

# Connected

Sunday 2nd May 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

## Sermon Snippets



*Genesis 3: 1-19*

On Sunday we're thinking about what happened in the Garden of Eden where God warned Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from just one tree.

The reality was that eating that fruit would make the eater "like God in knowing good and evil" and that knowledge of evil was something that Adam and Eve wouldn't be able to handle.

The trouble was the fruit, like the fruit in this picture, looked delicious and juicy – and also the possibility to be "like God" seemed too good to miss.

Sadly, both Adam and Eve fell for the temptation to their cost. . . and equally sadly, you and I have fallen for similar temptations to put our own wishes in front of God's for our lives. That's what the Bible calls "sin".

God didn't prohibit Adam and Eve because he was being nasty – but as a loving warning. How readily do you and I look to God for his will and how easily do we replace that with our own wishes which, often as not, get us into some trouble?

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*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.*

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## Church News



Let's pray for Tom and the Leadership Teams of our two

churches as they seek God's guidance, firstly for the summer months, and then looking ahead towards the autumn and then Christmas.

At the moment, services will continue to be held at 10.30 at both churches. Each service at Christ Church will be live-streamed and can be viewed on the Christ Church website. This is a great way of staying Connected even if you are unable to be present physically.

In addition, The Wednesday Holy Communion services will be restarting at Emmanuel. The first service will be at 10.30 on Ascension Day, May 13th, which is actually a Thursday. After that the services will be at 10.30am on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Christ Church will be open for private prayer from 12th May onwards from 09.00 to 12.00, but only on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Life groups are available to join for Bible study and fellowship. These are currently run online. Please contact Bev if you are interested in this.

You are very welcome to join us, in church or at home, as we worship God together.

## *Verse For The Week*

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

*(Romans 5: 17)*

# Prayer Pointers

## Sunday

Father we thank you for our two churches and their leaders working so well together. We pray that you will guide and bless Tom and all who are in leadership roles as they have a great responsibility for all in their care.

## Monday

We pray for the people of India and Brazil as they live through this really difficult time of the pandemic. We pray that other nations will be wise and generous with their use of medical equipment and vaccines so that they can be shared with all countries who have very short supplies.

## Tuesday

We pray for peace in Northern Ireland. Guide leaders to work together for the best outcome.

## Wednesday

Thank you for Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We pray for friends and family who are rejecting Him.

## Thursday

We pray that we can be filled with Your grace to walk in love everywhere we go, demonstrating Your love and compassion to all.

## Friday

We pray that people will be wise and considerate as lock-down eases to help prevent another spike in coronavirus cases.

## Saturday

We pray for Chinese Christians as the authorities are becoming increasingly strict about the control of Bibles. Grant the Christians peace, and we pray that Your Word will still accomplish what You desire.

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## *Mission Partner News*

If you would like a copy of the latest newsletter from the Morrisseys, which contains detailed prayer requests now that they have returned to the UK, please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

# Notices

## *Annual Church Meetings*

This is a reminder that 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

The Electoral Roll at Christ Church has now closed. The deadline for Electoral Roll applications at Emmanuel is Sunday 16th May.

## *Do you enjoy researching?*

Phil is looking for a willing volunteer to help with a series of pieces for *Connected*. If you like doing simple internet research and have a bit of spare time, could you please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office. Thank-you.

## *Office Closed*

The Church Office will be closed for the week commencing 03 May, although Jane has very kindly offered to periodically check for any urgent phone or email messages. *Thanks, Jane!*

## *Good Homes Wanted*

We are moving house and hoping to go to a retirement flat on the sea front. Consequently we have quite a bit of 'stuff' to get rid of. Here's a list of the sorts of things we are having to let go of:

- All the garden tools.
- DIY tools to include electrical planer, Stanley hand planer, electrical power saw, tiling kit, painting & decorating items, step ladders, assorted spanners, chisels, saws etc.
- Plastic plant pots of assorted sizes.
- Large dining table & 6 chairs.
- Denon compact sound system, cd player with two speakers.
- Assorted books.

Donations please with a percentage going to Christ Church. Please contact Tony on (01934) 622793.

Many thanks.

*Tony & Shirley*

## Faith in the Workplace - Paul Sodzi



*This is a new mini-series which looks at the role that faith plays in the everyday lives of working people. My sincere thanks go to Pat for her invaluable help in putting this series together.*

### **You have your own business; how many do you employ?**

*I started my own business in 2002, taking on employees in 2010. There are now 6 of us including myself.*

### **I take it your staff are aware that you are a Christian; does that cause any difficulties from their point of view?**

*I'm not aware of any difficulties; 2 of them are Hindus and 2 are Chinese with possibly Buddhist or Confucian backgrounds. They accept my beliefs.*

### **In the light of the fact that you are a Christian, how do they perceive the way you treat them?**

*I like to think that they can see the practical application of my faith in how I care for them and their personal needs. I try to go the extra mile beyond what they might expect of a boss, focussing on their welfare.*

*During Lent I always do something and they know why I do it; eg: giving up alcohol or chocolate. I don't aggressively try to share the gospel with them, but use any opportunities which arise. For example, on Good Friday one of my staff didn't realise it was a bank holiday and went in and did a few hours' work. I explained to him what Good Friday was and how a 33-year-old man long ago died for our sins to put us right with God.*

### **I seem to remember you saying some time ago that you prayed for your staff regularly?**

*Yes, I do. I believe very strongly that it is a good thing to have someone praying for us. It is something I have personally benefitted from many times and I may be the only person bringing my staff regularly before the Lord. I pray that they may have the opportunity to know Him personally.*

### **As you try hard to be a good boss, does that mean that your staff stay with you?**

*4 of the 5 people I employ now have been with me since they left university. There was a time a while back when I had to shed some staff, and it caused real conflict inside me. I hung on to them longer than I should have, worried about the implications of them losing their jobs, but they did go on to find other positions.*

### **Anything else to add?**

*Only that I look on them almost as my children, as they have been with me since leaving university, and I believe prayer is the important thing. I know I fail sometimes in my actions, but I present them to God regularly and trust that He will bring them alongside in His own time and in His own way.*

*As told to Pat Allchorne*

### **Contact Details**

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(Day off - Tuesday)

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