

# Connected

Sunday 13th June 2021  
2nd Sunday after Trinity

## Verse For The Week

We remember before our God and Father  
your work produced by faith, your labour  
prompted by love, and your endurance  
inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 1: 3)



*At the start of a new series of Bible teaching, Tom looks at what it means to live out an authentic faith.*

The timings of what we can and can't do in church are still very uncertain. However, one of the things that has most struck me over this last year or so, is that God has been at work. And I've no doubt that God will continue to work in and through authentic Christian lives. But what does it mean for our faith to be an authentic one? What does it actually look like to be living our lives for God – authentically?

Over these next few weeks we're going to be looking at a group of new Testament Christians, the Thessalonians, who seemed to be doing just that. These folk were keeping going; living and working as God's people. However it wasn't just that they were "busy and active" but the apostle Paul could see where their inspiration and energy came from.

In the opening chapter of first Thessalonians Paul describes what so impressed him about their authentic lives. Effectively he "lifts the bonnet" to see what's really motivating these young Christians. It's "work produced by faith" (verse 3). Not "work" for any other reason – such as impressing others or keeping busy so we don't have to think about things too much – this activity was motivated and inspired by their faith in Jesus Christ.

This series, about living our lives as authentic Christians, I imagine, will challenge you as it's challenged me. This letter of first Thessalonians looks at what undergirds and motivates our Christian lives. As we face the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, what is it that inspires your life? Are you living as an authentic Christian?

## 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.

## Teaching Series

1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10	Authentic Faith
1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 16	Authentic Evangelism
1 Thessalonians 2: 17 - 3: 13	Authentic Love
1 Thessalonians 4: 1 - 12	Authentic Lives
1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 5: 11	Authentic Hope
1 Thessalonians 5: 12 - 28	Authentic Community

# Prayer Pointers

And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. (1 John 2:17 NLT)

## Church Family:

“Lord, the one you love is sick.” (John 11: 3 NIV)

We lift up to you Lord our loved ones, those in our Church family who are sick, suffering, lonely, frightened, hurting or bereaved. We pray that they may know God’s presence amidst their pain.

You are an amazing God and we thank you for all you do for us. We pray for those in our church family who are waiting for medical treatment of some kind, and pray that you Lord will help find a way when there seems to be no way forward.

## Our Community:

Lord, we lift to you our town and our neighbours; help us to be sensitive to those who have lost the inclination to go back to church, or who are fearful. We pray for those who have got out of the habit of going to church and ask you to invigorate their lives Lord, to get back to working together, for it is when we stand together united as one church that the real differences are made and things happen.

We pray for our young people of this town, for those who are facing exams at this time especially with so many distractions. We pray for parents and guardians and ask you Lord to bring light into their darkness.

## National Prayer:

Lord we lift up to you our political party leaders. We pray that we will not focus on the fault in them but be able to see the good in them.

## Global Prayer:

We pray for Christians around the world who are experiencing sorrow, sickness or grief as a result of this crisis. We ask that they would know the very real comfort of “the Lamb” and that the Gospel of hope in the midst of heartache would be a powerful witness to those around them.

Lord, we come to you thanking you for the goodness in our lives, for our political leaders, for the G7 summit. Be with them we pray as we ask for all to be treated equally, and for good to come out of this summit in more ways than we can think of.

# Notices

## *Annual Church Meetings*

Both Annual Church Meetings have now taken place. Please pray for the following people who have recently been elected to serve our churches:

- Pat Hanson (Emmanuel PCC)
- Mary Passey (Emmanuel Warden)
- Martin Rayment (Christ Church PCC)
- Sandra Wilkes (Christ Church PCC)

## *Annual Leave*

Phil, our Administrator, is taking a two-week break from the Church Office. Chris has kindly offered to pop in occasionally to check for urgent messages, but other than that the office will be closed until Monday 28 June.

In addition, Tom is also away for the week commencing 14 June. Please contact one of the Church Wardens with any urgent enquiries.

## *Mags Brayshaw*

Mags Brayshaw’s Service of Thanksgiving will be on Wednesday, 23rd June at Christ Church. It will start at approx. 2.15pm. All are welcome. As it’s a large church we don’t think booking is required – but please accept our apologies if the church fills and we have to turn folk away. This will be preceded by a short service at 1.30pm at Weston Crematorium. Numbers there are very limited – if you’d like to attend please e mail Phil on philipbrayshaw@sky.com. Let us remember Phil and his family in our prayers at this time.

