

Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel
Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Advent Sunday
- Service 'Welcomers' Required
- Christmas Notices
- ROC Christmas Celebration

Verse For The Week

He will keep you strong to the end,
so that you will be blameless on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 1 : 8)

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

Advent Sunday

*This is a photo of the
Advent Wreath at Christ
Church, made by
Sandra and Rod.*



There's an interesting piece on the Christianity.com website about the history and traditions of the Advent season, including how the Advent Wreath came about. You can read the piece by [clicking on this link](#).

Advent is a time of anticipation, as well as restraint for some, as we look forward to the coming of Christ in three ways: firstly, we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. Secondly, the coming of Christ can happen in our lives now as we open the door of our heart to Him who knocks. Thirdly, we look forward to Christ's coming again in Glory. Angeline has more to say about that in the service on Sunday.

In some traditions there are four coloured candles which represent hope, faith, joy and peace. Other traditions remember Isaiah and other prophets, The Bible, Mary, and John the Baptist. The centre candle is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Sermon Snippets

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

We have to wait for lots of things in life and particularly this year: waiting in queues; waiting for a vaccine; waiting to see and hug the people we love... In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul says there's something else we're waiting for: Jesus to return.

We can't count down the sleeps like we do for Christmas because we don't know when he's coming back, but we should wait with eagerness and with confidence.

Prayer Pointers

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (*Matthew 6:34 NIV*)

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. Lord, thank you for our families here at Christ Church and Emmanuel, for the opportunities you have provided; we pray that we will all experience the peace of God that exceeds all understanding, that we will not worry about things we cannot control, but that you will guard our hearts and minds and keep us trusting you.

Our Community

We lift to our Lord the Trussell Trust (Food Bank) and their vision for hunger-free communities. We pray for all who volunteer and work, giving up time to meet people's needs. We pray for the vision - to end hunger and especially for all children - to come to fruition. Father God we intercede on behalf of single parents and families. We ask Lord that you bring our families into a safe environment, encourage and guide them to get the right help as required and to know your presence in their lives.

National Prayer

We give thanks for the commitment of teachers and all those who are involved in teaching children and young people in education. We pray that everyone may be nurtured and cared for and that all needful resources would be made available so that all may flourish and no one would be overlooked.

Today we bring to the Lord all who work in the NHS. We ask for strength and encouragement as they work tirelessly for patients with Covid-19. We pray for all patients who have had operations put back or suspended, especially those suffering with cancer, and ask that they be filled with comfort, peace and love as they wait for further communication at this time.

Global Prayer

Let us pause and pray for children that find themselves in orphanages and in care around the world; we pray for their emotional needs and for families who are adopting or fostering. We pray that, despite monetary restrictions, valuable help and aid will still reach those in need around the world.

Notices

News About Church Services

The service on Sunday 29th will be available to view online as is usual at the moment. However we will be opening up our two churches again for public worship on Sunday 6th December. Services at both churches will start at 10.30. There will be no need to book seats in advance. More details about Christmas Services will be published in next week's edition of *Connected*.

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

Our two churches will continue to remain 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. (Please note that the Wednesday Communion services will re-start in January.)

Emmanuel Car Park Camera

A reminder that a surveillance camera has now been installed in the Emmanuel Church car park. There will be tablets in the two entrance vestibules for visitors to enter their registration number, and thus have a permit for that visit. If anyone has any questions or wants to talk about it, please don't hesitate to contact Pat or Dina.

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 the 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.

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...

Online Service Greetings - volunteers required!

You'll be aware by now that the start of our online services includes three "hellos" by members of our two churches. These have been appreciated by many – and I'd like to continue to use them even as we begin to meet once again in church. The reality is that many within our church family may not be able to return to church in the near future and therefore will continue to watch online. The sight of other members of the church family is a real encouragement.

I'm therefore asking if you'd be prepared to record yourself saying "good morning and welcome to our Sunday service". Many of you have done so – but I've used all the existing greetings and it would be great to have some "fresh" ones even if you've done one before!

The easiest way to do this is to record yourself on your mobile phone (in "landscape" please). I can easily edit down any bits at the beginning / end as you start the recording so don't worry about those. Also you can use PowerPoint or the camera function on your computer.

Then send it to me using one of the following:

- WhatsApp on your mobile phone sent to me (07922 214028)
- Use "Wetransfer" on the internet – it's very easy to use this to email the file to me at: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk
- Anything else you can think of!

If you're feeling adventurous, you could also do a "the peace of the Lord be with you" as we'll be using those too!

I'd be very grateful if you could have a go – there will be people around to help you if you're not sure. Either do a new one if you've done this before, or have a go for the first time.

We're likely to be using these for quite a time – so it would be an enormous help.

Thank you.



The Salvation Army are very busy at this time of year, giving out food parcels and providing 'meals on wheels' amongst other initiatives.

This year they are also collecting toys to give to children as gifts in their Christmas Present Appeal 2020. More details can be found on the [Salvation Army website](#).

I have checked with the local church leader, Major Teresa Harris, who said that they are a participating church in this appeal. If you'd like more local information, Teresa can be contacted on (01934) 425134. You will probably need to leave a message.

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.



More Coffee, anyone?

ROC Christmas Celebration

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) will be holding a Christmas Celebration Service in partnership with the Pier. This will be broadcast online for people in Weston to sign into. The dates have yet to be finalised but it is likely to be over 2 nights during the week beginning 21 December.

Please pray for the event preparation, logistics and delivery, and let your neighbours and friends know about it. More details will follow soon.

Dave and Penny Hynds, who lead the local ROC Action Group, have written the following:

"Help us to celebrate all the acts of kindness that Churches and organisations have done this year in response to Covid-19. We will be putting together a montage for a few minutes showing the various initiatives that people have done – but we need your help.

We would therefore ask that you send us several one-sentence stories of what you have done along with photos (if you have been involved in more than one initiative, please send us more information). Please check that anyone in the photo has consented to it being used in a short video within the service.

Please send stories to Editor@goodnewspost.org"

Signs of the Times



I think this is an appropriate one to finish the series. I hope you have enjoyed the signs!

Christmas Publicity

We will be printing invitations to our Christmas services as usual this year, but instead of asking people to deliver to every property in our two parishes, we are suggesting that people take a few to give out personally to friends and neighbours.

However if you still feel you would like to deliver to your entire road, please let Phil in the office know so that enough cards can be printed and also that we can avoid delivery duplication! We hope to have the cards available for collection from the Christ Church lobby by Friday 6th December.

Christmas Poinsettias

At Emmanuel, we will be decorating the church windowsills with Poinsettias as usual. For those who would like to, please bring your plants to the service at 10.30 on Sunday 6th December to have them placed around the church where they will stay until Christmas.



...and finally...

