

Connected

Sunday 17th January 2021
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Verse For The Week

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

(Matthew 28: 19-20a)

Sermon Snippets

Matthew 28: 16 - 20

Within these last words of Jesus are 4 'alls' – all authority; all nations; all things; all the days – depending on the version you read.

All authority – all power, all dominion, all rule is his and is the gift of God the Father to his Son. The picture is of Christ on the throne – in his rightful place.

Christ remembers his own and entrusts you and I with the responsibility to carry out his mission. Go to **all the nations**, he says, build up that kingdom. Some are called to go and share in ministry abroad but many of us are called to minister right where we are.

We are to tell out and to live out the message of God's saving grace - '**all things**', or to 'obey everything that I have commanded you', to put into practice all that we have learnt from Christ and pass that on.

And he is with us **all the days**. From Emmanuel to the cross and beyond until time is no more.

Watch Sunday's service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on 'Sunday Services'



No doubt we've all been hearing of the huge pressure on our hospitals during this pandemic. I'd like to invite you to pray about this with me online next Thursday (21st January) at 7.30pm. The Zoom details are:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5509996945?pwd=T2F2UTZlZDB5YVh1MGdoeHJCc3lZUT09>
Meeting ID: 550 999 6945
Passcode: xbw4cy

This is the greatest pressure our NHS has faced, perhaps in its lifetime. We'll pray for all staff and medical services, and patients undergoing treatment and their families. They will all need as much strength, resolve and resources as possible – so let's come before our God who we know hears our prayers. We'll also be praying for our local Christ Church Primary School, where teachers, children and parents would also appreciate our prayers.

So, do join me next Thursday.

Tom



Prayer Pointers

Sunday

On this day, as we thankfully join in the virtual service, let us pray for Christians in the wider world who are experiencing discrimination and persecution, simply for being Christians. We remember those particularly in Northern Nigeria and in the adjoining state of Chad, and in parts of China, where Churches and Mosques are closed or demolished.

Monday

Pray for the roll-out of the Covid immunisation programme, that it may go ahead speedily and prove effective in protecting the vulnerable against the more virulent manifestation of the virus. Remember those who are in hospital and for those risking their own lives to look after them. Remember too, those who have been bereaved, just when some hope of saving lives has arrived.

Tuesday

Pray for people we so easily take for granted in providing the essential services on which we depend. For the Supermarket staff, some of whom we may know by name – thank them! For our Refuse Collectors – call out ‘Thank You’ if you see them emptying the bins! For the Post men and women – say ‘thanks’ if you see them! For the Power Workers who keep our lights on and the gas flowing. For lorry, bus and van drivers; those in the newspaper industry – they could all be at risk. The list could be endless!

Wednesday

Pray for the inauguration of President Biden, that the ceremony will go safely, and that the new President will have the ability and the physical strength to bring unity where there is division. May God, in whom he has a firm and active faith, uphold him in his role.

Thursday

This is probably the day when various members of church prepare their contribution to the forthcoming Sunday service, many from inside their homes. Pray for them and those who co-ordinate and put together the various elements of the service. Pray for Phil and for such helpers as may be, who publish ‘*Connected*’.

Friday

Pray for Christ Church Primary School, and the work involved in organising home-schooling for the children. Especially pray for the Head, Emma Bray, who has the responsibility of making difficult decisions.

Saturday

Pray for the neighbours in your road, whether they be literally next door, or a few houses away, that this pandemic may be an opportunity of forging a sense of community.

Notices

Private Prayer

Even though our two churches are closed for public worship, Christ Church will remain open for private prayer between 9am and 12noon, Monday to Friday. You won't need to book a time, but you will need to wrap up warm!

Latest CAP Newsletter

The December newsletter from Christians Against Poverty is now available to view on the [Christ Church website](#).

Christmas Postage Stamps

Please save your used Christmas, Special British Issue and Foreign Postage Stamps for the Bible Society. The Stamp Box will be on the Christ Church foyer table until mid January.

Practical help

North Somerset Council, in partnership with various other agencies, have re-launched the North Somerset Together Network. [Please click on this link](#) for information on how you can ask for help for yourself or on behalf of someone else, or you can phone the Council's Contact Centre on 01934 427437.

Don't forget, however, if you are a member of either of our two churches and are in need of some practical assistance, you can call our own Crash Team:

Liz Cole (782886)
Jane Milsom (417776)

Laptops for Christ Church School

Do you have an old laptop or tablet? Christ Church School are asking for any donations in order to help the more disadvantaged children with home-schooling during the current lockdown. Please contact Phil in the Church Office if you have something to donate, or if you would like to make a financial contribution to help a child's education. Thank you.

Coffee after the Service...

Hope for the New Year

Here's a poem written by a Barnabas Fund supporter, and published in their magazine. Many thanks to Dina for sending it in.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME
No eye has seen, no ear has heard
Nor heart conceived what is in store
For those who truly love our God
The best is yet to come.

Trials, afflictions, soon forgotten
In that eternal treasured moment
Welcomed in, finally home
As you hear Christ bid you - come.

The reverence, awe, the light - astounding
Countless angels praise, surrounding
He who sits upon the throne
The best has finally come.

Majesty indescribable
Holiness, beauty, joy immeasurable
Father's love uncontainable
To those who by grace come.

