

# Connected

Sunday 11th April 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter

## Sermon Snippets

*John 20: 10-18*

The disciples had scattered and the faithful women were going to attend to Jesus' body in the tomb. To prepare it for final burial they had taken the spices. They found the tomb open with the heavy stone rolled away. They realised that the tomb was empty and ran to alert the disciples. Peter and John were there first BUT Jesus did not appear to them. Surely he would have chosen Peter, the alpha male in the group and John, the disciple with all the religious connections and the one whom Jesus favoured. He did not choose to appear to them and to give his message to all the disciples about the future. He appeared to Mary Magdalene as she stood weeping and distraught outside the tomb after the others had left.

Mary had looked into the tomb and had seen the angels where the body should have been laying. Their message was one of comfort to her and then she assumed the person behind her was the gardener. She asked the question that we would expect her to ask: "Tell me where have you laid him so that I may take him away". Why did Jesus choose Mary?

God's unexpected choices do not stop with Mary. Sometimes his unexpected choices stop at our door and he asks us to do things that we are sure others are better equipped to do, and yet he asks us. God's understanding of all the situations involved in a simple choice often means that he challenges a very unexpected person to undertake his purposes. Let us thank God that Mary was so privileged to have been chosen. When God chooses you, please respond knowing that he will give you the gift of the Holy Spirit to walk with you as you endeavour to serve him.

## Revised Annual Church Meeting Dates



Because of a further review of Government guidelines, the Church of England have instructed that Annual Church Meetings will need to be postponed until after 17 May, the earliest date when lockdown restrictions will be sufficiently eased. The new dates for our Annual meetings are as follows:

- Christ Church - Monday 24 May at 7.30pm
- Emmanuel - date still to be confirmed

In the meantime, if you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, forms are available from the Church Office. You will need to be at least 16 years old, be baptised, and either a resident in either parish or have been engaging regularly with the online services for around six months.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

## Verse For The Week

"Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

*(John 20: 17)*

## Watch this Sunday's Service

at [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

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

# Prayer Pointers

## Monday

Give thanks to God for more new vaccines coming out, that half the UK population has been vaccinated and already millions have had a second vaccination. Pray for the ongoing research into long-term effects of Covid and vaccinations against it.

## Tuesday

This year there will be a global conference on climate change in Glasgow. Please pray for all the nations attending to be positive about their responsibilities to prevent climate disaster. Think prayerfully about your own contribution towards reducing carbon emissions.

## Wednesday

Join with other churches in our diocese in praying for Bishop Peter, for his long-term recovery and a fulfilling retirement. Also for Bishop Ruth as she continues to take a leading role, and for the decisions to be made about a new bishop.

## Thursday

We pray for those we know who need the healing touch of our Father God, and those who need peace, comfort, encouragement and perseverance. We also pray for Christians around the world who are suffering persecution and injustice, that they may have a real sense of God's presence with them.

## Friday

Please pray for the ministries of chaplains in hospitals and prisons, remembering especially Julie Birkett as chaplain to Weston College and Ian Girling to the Royal British Legion.

## Saturday

Remember in your prayers our local Foodbank, Somewhere To Go, and all our fellow residents who need their help. Thank God for the joint work that has been going on during the pandemic between local councils and Christians through ROC (Redeeming our Communities).

## *Letter from Rosemary Aldis*

Rosemary's latest letter is available to view on the [Christ Church website](#).

## *Private Prayer*

Christ Church will be open for private prayer from 09.00 to 12.00 on Wednesdays and Thursdays only throughout April and May, except the 5th & 6th May.

# Notices

## *Safeguarding Training*

It is now over a year since our planned Safeguarding training was cancelled and although we now have a new Diocesan Safeguarding trainer, there will not be any face-to-face trainings for the foreseeable future.

If you have access to the internet you can do the Safeguarding Awareness (previously C0) and the next level Safeguarding Foundation (previously C1) online.

Everyone who has a church DBS certificate should undertake some Safeguarding training. If you have done C1 in the past you can now renew it online by doing the Safeguarding Foundation.

If you have never done a church Safeguarding training, you can do the Safeguarding Awareness first, then move on to the Safeguarding Foundation if you have a church leadership role that requires it. If you are not sure what you need to do please email or phone Anne, our Safeguarding Officer.

Anne suggests that as many of us as possible try to update our training in readiness for activities starting back later this year.

When you have completed an online training, you can print off your certificate. Anne doesn't need to see the certificate, but please could you notify her of the date you completed the training so that she can update her records.



## *Plants for sale*

Penny is planning on growing lots of bedding / vegetable plants again this year, for any church members who would like them. Donations will go to Christ Church and Weston Hospicecare.

Please email Penny with requests of any plants that you would like her to grow. ([pennylester3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pennylester3@hotmail.co.uk))

# Coffee after the Service...

## *Revd Sir Dr John Polkinghorne*

The announcement of the death of John Polkinghorne on 9th March has reminded me of his wonderful and effective life that many will miss. I have no sadness about his present future for he had a firm Christian faith and a good understanding of the nature of eternity, but it does mark the end of his contributions to both science and faith.



