



Connected

Two Churches, one Lord

Christ Church and Emmanuel

Weston-super-Mare



This Week...

- Christmas Poem
- Thoughts about Christmas
- A different Nativity



We wish all our readers from Christ Church and Emmanuel a very Happy Christmas.



Watch Christmas services

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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**"A light has dawned ..."
(Isaiah 9)**



What a year it has been! I'm very proud to be part of our church family – having witnessed faith in action in so many caring and practical ways. Thank you to each one of you for the part you've played; especially this year. I do hope that despite the restrictions, you manage to have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. As well as the festivities, do find some time to reflect on God's amazing gift to us in Christ. For example, do have a listen to our Daily Prayers over this Christmas season – they are taken each day by different members of our church family. God bless you this Christmas and I pray that you too will see more of this light dawning on your life.

Tom

~ Notices ~

Please note that the Church Office will be open 9am to 12noon Monday 21st to Thursday 24th December. It will then be closed for Christmas, and reopen on Monday 4th January at 08.30.

Emmanuel is no longer open on a Wednesday for private prayer. However on Wednesday January 13th the Wednesday 1662 communion service will restart at 10.30am. It will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Personal Prayer Pointers for this uniquely hopeful Christmas Season:



Sunday 20th December

The worldwide Church of Christ – evangelists and those persecuted for their faith.

Monday 21st December

God's Creation – those battling global environmental damage – may they be heard.

Tuesday 22nd December

Our Sovereign and Clergy – all who share the Christmas message of Peace.

Wednesday 23rd December

Those in authority in the UK and EU – for guidance to work towards the benefit of all.



Thursday 24th December

Our local community – for the homeless, lonely and desperate this Christmas Eve.

Friday 25th December

Key workers on duty this Christmas Day - those they care for or serve in any way.



Saturday 26th December

Those you are missing this Christmas - those who have lost loved ones this year.



Sunday 27th December

For people to act in a responsible manner and not put others at risk.

Monday 28th December

For Refugees and for Young People – for help, hope and education opportunities.

Tuesday 29th December

For our Royal Family, Church Family and those we hold dear in our own families.

Wednesday 30th December

Those with worldwide responsibilities to counter Covid-19 – may they know God's wisdom.

Thursday 31st December

Those resident in Care Homes, their families and all who care for them.



Friday 1st January

Those developing, delivering and receiving Covid-19 vaccines – give grateful thanks.

Saturday 2nd January

For whatever or whoever the Lord has put on your heart today – pray for God's blessing.



A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS 2020

Under Covid Pandemic Restrictions

This Christmas time - can we rejoice? It's one we thought we'd miss;
Can we today, with heart and voice, again enjoy its bliss?
With Covid, we were cleft apart by separation's pains;
Despair and gloom assailed the heart and 'social distance' reigned
What alchemy could lift the veil? What balm remove the cloud?
What silver lining could prevail? What comfort be allowed?
Into this world of darkness came an everlasting light;
To save us all from sin and shame, and separation's blight
There's One who says: 'Come unto me and I will give you rest';
From all these burdens you'll be free and know life at its best.
No longer life behind closed doors; no more from God estranged;
Our waywardness and guilt is for His righteousness exchanged
So yes we **can** rejoice once more and listen yet again;
We'll hear the angels and adore the King who's come to reign;
Into our solitude He'll bring His comfort as we pray;
And joy to hear our carolling, for Christ is born today.

Michael Bewes

Thoughts of Christmas

*"Christmas is the time when I
celebrate Jesus/God coming into our
world as a man to teach us about
His love for us and to eventually die
to atone for our sins."*

Dina Parker



*"Christmas is an explosion of Love
which happened when Jesus came
into the world. More thinking of,
caring for others, than at any time,
reminding us how we should be."*

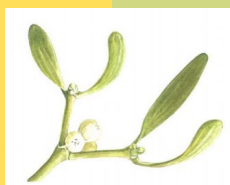
Ann Bancroft

*"Christmas is when we celebrate
Jesus being born, he is very special to
every one. We celebrate Christmas
with all our family and friends, and
have lots of fun".
Evelyn (aged 7)*

*"What a joyful occasion Christmas is.
I always feel optimistic about the
future when we renew our faith when
I celebrate the birth of our saviour
Jesus Christ. Good news indeed."
Gordon Blackman.*

*"Christmas is hopefulness & giving,
It's laughter & firelight & cheer;
It's remembering our Lord's birthday,
With family safe & near.
It's seeing through eyes of wonder
All the gifts our Lord can bring,
And passing it forward to others
So their hearts too can sing."
Julie Andrews*

*"Christmas to me means spending time
with and giving gifts to family and
friends as we remind ourselves of
and celebrate God's gift of love and
salvation to us through his son our
Lord Jesus Christ."
Paul Sodzi*



A Different Nativity –

Normally at Christ Church our Nativity Service is packed with adults and children. We get dressed up and the front of church is filled with a crowd of angels, shepherds and wise men surrounding Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

This year has been a bit different!

On Sunday 13th December we held a Walk Through Nativity. The invitation was to book a time slot for your household to arrive and then to walk through church, stopping to hear from Mary, Joseph, Angel, Shepherds, Star Watcher and a Bethlehem dweller, who explained what it all means.

It was wonderful to see all ages experiencing the familiar story in a new way. And it was wonderful to actually see people (and not just a camera lens) from our community, our church family, toddler group and JaM club.

We were able to film the experience, so if you would like to watch it, it's available on our website here:

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/sermons/nativity-sunday-13-december-2020/>

Nicky