

Connected

Sunday 4th July 2021 (5th Sunday after Trinity)

Introducing Larissa

Dear Friends

My name is Larissa Trust. I am currently a Bath and Wells ordinand and I am delighted and deeply privileged to have been invited to serve my curacy at Christ Church and Emmanuel. I will be joining you in July, initially as a lay worker, and expect to be ordained deacon in September.



I am very much looking forward to worshipping in both churches, getting to know everyone and finding out how God is working out His mission in Weston-super-Mare! I am particularly looking forward to leading worship and preaching, getting involved in Alpha courses, working with Christ Church School and assisting with the occasional offices. I expect there will be lots more to do as well! I have to admit I am a little daunted as well as excited!

I will continue to live in Worle with my husband Robert, two sons, Andrew and William, and daughter Otilie and cat Jess. All three of my children have severe special needs and attend special schools currently in Weston and Nailsea, (though this may change over the Summer!)

I completed my pre-ordination contextual training in St Mary's, Hutton and St Augustine's, Locking and my sending church was St Mark's, Worle. I am very grateful for the opportunities and encouragement I received from all three churches, especially since half of my training took place under Covid restrictions! I completed my academic training at Sarum College, Salisbury and I am currently finishing my dissertation on Disability in the Bible.

I'm originally from Surrey. I grew up surrounded by images of Jesus in the local Saxon church, which inspired me to ask many questions about Jesus. I deepened my understanding of faith in the Christian Union at Secondary school when I became aware of the possibility of a personal relationship with God. I was confirmed at the age of 13.

I studied theology (by accident) at St Mary's University having planned to study primary teaching. However, I felt teaching wasn't for me and on leaving university I went on to work for the Mission and Public Affairs Division of the Archbishops' Council and then the children's charity now known as Young Epilepsy. Prior to beginning my ordination training, I worked for the Diocese of Bristol looking after clergy accommodation. (If you ask me about Church building maintenance I'm afraid I will disappoint, as I know nothing!) In 2015 I completed the spiritual director training course with the SPIDIR Network.

My first child was born in 2007 and I chose to take 8 years off work whilst bringing up my family. During this time, I began to explore the possibility of ordination. Over the last ten years I have pushed doors and found some open and some closed. Between 2013 and 2015, following a particularly abrupt halt on the vocation journey, we felt drawn to move to Weston – where I had never even visited before! I felt God guiding me that this was the right move for us.

I am really grateful to Tom and the whole Benefice for being so willing to support me and hope that I shall not create too much extra work!! I pray that, with God's help, I may be a blessing to the Benefice, as I am sure you will bless me.

I look forward to meeting you all soon! (I hope and pray this may be in person!)

Prayer Pointers

Monday

We pray for our new curate Larissa and her family and welcome them to Christ Church and Emmanuel. Lord, enable them and our church family to mutually bless each other in Christian fellowship and ministry towards our two parishes.

Tuesday

We also remember those beginning new ministries throughout our country, having recently finished training. May they be continually inspired by the vision that you give each Christian and the Holy Spirit's refreshment and power each day as they fulfill their ministries.

Wednesday

We praise you Lord for progress in countering the effects of Covid. We especially pray for those suffering long Covid and their restoration to health, and enjoyment once again of all that makes life pleasant and fulfilling.

Thursday

Lord we pray for the many countries that are not so rich in resources and have less access to health services, especially vaccines. Lord, inspire all leaders and people to have a one-world approach towards the needs of your world.

Friday

We pray for the homeless, the deprived, depressed and all those who for various reasons feel worthless and unloved at a time of diminished resources, making life's struggles more difficult. May we as your people share your boundless love and infinite resources by prayer and action.

Saturday

Lord, as this summertime gives opportunity for our Government and leaders of education to review policies towards pupils and students, give wisdom and the highest motivation to support the aspirations of our young people.

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](#).



Verse For The Week

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you."

(Genesis 9: 8-10a)

Sermon Snippets



Time to build a bigger boat?

The world is in a bit of a mess. Wherever you look people seem to be causing trouble. There are criminals in every town stealing, selling drugs, fighting. The fighting is even worse if we look further afield with wars and battles in lots of countries. People are taking no notice of God; they're not talking to him, not listening to him, not appreciating the wonderful world we have.

Not caring for the planet is a disaster. Lots of animals are dying out to be seen no more, the climate is becoming wild and sea levels are rising. We can expect more and more floods so that most of the houses in Weston will be under the sea in our grandchildren's lifetime.

Hang on a minute! Haven't we been here before? Surely we know that life on earth has been threatened before. The world a mess, floods coming and what did God do then?

Can we learn from the life of Noah and his family about how we should live today?

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Coffee after the Service...

Emmanuel Sunny Sunday Outdoor Service June 2021



Our whole Sunday Morning Worship Service was able to take place outside because

ALL THAT WAS NEEDED WAS PROVIDED:

A hot day with a gentle breeze; bright sunshine for those who enjoy it, plus shade from the trees for those who don't; socially distanced chairs and hymn books laid out ready for us [thank you to all who made this happen, especially the Pilgrim family]; cups of refreshing cold water to prevent dehydration [thank you Pat and Meg]; sunscreen to prevent sun burn [thank you Julie]; a portable sound system [thank you Christ Church School]; a joyful service of worship with hymns that we could all sing! [again thank you Julie plus John for operating the laptop that provided the music].

We heard an inspiring sermon from Donna [her first] which helped us to reflect on how Jesus reacted to a Samaritan woman who asked him to heal her daughter of a demon, and in doing so demonstrated to Jesus [and to us] her great faith [thank you Donna] for challenging us to see those around us through Jesus' eyes, and most of all [thank you Lord] for the chance to lift our spirits and to gently witness to all who passed by throughout our service.

We are truly grateful for this amazing opportunity, enabled by a real 'team effort' and we plan to repeat it soon! If you would like a copy of this picture taken by Ray, please let me know.

Sheila

Thank You

Dawn and Doug would like to say a big thank you for all your cards, flowers, and prayers during Dawn's recent hospital stay. We have been so blessed with your kindness and generosity not just to Dawn but for the support Doug received during this difficult time too - Thank you. xxx

Mary Avery

Many of you will have heard of the recent sad passing of Mary Avery, a long-time member at Christ Church. Mary's funeral will be on Friday 9th July at 1.30pm in Christ Church. If you would like to reserve a seat for this service, please email Phil on the office email address.

My apologies to those of you who have been trying to get hold of me in the office this week. I've been off with a bug (I'll spare you the details!), but at least it wasn't Covid.

I hope to be back on Monday 5th July.

Phil

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)
(8.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk



Summer Healing Forum
Wednesday, 7th July 2021
7:30pm – 9:00pm on Zoom

Healing in a Changing World – Session 3

**The Journey Towards
Health & Healing**

With Special Guest
Rev. 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](#).