

Connected

Mothering Sunday 14th March 2021
4th Sunday of Lent

Verse For The Week

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

(Luke 2: 19)

Sermon Snippets

John 19: 25-27

There is a cloud hanging over this year's Mothering Sunday. The loss of so many throughout our land over the last 12 months - Mothers and Grandmothers, as well as other family members, have left us.

John 19, our passage today, takes us to the small group of four distressed women and one disciple, John, standing at the foot of the cross. As Jesus hung dying he addresses his mother and in a sense all four of these women: Mary his mother, Salome his aunt, Mary, the friend of his mother and Mary Magdalene, a single woman whom Jesus had restored to dignity and health. We see all four as having mothering roles in life and sense Jesus' care for all of them. We think of all the differing mothering roles in our family lives and value each of them.

This group of women moved from here to prepare his body for burial only to find his body not there. The angels whisper that 'He is Risen' and in time they see the enormity of this, changing everything. As they stood at the tomb, Jesus was being welcomed into heaven before returning to earth for a short time to appear to the disciples. In time he will take his place ready to welcome them when their time comes.

If we have put our trust in Christ He will one day welcome us. As we look beyond the sadness at the ending of this life we can see the joy and expectation of a vision of a place, promised to be in heaven, with the Risen Jesus.

We wish all the ladies great joy on this Mothering Sunday.

**We're
Opening
for Easter
Day!**



As Vicar I'm slightly amazed this should be a headline - but we all know what sort of year we're having - such that this is news!

At both our churches we'll be open for Easter Day services (10.30am). At the moment (sadly) we can't sing; you'll need to wear masks and leave promptly, but we can meet together on the best day of our Christian year! If you'd prefer not to come, the service will be live streamed from Christ Church. Also you'll need to book for Easter Sunday at Christ Church but probably not for the Sundays thereafter. Please email or phone the church office to book your place.

Then we're planning to continue to have Sunday morning services at both churches with live stream from Christ Church so you can watch online if you'd prefer. Thank you to the live stream AV team who will be working hard to enable this.

Details of the Easter services will be on the website soon. This is wonderful news - I appreciate many of us won't be coming back quite yet - but this signals the start of meeting together again.

Tou

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

On this Mothering Sunday we thank God for the Church and its witness and for our family life, for strength to live each day and for the power of Christ's presence to bind and to heal broken relationships.

Monday

We remember before God our loved ones who have gone before us into God's presence. Especially we pray for Dina and her family as they mourn the loss of Graham and whose funeral takes place at Emmanuel this morning. Pray for God's sustaining for Dina and for all who remember Graham.

Tuesday

Pray with Christians Against Poverty, for the ministries of Paul Larcombe and Caroline Williams, and give thanks for the clients who have booked appointments and for those who are on their way out of debt. Pray, too, for those who have lost their jobs and those who are trying to find work and housing.

Wednesday

Give thanks for the mercies of God that are new every morning. Pray that God will lead us through the day and that we may be equal to all that is required of us and at its end to thank God for his goodness.

Thursday

We remember before God our Mission Partners abroad. Pray that God would grant us with them, the courage and the power to share in His mission to the world. Give thanks for Bible Translators and International Bible Societies as they seek to bring God's Word to the nations of the world.

Friday

Remember before God the PCCs, Churchwardens and Treasurers in our churches; continue to pray that each church may have sufficient financial resources to meet their needs.

Saturday

Praise God that he is the same yesterday, today and for ever. Thank him for guidance in the past, presence with you today and a sure hope for tomorrow.

Mission Newsletters

The latest edition of the CAP newsletter is now available to view. It includes details of an online Money Course being run over three evenings in April.

If you would like a copy of the latest newsletter from the Morrisseys, please contact Phil in the Church Office.

Notices

Private Prayer

Don't forget that Christ Church is open weekday mornings for private prayer from 09.00 to 12.00. Please use the hand sanitiser as you come in to the church, wear a face covering (unless exempt) and follow the rules on social distancing.

The Prayer Stations will be removed this week in preparation for the opening of church for public worship, but we have a new Stories of Jesus Trail in the garden at Christ Church. Come and see!



Walk Through Good Friday

There will be a Walk-through Good Friday event at Christ Church from 10am to 12noon. Please watch this space for more details of the event and how you can reserve a time to come along.

Tear Fund Lent Appeal 2021

Donations received by Tear Fund will be doubled during Lent, thanks to some very generous supporters. This is a real opportunity to help those who suffer hardship, poor living conditions, famine, and those who have fled to refugee camps. Please [click on this link](#) if you would like to donate to this appeal.

Thank You Message

Thank you to members of our church for their help over the last two weeks with dog walking. This has been such a blessing for us both as we recover from illnesses.

Heather & Mike

Proclaiming from the poles

Have you noticed any neatly hand produced texts recently? I have seen several on telephone poles in Worle. They offer encouragement from the Psalms to passers-by. Some creative believer has taken the opportunity. Centuries ago, in the plague, they did the same thing on their doors.

Jeff

Coffee after the Service...

Lent Reflection

Before The Psalmist looks at some people in four differing and stressful situations he looks at the bigger picture. He states the fact that *"The Lord is good"*. If you have a mirror in your room, please look into it and realise that the person you see is loved by God, whatever the circumstances of your life. That love is not dependent on deeds or thoughts. His steadfast love endures forever.



Psalm 107

The Psalmist encourages us to cry to the Lord and he delivers us from our distress. Looking back over sixty years following Jesus I am amazed at how many times he has answered my weak prayers in ways that I could never conceive. He has delivered me from my 'distress'.

