

Connected

Sunday 31st January 2021
4th Sunday of Epiphany

Verse For The Week

Peter said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we made this man walk?"

(Acts 3: 12)

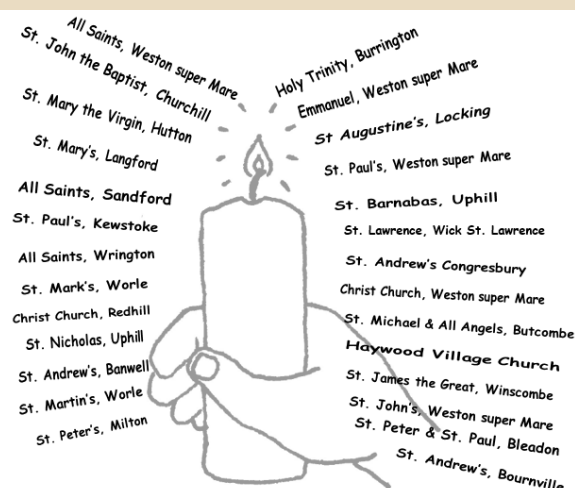
Sermon Snippets

Acts 3: 1 - 16

Today we look at the first part of the passage our 'Verse For The Year' stems from – where Peter and John heal the lame beggar. In particular we're looking at how these two apostles explained the healing to the crowd of onlookers. Despite being so close to Jesus and, in the past, wanting to get some of the "glory" for themselves (see Mark 10: 35-45) they had matured. Instead they were keen that all the glory went to Jesus – now alive and sending his spirit to all believers. It makes me think – am I humble enough just to concentrate on God's kingdom and my place of serving within it, not looking for any "glory" myself?

Also, our writer, Luke, wants to make it clear that this ability to heal wasn't a "possession" but stemmed from a regular and close connection with God. Just before our passage comes the account of when all the believers devoted themselves to teaching, prayer and (as there was no Covid!) meeting together.

Do I see my faith as a "possession" or more of a relationship needing cultivating?



Locking Deanery Service of Light

During Epiphany Christians remember the presentation of Jesus in the Temple forty days after His birth. It was the custom to take Jewish boys to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to God by their thankful parents.

As Christians today, we look to Jesus as a guiding light in the darkness of the world. We often refer to Jesus being 'the Light of the World' and candles are lit during this service to remind ourselves of this. Especially at the moment life can be very difficult for all of us, and the service makes space for prayer and praise as we point to the hope we have in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

So please join our Deanery Service online on Sunday 31st January at 4pm. The guest speaker will be The Very Rev. Bob Key, Anglican Leader for 'Thy Kingdom Come'. I look forward to you joining me from your home. [Please click on this link](#) to the Locking Deanery's website to view the service.

Hayden

Watch Sunday's service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

A prayer for starting the week, from the Collect for Grace in the Book of Common Prayer:

“O Lord our Heavenly Father, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this week, keep us throughout each day from the virus all around us, and grant that everything we do may be acceptable to you and pleasing in your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

Monday

Loving Lord, who had compassion on the multitude, grant that we too may have a deep sense of compassion as we see in the news those who are suffering the loss of someone very dear to them, although it may be harrowing to see their tears. We may not know their names; they may be of a different ethnic origin or religion to our own, but let us stand with them in prayer.

Tuesday

“Break thou the Bread of Life, Dear Lord to me”. Remember and give thanks for those who compile the daily commentaries on Bible readings, which are used by many people at Emmanuel and Christ Church. Grant them the guidance of your Holy Spirit, that they in turn may be guiding us into a better understanding of what we are reading.

Wednesday

The work of many Mission Societies is being curtailed by the pandemic. Pray for those supported by members of Christ Church and Emmanuel, as well as those supported by both churches as a whole. Make use of their news-letters and prayer guides.

Thursday

February is usually when many University and College Christian Unions hold a special week of ‘Missions’, but unfortunately, not this year. Nevertheless, the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship continue to publish their quarterly Prayer Guide. Pray for the staff workers in Oxford, that they may be ready to support local Christian Unions when the University and Colleges reopen.

Friday

Continue to pray for the very real stress that many parents, especially single parents, are facing at this time. Some feel caught in the middle: their children’s needs on the one hand and their parents’ infirmity on the other. Dear Father, have mercy on those we have prayed for this week, whose lives have been made harder in each case by the present pandemic. Please aid them in their daily lives and grant success to all those working hard to end this epidemic.