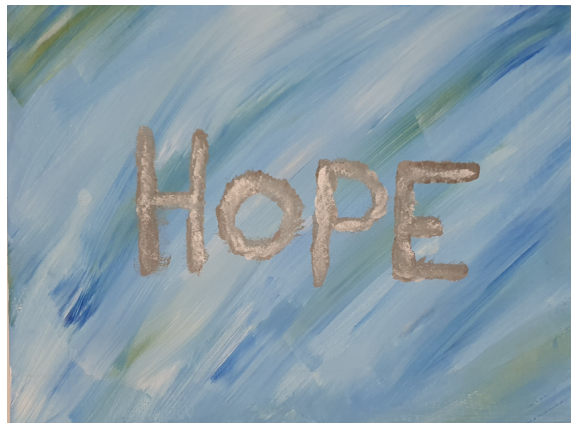
Yet I'm willing to go back somehow
If knowing all that I know now
To share with all I didn't tell
That the best is yet to come.

Our life on Earth - a dress rehearsal
For where we spend life eternal
If you believe on Him who died for all
The best is yet to come.

Abide in Him till journey's end
A repentant life - sin forgiven
Ever desiring home be heaven
Where the best is yet to come

For now the Cross, suffering, death
Living for Christ, dying to self
Till the day you say with final breath
Lord take me home - I come.

We are continuing last week's theme of Hope for the New Year. Please let Phil know if you would like to contribute something.



These pictures are on the wall in the Spire Centre at Christ Church. They were painted by members of 'Vineyard', the Youth Church for young people aged 11+



Hope in song

"We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,
Gone through the curtain and touching the throne.
We have a priest who is there interceding
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day."

"The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures."

"In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm."

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Another coffee, anyone?

Carols On The Doorstep



At 6pm on the 16th December, 39 neighbours on Montpellier joined a national initiative to bring Carol Singing to our local streets. All BBC local radio stations simultaneously broadcast a one-hour carol concert designed to enable neighbourhoods to come together and sing while safely socially distanced.

I heard about this project on the 13th December and quickly mobilised some help to make it happen. Together with one of our Repair Café volunteers from the street, I delivered notes and knocked on doors to gauge interest. Two neighbours offered radios capable of being heard from both ends of the road (from just north of the Church to Trewartha Park), Phil lent us Carol Sheets to hand out, and we waited to see how many people would join us.

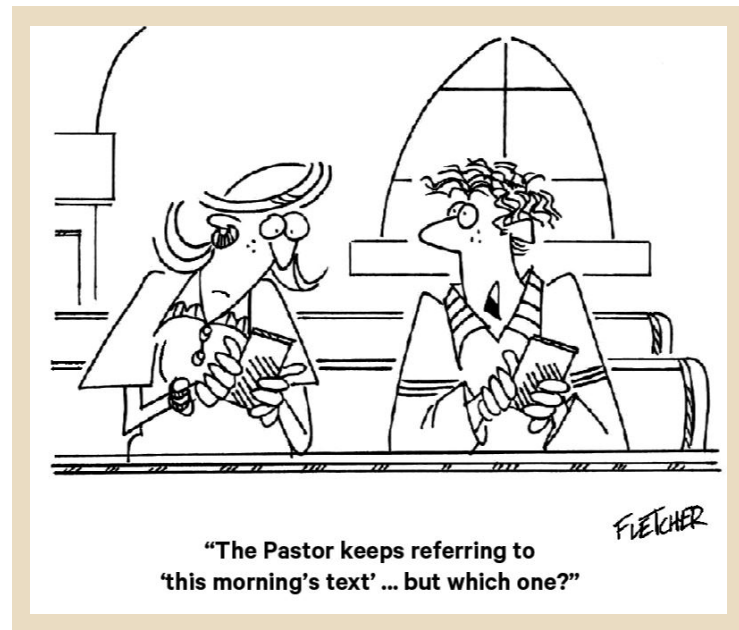
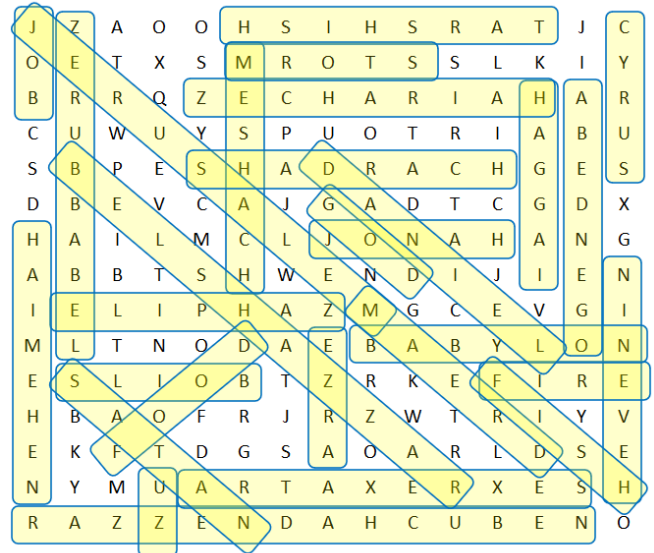
On a mild and dry evening people came to their gateways, into their gardens or onto the pavement and one couple, who have been shielding since March, were thrilled to be able to join in, in complete safety. It felt something like the spirit of the Clap for Carers evenings of the summer and everyone enjoyed marking the real meaning of Christmas in this strangest of years. Many said we should repeat this every year but with mince pies and hot chocolate!! There's a challenge!

I've always realised that these Carols, which were written many years ago, set out the Gospel message in different ways but this event reinforced to me that they can reach people who don't often come into a Church - we shouldn't underestimate how God may use their words even if we never see tangible results. And any ways to bring communities together can lead to opportunities to share our faith in the future.

Jo

Wordsearch Solution

I'm sure you managed to solve the puzzle in last week's *Connected*, but here is the solution just in case!



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