

Connected

Sunday 18th April 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter

Verse For The Week

Jesus said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

(John 21: 6)

Sermon Snippets

John 21: 1-14

Back to normal?

The excitement was over; the disaster of Good Friday was now overcome by Jesus' resurrection.

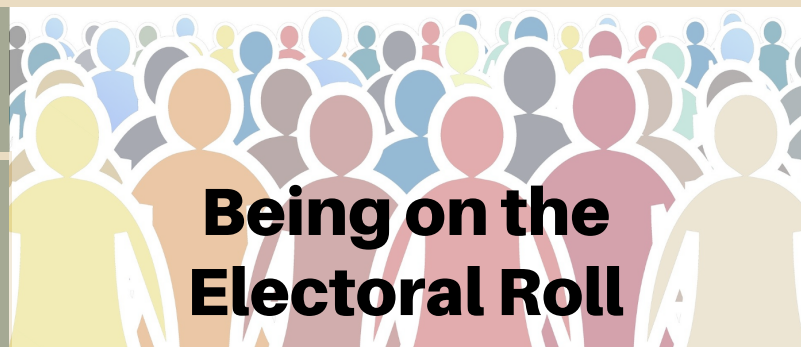
The disciples no longer needed to isolate in fear, but they were at a bit of a loose end. 'Wait', Jesus had said, but Peter goes back to what he knows as normal – fishing. But we can't just go back to normal - Jesus' resurrection changes everything.

We long perhaps to get back to normal but time only travels forwards. So everyone jabbars about a new normal but no one gives any substance. What should we be looking to as the new normal? Where is God wanting us to be transformed in the power of Christ? If Christ is in control of us what should we be saying about how things should be? How can we speak as an individual? How should we see the new normal at church? What would we want for the nation?

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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



Being on the Electoral Roll

In official terms, the Electoral Roll is a list of people who can vote at the Annual Church Meeting. So, for example, if there are more nominations for new PCC Members than places available, only those on the Electoral Roll will be allowed to vote for their choice of candidate. However, being on the Electoral Roll also signifies a spiritual sense of membership, belonging and commitment to the body of Christ, the church, for each individual member.

To be on the Electoral Roll 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. You will need to complete a form which you can get either from the Church Office or from one of the Church Wardens.

Names of those on the Roll are required to be displayed for at least 15 days prior to the APCM. For Christ Church, the deadline for any new additions to the Electoral Roll will be Friday 30 April because Phil has the following week off. At Emmanuel, the deadline will be Friday 21 May.

The Annual Church Meetings have been postponed from their usual dates in late April because of lock-down restrictions. The new dates for our Annual meetings are as follows:

- Christ Church - Monday 24 May at 7.30pm
- Emmanuel - Sunday 06 June after the service

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

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Following the funeral of Prince Philip, continue to remember the Queen and the Royal Family in your prayers.

Tuesday

Please pray for Tom and all clergy and church leaders as they navigate the return to live services, and think about how church will continue to look in the near future. Also pray for the many staff and volunteers who work in the diocese and Locking Deanery, many of them working from home.

Wednesday

Ask God to be very close to anyone who is ill in any way, and anyone who is grieving, lonely or troubled.

Thursday

Please pray for Lucy as she finds ways to continue working with mums and babies, and for the CITA secretarial college staff and students.

Friday

It is disturbing and sad to hear of violence in Northern Ireland, and of another fatal police shooting in America. Please petition Jesus the Prince of Peace, to restore calm in these areas and a willingness to pursue non-violent resolutions.

Saturday

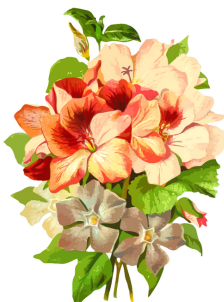
As we welcomed the opening of shops etc. this last week we pray that people will still be careful and that infection rates do not rise again.

Thank You

*"We would like to say a huge thank you for everyone's prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls and some very lovely cakes. Losing my parents only 8 weeks apart was really hard but we felt your love and prayers upholding us during this time - thank you all so much."
Dawn and Doug xxx*



Ann would also like to say thank you for everyone's prayers and support over the last few months. She has received lots of flowers and cards, and they have been a real source of comfort and strength during a very difficult time.



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.

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.

Please also see the piece on page 3 where Donna writes about her experiences with the online training.

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.

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](#).

Don't Stay In A Place Of Disappointment

It may be because of Covid-19, exam results or it may be for some other reason, but many of us will face significant disappointment at some stage of our lives.

The thing is to not stay in a place of disappointment. Don't wallow or fester in it and don't stay in the ashes of it because it is a destructive place. Disappointment can be so debilitating mentally and emotionally, but at some stage we need to put it behind us and move on. How?

We ask Jesus to bring His healing into that place of smashed dreams and expectations, however legitimate they are. And often we learn something in that desert of disappointment about ourselves and others, even about life itself, and the important thing is to recognise and understand what that is. Then, we put it in our back pocket because one day we'll need to use it because God never wastes anything. Then smile! And take the next step forward because our story isn't over yet.

It's a choice we have to make for our sake and for God's sake, because if we decide to stay there we render ourselves unusable to God. God doesn't want to leave us there, but we have to make that decision to keep hoping, keep believing, keep trusting and keep going.

Is today the day for you to let go of disappointment, to get up and start moving on? If so, first look up, then get up, brush off the dirt, then take God's outstretched hand and move forward with Him.

*Courtesy of the Christian Gift Company -
www.thechristiangiftcompany.co.uk*



Safeguarding Training Thoughts

I have just finished the online Safeguarding Awareness (previously C0) and Safeguarding Foundation (previously C1) and I would highly recommend them to the whole church - regardless or not of whether you have a church DBS or work with vulnerable people. The first course takes 60 minutes and the second 90 minutes, so can easily be done in some spare time. Both courses are very current and don't shy away from addressing recent disturbing cases in the Church, as well in society as a whole.

It really brought home to me how important it is for all of us to be aware of these issues, not only those directly working with vulnerable groups. As follows of Christ, who seek to show the hurting world the love of Christ, we may all meet people who are potentially vulnerable, as we are ourselves. These short courses raise awareness of potential situations of abuse any of us may encounter - from actual physical abuse to online dangers to the potential grooming of whole churches!!

The material is straightforward, engaging and very relatable. We all need to keep ourselves informed and vigilant and the few hours spent looking at these free resources will help all of us create safer environments in our churches and in all areas of our lives as we seek to love those we meet day by day.

To access the training simply create an account on the Church of England Portal and then you can access both courses. The website is: safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org

Donna

Contact Details

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(Day off - Tuesday)

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