

Connected

Sunday 18th July 2021
7th Sunday after Trinity

Verse For The Week

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 5: 9)

Sermon Snippets

Authentic Hope *1 Thessalonians 4: 13-5: 11*

Like many millions of Englishmen I hoped that last Sunday's game would turn out differently, any Italians among us would have different opinions naturally. But we have hopes don't we? For ourselves, for our children, for the wider world. What is it that makes our hopes authentic? A week ago it was "In Gareth we trust"; on Monday morning not so sure.

We can lose hope if we focus on our battles and dwell on our failures. How might hope flourish if instead we resolutely focus on God himself? What if we focus on God himself, on His character, His power, His great love for us? What might happen if we fixed our eyes on Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith?

Authentic hope blurs the lines between what we think is possible and what we think is impossible. Could we ever come to a time when swords would be beaten into plowshares? When the predatory people in power - the lions - would lie down in peace with the vulnerable and the poor - the lambs? When God's justice would flow like a river - to the lowest and most "god-forsaken" places on Earth? When the brokenhearted would be comforted and the poor would receive good news?

If you think, 'Never - it's impossible', then maybe you need to think again.

Community News



Somewhere To Go has opened a new Charity Shop in Waterloo Street by the old Argos store to aid in fund-raising for its Homelessness Centre at St John's Hall, 4-6, Boulevard. Please have a look at the 'In-Crisis Sheet' of places in Weston-super-Mare which help people in crisis, and share this with anyone you meet, and with people you know, who could benefit from help from any of these organisations. The 'In-Crisis Sheet' can be found online at www.KeySteps.org.uk.

KeySteps keeps this 'In-Crisis Sheet' updated. They were formerly known as Woodspring Deposit Guarantee Board, set up by local churches in 1996. KeySteps helps local low-income, homeless people without dependent children, e.g. sofa-surfers, into a private tenancy and gives them practical support too.

The Somewhere To Go Day Centre could do with more volunteers, as could its shop and also the Salvation Army Charity shop.

June

Thank you to June for sending this piece in. June joined Emmanuel Church a few months ago and is a Trustee with KeySteps. If you would like more information, please contact the Church Office, and Phil will be happy to put you in touch.

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

Monday

It is the start of the school holidays this week and we pray for all families. With many children having been off school for long periods it will be a different experience this year, but we lift them to the Lord.

Tuesday

St. Paul's Church in Weston is now advertising for a new vicar. We pray that the person God has waiting will see the advert and respond.

Wednesday

We pray for Uganda in total lockdown with Covid. Medical facilities are poor and with people unable to work, many families are struggling to feed themselves.

Thursday

We pray for all the groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous, that meet regularly at Emmanuel. We pray that they will find the Lord Jesus as the higher power they can look to and come to understand His redemptive powers and the love He has for each one of them.

Friday

We pray for Street Pastors that they might be able to restart their Saturday nights caring for and praying with those out enjoying the night time economy.

Saturday

Give thanks that we are able to come together to worship and praise our God and we pray for those around the world who have to do it in secret and under persecution.

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Notices

Church Services

The Church of England have set up a Task Group which will make recommendations for church services following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday. We hope to have an update from them in the next few days. In the meantime, Tom and the Wardens are sending out a letter outlining the cautious approach we will be taking to the relaxation of restrictions.

Please do pray for this Task Group, and for Tom, Larissa, and the Wardens of our two churches as they reflect on how best to implement the Groups recommendations.

Open Gardens are here again!

The first of a short programme of three Open Gardens events will be at 2 Southridge Heights on August 14th, followed by a second on September 4th and a final one on September 18th. Details to follow later. Covid precautions at the time will need to be observed.

It's That Time of Year again!!

Last year the faces of over nine million children worldwide lit up because of the generosity of people who donated to Operation Christmas Child, otherwise known as the Christmas Shoebox Appeal.



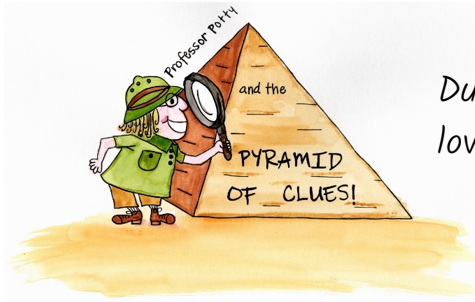
At Christ Church and Emmanuel we will be asking for donations again this year. More details will follow in due course, but in the meantime here is a link to the [Samaritan's Purse website's gift suggestions](#).

Christians Against Poverty

[Click on this link](#) to view the latest news from CAP. Please do have a read and pray for this important work in our town.

Coffee time after the Service...

Outdoor Events and Holiday Club Sunday - for the whole family!



During our Holiday Club we would love to see you at the following....

Friday 30th July
On the beach (Uphill end) at 3pm
for a Sandcastle Competition!

Bring your buckets and spades and look out for Professor Potty and the team.

Prizes for the best Sandcastles - Could you build a Pyramid?!



Sunday 1st August
In Church we will have a special
Holiday Club Sunday Service at 10:30am

Bring the whole family and find out the exciting conclusion to the story!

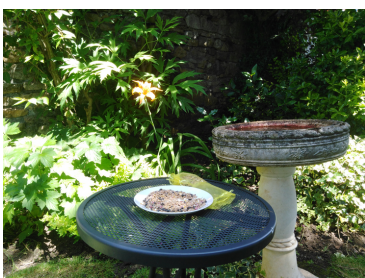
...then at 12:30pm...



The service will be followed by a trip to Ashcombe park (bottom end, behind the playground) where you can bring your picnic lunch and join in with some games!

** If the weather is bad and we have to cancel either of the outdoor events, we will let you know by email and will put a notice on the website at <https://ccwsm.org.uk/holiday-club-2021/> and on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ccwsm

Nicky



Some of you were at Mary Avery's funeral last week . . . the family had laid out on every seat a yellow packet of bird seed, inviting us to remember Mary who loved to feed the birds. Here's a shot of mine in our garden. It's a lovely way of remembering someone who brought us all such joy.

Tom