, O Lord, all those in our church families who are sick, suffering, anxious, waiting for treatment or bereaved.

Our Community

"...so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (*John 17:21*)

Father God we pray that your churches in our community would be a powerful witness to unbelievers, as they see that Jesus is not a hobby that we put on hold. We think of all those who were on the fringes of church life before the crisis - pray that we may love them, stay in touch with them and would convince them of Christ's claims. Pray for chances to speak enthusiastically to non-Christians about God's love for everyone. We pray for the vulnerable and elderly in our community and ask for protection, that they will be able to access the help that they need, and we pray for all the key and essential workers responsible for delivering it.

National Prayer

We pray for those living with anxieties; some are doubting their faith, some are losing jobs, some are furloughed. Some of these are business owners. We ask for protection and ask that God will give them a prompting to turn their eyes on to Him. We pray for God's blessing upon them, for doors to open for them, and show them the path of true life.

Global Prayer

We give thanks to the Lord for the fantastic news regarding a vaccine to this terrible Covid-19 virus. There are still many issues to overcome, not least the process of ensuring a fair worldwide distribution to everyone and we pray for God's wisdom to prevail throughout this. We also ask for the right volunteers to come forward to help administer this vaccine.

Notices

2021 Bible Notes

With the current pandemic likely to extend into 2021, please could you collect your Bible Notes for 2021 from a table in Christ Church foyer, either when you come to a service, or when the church is routinely open in the mornings. Barry will post further notices in *Connected* as Notes become available.

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

Just a reminder that our two churches are open for private prayer at the following times:

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

Watching Services Online

Our services are being shown online - at least for the rest of November. We will bring you news of December services as soon as we can.

To watch the service online, go to the [Sunday Services](#) page of the Christ Church website, under 'Church Life'. 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.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The National Collection Week for shoeboxes has had to be postponed until the 5th-14th December because of the current lock-down. Please pray that the collections will go ahead and that the shoeboxes can reach the children as soon as possible in the New Year.

Prayer Letter from The Morrisseys

The latest Prayer Sheet from the Morrisseys is now available from the Church Office if you'd like a copy.

Coffee time after the Service...

Book Review - Into God's Presence (Liz Babbs)

I expect that, like me, for you “meditation” first brings up thoughts of Buddhism, yogis and New Age! The author of this book is fully aware of our preconceptions, but her aim is to “bring the gentle rhythms of grace into a twenty-four/seven world”.

Our lives are busy; even during lockdown many of us have been busy, taking the opportunity to catch up on long-neglected jobs, or learning a new skill. Now more than ever we need to connect with our God. We are confused as to what is happening and for how long, we miss human contact and meeting with each other at church. The Bible gives us examples of meditation; David and other psalmists meditated on the glory of God and His faithfulness, particularly when in troubled times. During a time of withdrawal, the author says she felt as if a sign had been erected saying: “Do not disturb, God at work”.

When we disconnect from God – often unintentionally through busyness – it’s like having a phone call and not picking up. The connection is still there but not in use. She equates prayer with meditation, and tells us how to calm ourselves with breathing when we draw aside to spend time with God. It is easy to think of prayer as a request list, but it also needs to be a time of thinking about God and listening to Him. To this end, the book has many, many one-line Bible quotations to meditate on, from stress-busting workout quotes to love letters from God. She describes the process of soaking up God’s presence as “Son-bathing” - an unusual but very apt picture!

It’s an easy read, but still challenging, with Biblical answers to negative thoughts, struggles with forgiveness, and spiritual keeping-fit. The purpose of the book is to enable us to have a deeper intimacy with God in daily prayer life, and Liz Babbs makes this sound not only necessary but also infinitely desirable.

Pat

Windows of Light

Don't forget to have a go at creating a Window of Light. Here's a reminder of the Window Nicky 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!"

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

Changes to the Website

At the beginning of the first lock-down in March, Tom and the team had to act quickly. Part of what was done then was to create a new menu on the website called 'We Are Still Here'. Now that more of a pattern of Church life is emerging, whether our services will be online or in church and live-streamed, we have decided to revert to the original structure when the new website was first launched last year.

Church Life
Sunday Services
Daily Prayers
Family, Youth and Children
For men
Ladies Together
Life groups
Mission Partner News
Giving
Safeguarding

This is what the Church Life menu looks like now. It contains the Sunday Services and the Daily Prayers, as well as pages for Church groups.

Community-focused groups' pages are in the Community menu, and you can find the Events page, Calendar and *Connected* under What's On.

We hope these changes will make the website clearer and easier to use.

phil

More Coffee, anyone?

The Day Before Lock-down 2

It is becoming a habit with me, this getting out and about with my camera on the day before lockdown! On this occasion my sister and I had already planned to walk along Brean Down accompanied by our picnic lunch to celebrate my birthday.



The weather was amazing ... bright, sunny and without wind and I was delighted with this beautiful view of Weston bay from a very different angle showing just what a lovely place we are fortunate enough to live in.

It is also my pleasure to share with you the news that my sister Chris has recently been appointed to become Rector of the Benefice of Huntspill and Mark, having been in the parish of Portishead for the last ten years and I am looking forward to helping her when she moves early next year!

Sheila

Signs of the Times



Emmanuel Church Car Park

I just wanted to mention that, by the time you read this, our long awaited surveillance camera and signs should have been installed in our car park. There will be tablets in the two entrance vestibules for visitors to the building to enter their car registration number, and thus have a permit for that visit.

Other regular church members with cars will already have sent their registration numbers to Pat or me and had them entered on to the company website list granting them permanent permits. If anyone has any questions or wants to talk about it, please don't hesitate to contact Pat or myself.

Dina

The Church of the Confused Chicken



This is Church By The Sea in Madeira Beach, Florida. It was built in 1944 and is attracting many people who are flocking (*intentional pun*) to see its resemblance to a chicken. According to the Huffington Post, the sudden upsurge in attention is getting mixed reactions from the local congregation. What do you think?