

Connected

Sunday 7th February 2021
2nd Sunday before Lent

Verse For The Week

In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth.

(Genesis 1: 1)

Sermon Snippets

Genesis 1

The way books begin is very important. The Bible has a great beginning which introduces us to the main character; tells us something about his power and is a bit mysterious - raising questions which make us want to keep reading.

The Bible won't answer all the questions we have but it does tell us everything we need to know about God and our relationship with him. And it does that, mainly, through a story - the story of God and his people.

The beginning of the Bible runs like a musical motif through the rest of the story, singing out at its loudest when Jesus is introduced as the Word of God who made all things.

If the beginning of the Bible grabs you, let me encourage you to keep reading and discover the rest of the story.

Watch Sunday's service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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



Spring Harvest 2021 will be online

The leadership of Spring Harvest have had to make the difficult, but in some ways inevitable, decision not to hold live events again this year.

Instead, Spring Harvest Home will be broadcast online from Easter Sunday, 4th April, until the evening of Thursday 8th April. You can keep up-to-date by going to springharvest.org where you can see a video explaining the decision, read their news and blog pages, and also where you can sign up for the Spring Harvest newsletter.

At the time of printing *Connected* it has just been announced that tickets are available to purchase through the Spring Harvest website. No more details are available at the moment.

Please do pray for the event, for the team putting the broadcasts together, and for all those participating, that they may know God's wisdom as they encourage and minister to Christians in this country and indeed all over the world.



Prayer Pointers

Monday

The bulbs are coming through so let us thank God for the signs of Spring, and for the opportunity we have had to slow down sufficiently to appreciate the wonders of God's creation. The pandemic may have ruined much of life but it cannot stop these signs of God at work. So let us start the week with a sense of thankfulness and hope. Pray by name for someone living alone. Write their name here:

.....

Tuesday

Let us pray for staff in the Weston and Bristol hospitals asking for strength and skill, encouragement and personal resources in the face of overwhelming stresses. Could we pray for the Chaplains and others offering loving support.

Wednesday

Let us pray for Homegroup Leaders and hosts and those offering pastoral support to members of both congregations. Please pray for someone who has given you pastoral support or Christian encouragement in 2020 and quietly thank them.

Thursday

We watched the Morrissey family during the service on Sunday 17th January. Please pray for the education of the children and perseverance for the parents as they finish their work and make plans to return to this country. Please pray for the right posts in the right place for them.

Friday

Please pray for imagination and energy for our Family Ministry Worker, Nicky, and for the effectiveness of the children's packs supporting online services. Please pray for the families who came to Toddlers and for those who take the packs, and for members of JaM club.

Saturday

As we read *Connected* and watch services and realise all the work that goes on behind the scenes, let us pray with grateful thanks for Phil in the Office and those who have helped him through the past year.

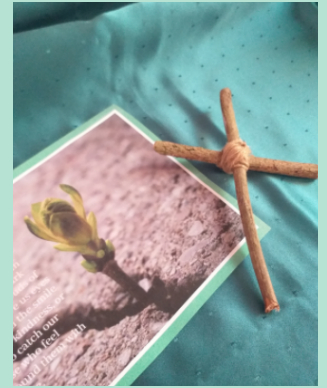
Sunday

Whilst listening to the service this morning may we pray for those who listen but do not know Jesus. Pray that their spiritual eyes will be opened. Let us try to encourage another person to join with us in listening next week.

Notices

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.

Christians Against Poverty Newsletter

The January newsletter from CAP is now available to view on the Christ Church website. Please click on this link, and let's pray for CAP as demand increases. The newsletter also contains links to a couple of useful leaflets which can be downloaded.

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.

Church has



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 'wettransfer' (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

Coffee after the Service...

Bible Story Trail at Christ Church

As well as the Prayer Stations in Church, Nicky has put together a wonderful Bible Story Trail in the front garden at Christ Church. It's accessible to all and suitable for all ages.

Firstly, find the chequered flag.

Read this part of the story, then read the instructions and follow the trail. At each stop there is a part of the story and an action, a prayer or a question to think or talk about. There are also things to spot!

You can do it as a family with your children, or as part of your daily exercise, or you can use it if you are coming up to church for private prayer.

Stay safe and socially distanced.

We hope it blesses you!



This prayer was written by Patrick Sookhdeo of the Barnabas Fund, and was read out by Meg during last week's service:

*Bring hope, O Lord, to your suffering people
In their anguish and pain, be You, their Hope*

*Bring hope, O Lord, to your persecuted people
In their despair, be You, their Hope*

*Bring hope, O Lord, to your needy people
In their hunger and thirst, be You, their Hope*

*Bring hope, O Lord, to your dying people
In the hour of their death, be You, their Hope*

In the name of Jesus, our Hope. Amen.



Another coffee, anyone?

The Peace

I'm grateful to Heather for sending in this poem.
Heather writes:

"Many years ago I shared this poem to a member of our congregation who hated sharing the Peace. After they had read it they realised that they had interpreted the poem wrongly and from that day until her death, she loved sharing the Peace and was often the last person to resume her seat."

(If at first this seems like a difficult piece to read, try to have compassion on the person speaking and persevere to the end of it.)

PAX

*I shall not go to church again
They gave the peace You see
My neighbour put his hands on mine.
I do not care for that.*

*Many years have passed
since I was touched, save by the priest's hand dismissing me.
I do not care for it. I do not care for it.
I have always kept myself to myself.
My neighbour put his hands on mine
And spoke to me.*

*I do not know now, how I could turn,
place my own hands upon another's
and speak to him.
But this I did
Impelled by this Peace.*

*I hate to touch, or to be touched,
and now that dreaded thing is done
I shall not go again.
I have had to touch my neighbour,
He had to touch me.
I feel unclean.*

Continual washing will not make me clean.

*The Peace, the Priest said.
Is this then, Peace?
The broken, shattered self that cries within?
I have had to touch my neighbour
and He touched me.
I shall not go again.
But wait. He was Christ - my neighbour
who stood on either side of me.*

Anon

*Have
you seen
anyone
lately?*



One of the most delightful aspects of watching online services is that we get to see some familiar faces. We see a few people we know welcoming us, reading the Bible passage or leading prayers and we see a few more preaching the sermons as weeks go by. But we can't talk to them, can we?

Several of our Life Groups are now meeting on Zoom.

What is Zoom??

If you have internet access you can download the Zoom app and then, at agreed times, you can not only see and listen, but also talk to a wider range of people. You may not currently belong to a Life Group. Or it may be that you do, but few members of your group have the internet so it's not viable for your group to run a Zoom meeting.

We are suggesting that anyone who wishes to could join a Life Group that *does* meet on Zoom, perhaps on a temporary basis, or perhaps for longer. If you are longing to see more of our church family why not consider having a go?

If you are interested please ring Bev Hall on 01934 626590 or 07972 282161 and have a chat about it.

Bev

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