After an impressive career in the field of sub-atomic physics, becoming a professor at Cambridge University, he retrained in his fifties as an Anglican priest. The strategy behind this was that his theological studies would equip him to communicate better the relationship between his modern scientific understanding and his Christian faith, not as two separate areas but as one human experience. This was fulfilled by a series of books and many talks all around the world on a broad range of science and faith that communicated in a way that non-scientists could understand as well as challenging scientists. In this he was the modern equivalent of people like C S Lewis. He was knighted in 1997 for services to science, religion, learning and medical ethics.

I knew John in a slightly different way to many because when I became a vicar in Bristol in 1984 I inherited John as my curate. To become a full clergyman and to earth his theology John served as a curate in a largely working class parish in inner Bristol. I took over as Vicar there for the last year of this curacy before he moved to a small parish in Kent and began writing his series of books that many of us have appreciated. I found him a very humble man with a good pastoral heart. At our first staff meeting he said he had been invited as a Fellow of the Royal Society to speak at an international conference in the South of France but had said he would have to wait for the arrival of his new boss before he could accept! His warmth of personality and the medical problems he was suffering at the time endeared him to parishioners as he engaged at a very human level. He found it a great opportunity to hone his skills in expressing complicated ideas in ways ordinary people could understand.

He was an inspiration to me as a former chemist and as some of you will know he helped develop my passion in parish ministry to tackle issues of science and faith and the spirituality that could embrace both. So many seemed ignorant of both Christian understanding and current scientific thought. I shall continue to treasure both the privilege and inspiration I derived from getting to know John. It is a good reminder that God calls us to link our working life with our spiritual life; God sometimes calls us to new challenges at any stage of our life, and to maintain a humility about our faith when sharing Christ with others.

*Terry*

*"God does not give us everything we want,  
but He does fulfill His promises, leading us  
along the best and straightest paths to  
Himself."*

*~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## *Church Services in April and May*

Services for the rest of April and May will continue to be held at 10.30 in our two churches. Each service at Christ Church will be live-streamed and can be viewed on the [Christ Church website](#).

# Another coffee, anyone?

## Scripture Cake Recipe

**4½ cups of 1 Kings 4:22** - *“And Solomon’s provision for the day was thirty measures of fine flour”*

**1½ cups of Judges 5:25** - *“She brought forth butter in a lordy dish”*

**2 cups of Jeremiah 6:20** - *“To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba and the sweet cane from a far country?”*

**2 cups of 1 Samuel 30:12** - *“And she gave him a piece of cake and two clusters of raisins”*

**2 cups of Nahum 3:12** - *“All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with first-ripe figs”*

**1 cup of Numbers 17:8** - *“And behold the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded and brought forth buds and bloomed blossoms and yielded almonds”*

**2 tbs of 1 Samuel 14:25** - *“And all they of the land came to a wood and there was honey upon the ground”*

**6 Jeremiah 17:11** - *“As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatcheth them not, so he that getteth riches and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days”*

**Season to taste with 2 Chronicles 9:9** - *“And she gave to the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance”*

**A pinch of Leviticus 2:13** - *“And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt”*

**½ cup of Judges 4:19** - *“And he said unto her, give me I pray thee a little to drink for I am thirsty. And she opened the bottle of milk and gave him a drink and covered him”*

**2 tsp Amos 4:5** - *“And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven”*

**Follow Solomon’s advice in Proverbs 23:14** - *“Thou shalt beat him with a rod and deliver his soul from hell”*

**Bake in Leviticus 2:4** and you will have a good cake - *“And if thou bring an oblation of an offering baken in the oven .....*”

*Helen*

## One Year On

Covid.

Forbid.

Empty cities, empty towns.

Think I’ll stay in my dressing gown.

*“Wash Hands, Stay Safe”*

Remember to wear a mask on your face.

Stay at home, don’t wander far.

Don’t even think of driving the car.

*“Two metres or about six feet”.*

Avoid the person in the street.

Stick to the *“Rule of Six”* if you will,

Otherwise you’ll become quite ill.

Government Advisors, vacillation.

Remember to have your vaccination.

Exchanged greetings with a neighbour of mine.

The last time we did was two thousand and nine.

Stifled a sneeze, it wasn’t a cough.

Hoped that hasn’t put him off.

Crooked my arm and covered my mouth.

But he quickly turned tail and fled to the South.

Hope quite soon *“The Bubble”* will burst

Just can’t stay here and wait for a hearse.

*Dave*

## Crash Team Contacts

If you are a member of either of our two churches and are in need of some practical assistance, please call the Crash Team:

- Liz Cole (01934 782886)
- or
- Jane Milsom (07766 678446)

## 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