

# Connected

Sunday 23rd May 2021  
Pentecost

## Verse For The Week

I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.

(Ezekiel 37: 14)

## Sermon Snippets

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

There have been long debates about what makes us human.

For Christians we are a unity of body, mind and spirit. Our Spirit is a dimension that only finds interaction with the divine; poetically there is a breath of God in each of us. This spiritual relationship was what was broken by our sinfulness. Our intended Godly companionship was lost. The prophets understood this and longed for its restoration.

After the triumph of the resurrection we can again experience the presence of God's Spirit interacting with our spirit. This is what we celebrate at Pentecost and is what enervates a dreary orthodox bones of religious observance into a living relationship with our creator God.

*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.

## Bishop Peter Retires



This Saturday (22 May) Bishop Peter will retire. There will have been (as with so many things these days) a "Zoom Celebratory Tea" for him.

He will have served nearly 7 years in our Diocese and will be sorely missed. He has been an excellent Bishop – wise, warm and loving to all with a wonderful passion for the Gospel and seeing it shared in all corners of Somerset. Chris and I have greatly appreciated his leadership and care. This has even stemmed from the first time that we met him on the day of his Induction where coincidentally we were both in McDonald's at the same time!

He has also been active outside the Diocese in our Zambia link for example (see picture) where he said "At the heart of the link there is a commitment to learn from one another. To share with one another what God by His Holy Spirit is doing among us; to encourage each other; to support each other and also to pray for one another."

Another significant (and at times very heavy) responsibility was to be Lead Bishop on Safeguarding at a time where there has been much scrutiny on the Church of England. He has borne this demanding and stressful role with immense grace and perseverance.

He has taken slightly early retirement due to ill health and our prayers go with both him and his wife Jane.



*Bishop Peter tucks into a slice of Grand Pie!*

*Tou*

# Pentecost Prayer

*Come Holy Spirit, refresh us ... renew us*

## **Monday**

The Church around the world proclaiming Good News and especially our Missionary Partners. (see page 3)

## **Tuesday**

Liberty, justice and peace for those who are threatened and hopeless, homeless and refugees. Especially pray for peace between Israelis and Palestinians

## **Wednesday**

Strengthen our love for one another and guide those who seek to restore broken relationships.

## **Thursday**

For people who feel hindered, isolated or in constant pain, and those who seek to care for them.

## **Friday**

For all affected by Covid-19, those treating them and a fair distribution of vaccines around the world. Especially pray for control of the Indian variant globally.

## **Saturday**

For all who lead and guide us, especially those preparing for our Trinity Sunday services tomorrow.

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## *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.

# Notices

## *Annual Church Meetings*

The Christ Church Annual Meeting is on Monday 24 May at 7.30pm in Church. The meeting will be live-streamed, but only those in attendance will be able to vote. To watch the meeting, go to the [APCM Page](#) of the Christ Church website under the What's On menu.

In preparation for this meeting, you can read through our Annual Report and Financial Statements on the Christ Church website:

[www.ccwsm.org.uk/2020accounts](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk/2020accounts).

All reports were emailed to church members on Monday, though a few copies will also be available at the meeting.

The Emmanuel Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 06 June after the service.

## *Emmanuel Gardening*

The Gardening Team at Emmanuel will be doing some work in the church grounds on Friday 28 May between 10am and 12 midday. If anyone is able to help, please do come along.

## *Penny's Plants*

Penny has hundreds of bedding plants ready if anyone is interested. Please either phone 623310 or email [pennylester3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pennylester3@hotmail.co.uk).

Donations will go to Christ Church, Emmanuel, and Weston Hospicecare.

## *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.

# Mission Partner News Special

## The Morrisseys Return



For those of you who didn't know, the Morrissey family returned to the UK earlier this month after several years in West Africa. They said that their journey home was long and tiring, but they are back in one piece and are living in Exeter. They hope to visit Christ Church later this year.

They write: "We are so thankful to all of you who have partnered with us in the Gospel over the past seven years, whether through prayer, financial giving or support in other ways. We believe that by God's grace we have been able to make a valuable contribution to multiple Bible translation projects as well as efforts to distribute and promote Scripture. We could not have done this without you."

Please do continue to remember them in your prayers:

- as they seek to readjust to life in the UK,
- as they look for a house to rent long-term,
- as the children start at a new school,
- as they start their new jobs, Mike with a pensions consultancy and Helen for the Christian charity Friends International.



## Christians Against Poverty

The April / May Newsletter from CAP is now on the Christ Church website. Please click on this link to read the newsletter. Do pray for this important work in our town.



## Potter Family Update



As part of the service at Christ Church last Sunday a video update from the Potter family was shown. The Potters are in the Philippines, and they spoke of how difficult things are for them there, especially because of the lack of Covid-19 vaccines. To watch the video again, please go to the Mission Partner News page of the Christ Church website, or click on this link.

In last week's Connected, Donna wrote a very helpful piece about how each of us can get involved by donating to the 'Give A Vaccine' campaign. Just £25 could provide 20 doses of Covid-19 vaccines to health workers, teachers or vulnerable people around the world. More information is available at: [www.vaccinaid.org](http://www.vaccinaid.org) or on the UNICEF or Church of England websites.

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.

*Phil*

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## Contact Details

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