

Connected

Sunday 16th May 2021
7th Sunday of Easter

Verse For The Week

"Go, stand in the temple courts and tell the people all about this new life."

(Acts 5: 20)

Sermon Snippets

Acts 5: 17-21, Acts 6: 1-4

We are looking at Acts chapters 5 and 6 where Peter and John face imprisonment, beatings and some difficult decisions.

They face the human questions, and we ask the questions we think they might have asked themselves: "What is God doing and why?"

We ask the question for them. They have an enormous workload with responsibilities for a church that has expanded to five thousand members and find themselves arrested and in the public prison.

They are miraculously released but called back to preach where they will almost certainly be rearrested. They are released after the unexpected intervention of one of the ruling group and then face a really tricky decision.

'What is God doing and why?' We ask this question many times in our lives. What is the answer that Peter and John give?

Being on the Deanery Synod



Deanery Synods consist of clergy, lay readers and lay members. We share and discuss information about mission and developments in the area.

The main function of the Deanery Synod is making sure we place mission and evangelism at the heart of all we do by aligning our ministry resources towards mission, identifying, developing and using the gifts of all people. By doing this the Deanery is committed to pray for all the people in our communities, whether part of a church family or not. We share ideas, resources, support and training, and encourage every church member to be active in mission and ministry.

What are the highlights and challenges being faced by the Deanery Synod? Well, at this moment it is quite an exciting time as we face together the questions: "Where is God leading His people, and what will the church look like as we come out of lockdown?" Just imagine what ministry may look like in the future!

There is a need to be a bold church, to be simpler, and humbler in all we do. We need to include being Eco friendly, missionary work and consider being a more diverse church that has many shapes.

How can church members pray for the work of the Deanery? Please pray for peace, wisdom and for God to reveal his plan for us. Click on the logo below for more information about our Deanery.



Hayden

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

This week runs up to Pentecost when the Holy Spirit burst into the lives of the disciples, sending them out to proclaim God's Word across the world. So we pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to open doors and new horizons.

Monday

We bring before You, Heavenly Father, Christian leaders in all countries that they will be guided and strengthened by Your Spirit. We pray for our Bishops Peter and Ruth, our Archdeacon Adrian, and Tom and Chris as they lead us here in Weston-super-Mare.

Tuesday

We pray for Donna as she studies to be licensed as a Reader and her family as they support her, for Larissa coming to join us shortly as a curate, and for all people in training for different roles in the leadership of Your church.

Wednesday

We pray for persecuted Christians that Your Holy Spirit will comfort, strengthen and sustain both them and their families, and the organisations that support them.

Thursday

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work amongst world leaders and their advisors that the world might become a safer and more compassionate place in which to live.

Friday

We thank you Heavenly Father for our world, so beautifully made, and ask that Your Holy Spirit will work amongst us to reduce greenhouse gasses.

Saturday

Over 35,000 people have registered to join in a 'Virtual Pentecost' on line on Sunday 23 May at 2pm. We pray that the Holy Spirit will burn brightly across the nation and bring people into Your Family.

(To register, go to www.virtualpentecost.com)

Additional Prayer Requests

Please pray for Dawn who is going into hospital on Monday (17th) for major surgery.

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
(*this meeting will also be live-streamed*)
- Emmanuel - Sunday 06 June after the service

In preparation for the meeting at Christ Church, you can read through our Annual Report and Financial Statements on the Christ Church website: www.ccwsm.org.uk/2020accounts. All reports will be emailed to church members on Monday, though copies are also available from the Church Office.

If you have any questions about the accounts that you would like answered at the APCM, please email them to finance@ccwsm.org.uk by 4pm on Friday 21 May.

Church Services

Morning services will continue at 10.30 through the summer at both Christ Church and Emmanuel. The Christ Church service will continue to be live-streamed, thanks to the dedicated Tech Team.

As well as the Sunday services, the Wednesday Communion service will be held at Emmanuel, also at 10.30, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Community Engagement

Avon and Somerset Constabulary and North Somerset Council are currently working together on a joint engagement exercise concerning the area of Hillside.

They are working alongside each other to understand any local issues, recognise the skills of local people and develop a supportive network for the area to create a safer community for all to enjoy. This exercise is not taking place due to any concerns about the area; they are simply looking to build a stronger community utilising the existing foundation and bringing people together.

If anyone is interested in taking part, or would like more information, please contact Phil in the Church Office who will be able to put you in touch with our Police Community Support Officer, Ann Devereux.

Coffee after the Service...

Give a Vaccine

Passing on the blessing?

Like many of us I have been so grateful to have received my free Covid-19 vaccination via the NHS, but I am also acutely aware that most of the world is not so fortunate.

I wanted to do something in response and discovered the 'Give a Vaccine' campaign. Alongside funding from global governments, there is also the opportunity for individuals to play our small part in making the vaccine available to all the world.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: *“At the heart of the Christian faith is Christ’s call to love our neighbour; keeping one another safe from this terrible disease is part of living that out. I encourage people to donate whatever they can, so we can build a better world together.”*

The money raised will help UNICEF purchase and deliver nearly 2 billion Covid-19 vaccines this year, as well as tests and treatments, to 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative. It is the biggest health operation in history, to ensure no one is left behind in the efforts to eradicate Covid-19 and its devastating impact.

Just £25 could provide 20 doses of Covid-19 vaccines to health workers, teachers or vulnerable people around the world. A £50 donation could train all health workers in a health facility on administering the Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.

So often we feel helpless in the face of such a huge tragedy, wondering how we can make any difference, but this is one small way we can both acknowledge the rich blessing of having access to a National Health Service, and show the love of Christ to our neighbour.

More information is available at: www.vaccinaid.org or on the UNICEF or Church of England websites.

We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4: 19)

Mission Partner News

As part of the service at Christ Church this Sunday there will be a video update from the Potter family. (If you want to view the video online later, please go to the Sunday Services page of the Christ Church website).

Please do pray for the Potters, especially as since they recorded the video they have received sad news of the passing of an uncle, and news of a close family friend being diagnosed with a serious condition.

Also, we hope to have an update for everyone from the Morrisseys in next week's edition of *Connected*, in which they will tell us about being back in the UK.

Thank You

I just wanted to say a big Thank You to Dawn for producing a great edition of *Connected* in my absence last week, to Jane for coming in to the office and for printing *Connected* to keep those without computers in touch, and also to Tom for sending out *Connected* by email.

Phil



The meeting was going well until someone suggested a group hug!

Contact Details

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Donna