## *Bible Notes*

There may be some delay in the distribution of "Every Day with Jesus" and "Inspiring Women" Bible Notes, due to delivery problems with CWR. As soon as they arrive they will be put in envelopes and placed on the table in the Christ Church foyer for collection by those attending church. If you see notes for someone who is unable to attend church, but who lives near you, please could you deliver them. This would be appreciated. Readings begin on July 1st.

## Faith in the Workplace - Sam Evans (part 2)

**You've been in theatre for three and a half years now, but you were on a ward before?**

*I was, but it was very different, and I was younger and quite shy. It was quite stressful at times, but at least I could spend time talking to patients. I don't regret the time spent on the ward; I learned a lot, but I knew it wasn't what I wanted to spend my life doing. I knew there was something out there which would be more rewarding, and the resilience I learned on the ward has stood me in good stead in theatre.*



**When I was nursing, it was OK to talk about your faith, but I believe it's different now?**

*It did break my heart when I heard that a lot of nurses were being criticised for their faith. We are taught to be tolerant of a patient's faith, so surely the same should apply to nurses. The way I look at it is, if someone wants to talk about faith to me I will listen, and if they want me to I will talk about what I believe as well.*

**Being a Christian must help you to do your job better.... You have Someone you can take your problems to, Someone you can offload to at night when you get home.**

*God has definitely helped me; I don't think I could have been nearly as strong with all the things that I've seen if God hadn't been there by my side to help me. My family know by the look on my face when I come home what sort of a day I've had, and of course there are things I can't tell them because of patient confidentiality. It's wonderful having God in my corner alongside me, and it's a great comfort at times when things are difficult. I feel that I hear God more when I'm facing difficulties.*

**It must help to keep you calm, as I'm sure things go wrong occasionally or unexpected things crop up.**

*Yes, it's important to keep calm. I love being part of a team that is pulling together and helping each other. The last year, with Covid hasn't been easy. It has made me so grateful for the things that I have, and that my family are safe and I haven't brought any infection home. I also feel blessed that I haven't had any time off work; I've been able to keep working and had something to keep me focussed.*

*Sam was interviewed  
by Pat A.*

### Connected News

Because Phil is taking a break, *Connected* will be taking a two-week holiday as well!

The next edition will be dated 04 July, when we hope to bring you news about when Larissa, our new Curate, will be joining us.

### Mission Partner News

Christians Against Poverty are celebrating five years in Weston-super-Mare. You can read their latest newsletter by [clicking on this link](#).

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### Contact Details

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(Day off - Tuesday)

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**Summer Healing Forum**  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
7:30pm – 9:00pm on Zoom

Healing in a Changing World – Session 3

**The Journey Towards  
Health & Healing**

*With Special Guest*  
**Revd. Dr. Gillian Straine**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Guild Of Health



The Revd. Dr. Gillian Straine is an Anglican priest, theologian, scientist, author and a cancer survivor who is passionately committed to health, healing and Christian living. She lives in Lichfield with her husband and two young children. Gillian's books include: *Introducing Science and Religion: A path through polemic* (SPCK, 2014); *The Limits of Science?* (CSP, 2017); *Cancer: A Pilgrim Companion* (SPCK, 2017).

The Guild of Health (<https://gohealth.org.uk/>) is the Guild of Health and St Raphael - a wide group of people who seek to explore the links between faith and health, primarily but not exclusively from a Christian perspective, through:

- Promoting the church as a hub for health and healing
- Learning from one another about how to promote human flourishing
- Creating networks of people who are passionate in linking faith and health
- Helping people to connect with the church as a hub for wellbeing
- Praying for all who are suffering
- Researching healing from an academic viewpoint

As with our previous two evening sessions, this evening with Gillian will include a talk, time for reflection, opportunities for discussion in small groups and sharing feedback.

If you are interested in attending, please register on the event page for the session:  
<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/healing-forum-booking-form>.

The latest Diocesan Healing and Advisory Group newsletter can be read by [clicking this link](#).