Saturday

Pray today for the Church throughout the world and for all Bishops, Pastors and Leaders of their congregations – large or small, rich or poor, at peace or under persecution. We pray for those who have prepared to minister to us today in the Virtual Services. "May the words of their mouths and the thoughts of all our hearts be acceptable to you Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen."

Notices

Diocesan Healing Forums

Through 2021 the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group will be offering four opportunities for people to come together, reflect on the times we are living in and explore where healing is, can be and has been at work. To register for the first session on 9th February, [please click on this link](#) to visit the Bath & Wells events page.

(also see the article on page 4)

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. Alternatively you can phone the Council's Contact Centre on 01934 427437.

Coffee after the Service...

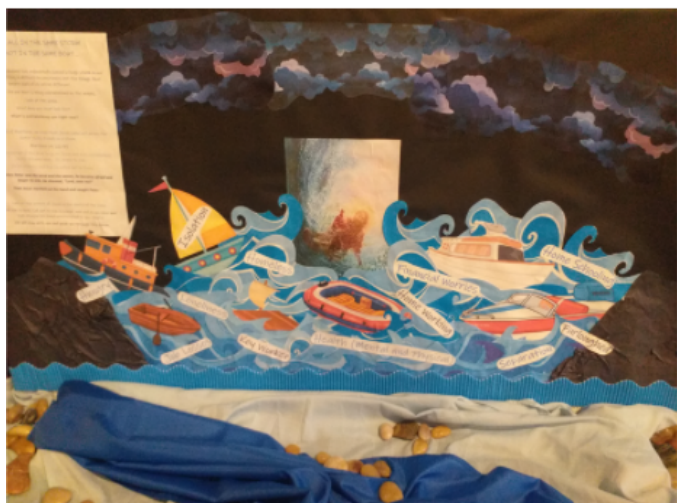
Prayer Stations in Christ Church

Even though our two churches are closed for public worship, Christ Church is open on weekday mornings for private prayer from 09.00 to 12.00. We now have two stations which provide visual prompts for prayer.

This space is accessible and open to all ages.

Please use the hand sanitiser as you come in, wear a face covering (unless exempt) and follow the rules on social distancing.

Nicky



Another coffee, anyone?

Thoughts from the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group

According to the British Association and Royal College of Occupational Therapists, during this COVID-19 pandemic, we need more than ever to look after ourselves to ensure that we can keep helping the people we support. Here are some useful things to remember:

- Establish a daily routine. Whilst you are stuck at home, try to stick to a routine of getting up, eating meals, exercising and going to bed at roughly the same time each day.
- Eat well and drink plenty of water. It's easy to eat and drink too much or too little during stressful times. Keep to regular mealtimes and make sure you have your 5-a-day.
- Stay active. Exercise and physical activity help reduce stress and increase energy levels. YouTube has lots of fitness videos for at-home exercise. Try and go outside everyday – just remember social distancing.
- Practice good sleep hygiene: avoid stimulants, such as coffee and electronic devices, especially in the evening; keep to a routine that allows you to unwind; and aim to go to sleep at roughly the same time each day.
- Stay connected with friends and family using phone, Zoom, etc. This is especially important as we can't have face-to-face conversations with loved ones outside of our households, and many are in self-isolation.
- Focus on what you do have control over, and limit your time reading the news or discussing the crisis.
- Unwind and relax. Make sure you find time each day to do activities that help you relax and take your mind off things. You could join an online laughter group or try a meditation or prayer app.
- Slow down. We still have to look after ourselves, each other and our homes. Use quiet moments to enjoy the normal, the small and the everyday, such as washing up, cooking or having a bath.
- Create 'me time'. Aim for a balance of occupations. Make time for yourself and your leisure activities. Try new home-based hobbies such as crafts and cooking. Again, YouTube has lots of 'how to' videos to get you started.
- Do something for someone else. Helping others at any time is good for our wellbeing.
- Meaning and purpose. At times of crises we often rethink our meaning and purpose. Who and what is important to you? How do you normally spend your time? How would you like to be spending your time? What could you do to make this shift happen in the future?

Church has

**GOT
★ TALENT**

**Whether you have a talent for singing, poetry, playing music –or
any hidden talent you would like to share.**

Film your performance on your mobile phone (in landscape please).
Send your recording to Tom: either using WhatsApp on 07922 214028 or e-
mail to Tom on vicar@ccwsm.org.uk using 'wetransfer' (can be found on
google and is very easy to use)

**Grab some drinks and snacks and let the show begin on
Saturday 20th February at 7.30 pm**

You will be able to access the recorded show via the church's website

"Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him."

James Hudson Taylor

Contact Details

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