I was appointed to a post in the Midlands on a challenging estate filled with young people but with a church that had 16 elderly folks meeting in a rundown building. A thriving local church on the other side of town had been sending groups to work in the area for some years but had recently ceased. I prayed for helpers and knew the right answer so I told God to encourage the other church to help and went to ask. They had ceased because they needed everyone on their own patch and I was refused. As the Psalmist says, *"I cried to the Lord in my trouble"*. In my desperate prayers I had to learn the lesson that I could not tell God the who and how, but only throw myself on his merciful love and share my need and then ... listen. As I prayed God spoke to me firstly about his love for me, the other church and the thousands living around me. As I listened he gently adjusted my perception of the need.

A couple appeared on the scene who had been members in the past but had left in despair. They were very kind but quite troubled. After a while they offered to help with the tiny Sunday School. "Lord, I need someone to work with older young people." I had started a youth group of a handful of youngsters who had family links with church members but I was trying to do most things in church and not giving them enough attention.

A young man from another church knocked on my door and asked whether I needed help with the services. "No, Lord. I need help with the young people." He proved to be a very able speaker but because of work was only available on occasional Sunday mornings. The church grew and an unusual man joined who then came on a church holiday. He came to faith during the week and on returning home asked whether he could take over the youth group. "Lord, I have asked for a youth worker with skills, this guy is too old and unusual."

He proved to be a very unusual youth leader but the youngsters loved him and his methods and the group grew and matured almost alongside him. I had prayed for a skilled youth worker and God had provided a couple that transformed the top years of the Sunday School, Colin who had encourage me as we shared the planning and preaching, and then Gerry who was born and lived on the Estate and ran a youth group that matched the youngsters needs. God knew the needs and had just the right people to fill his places in his Kingdom's work. I had cried over two years to the Lord in my trouble, and God answered me in His way and with people I would not have asked for.

The Psalmist's first verse is right *"O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever"*... and understands the future in a manner we can never foresee.

Keith



Another coffee, anyone?

World Day of Prayer

Last Friday morning 100 people gathered on Zoom to celebrate the World Day of Prayer in the Weston area. It was great fun to scroll through the four pages to spot familiar faces from Emmanuel and Christ Church.

The women of Vanuatu put together this year's service. Through the voices of local ladies (all wearing garlands of flowers), we heard about the lives of these women and their homes.

Vanuatu is a volcanic island group a little North-East of Australia and New Zealand. They produce tropical fruit in the lush conditions but mainly depend on tourism. Cyclones, earthquakes and eruptions can make life precarious for the mostly rural population. Education is only compulsory up to year 6 and many girls don't even get that far. Nevertheless, we heard stories of ingenuity and determination, and of faith in our loving Father God, overcoming difficult circumstances.

We were able to join in a meditation on the parable of the wise man who built his house on a rock, which survived the storms. We were encouraged to hold a stone and use it to focus our prayers. Some of these stones are going to be passed from one church to another as a physical reminder of a virtual event. It was a joy to celebrate with our united Christian family, gathered from different denominations – praying and worshipping together. *Bev*

Christ Church Work Party

Calling all members of Christ Church!

We need you!!!!

You are cordially invited to come and take part in a 'Socially Distanced' working party on Friday 26th March, starting at 9.30am.

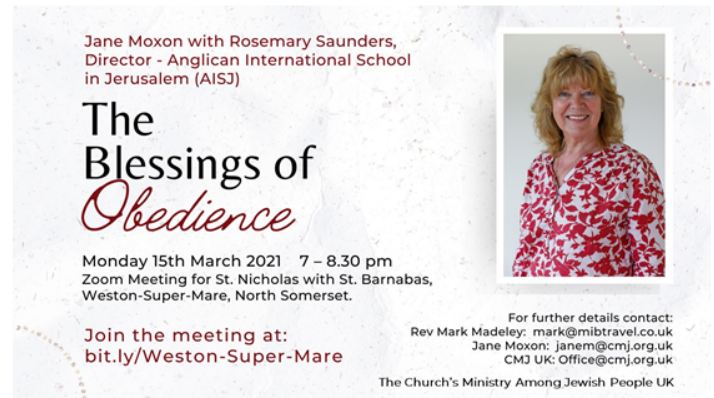
There are many varied tasks waiting for you, including repairs, sprucing up and generally making things tidy. Just turn up on the day, but don't forget your face covering.

As we look forward to Easter let's pour in a little TLC (not to mention that you get to see each other in real life!) *Angie & Bev*

Zoom Meeting Invitations

We're delighted to invite you to a meeting organised by **The Church's Ministry among Jewish People, CMJ UK**, on Monday 15th March at 7 pm, hosted by St Nicholas and St Barnabas Church in Weston-super-Mare.

All you need to do is [click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting. It's not often we have the opportunity to hear such an inspirational testimony from a CMJ worker.



Jane Moxon with Rosemary Saunders,
Director - Anglican International School
in Jerusalem (AISJ)

The Blessings of Obedience

Monday 15th March 2021 7 - 8.30 pm
Zoom Meeting for St. Nicholas with St. Barnabas,
Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset.

Join the meeting at:
bit.ly/Weston-Super-Mare

For further details contact:
Rev Mark Madeley: mark@mibtravel.co.uk
Jane Moxon: janem@cmj.org.uk
CMJ UK: Office@cmj.org.uk

The Church's Ministry Among Jewish People UK

Join **Samaritan's Purse** online on Saturday 20th March 10:30am-12:00pm to hear about the huge difference you make to children's lives by packing shoebox gifts each year! We will be sharing insights from Operation Christmas Child partners around the world and our UK team, as well as exciting opportunities for taking part in many different ways throughout 2021. Click on this photo to sign up for this event.



Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)
(8.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)

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