

# Connected

Sunday 8th August 2021  
10th Sunday after Trinity

## Verse For The Week

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

*(Psalm 22: 24)*

## Sermon Snippets

*Psalm 22*

*'God has sometimes to put us on our backs to make us look up.'* [anon]

Psalm 22 is a real contrast to Psalm 23. The Shepherd Psalm has uplifted and consoled thousands of people over the years. However, Psalm 22 is largely a 'lamentation' poem. That is, it is really sad until it reaches verse 22 when everything changes and the sun comes out again.

We don't know what troubles or anxieties David was going through when he wrote the Psalm but it must have been really severe. However, when we look carefully at the verses we see an amazing foretelling of what the Lord Jesus went through on Golgotha. No matter what our sadness and cares may be, we admit that they are nothing like the depths that Jesus agonised through.

So it is uplifting and heartening to know that He walks beside us 'closer than hands and feet and nearer than breathing' and if we stumble then 'underneath are the everlasting arms.' Some Christians keep a prayer journal and find it encouraging to look back and see how this travelling with the Lord has strengthened their love towards the Saviour.

*'The face of Jesus must be very near our own when the thorns from His crown of suffering are pressing our brow and hurting us.'* [anon]

## Tom's Week of Ventures



Some of you will know that each year I help lead a teenage Christian "venture" and by the time you read this it will be towards the end of the camp.

The ventures are quite a heady and fast moving mix of games, laughter, Christian teaching and worship together. Throughout the week I'll be particularly getting to know a group of some 6 teenage lads, usually about 14 years old. I'll be doing this with a couple of other male leaders and it's very satisfying to build some good relationships over the week through the activities and Christian material.

One of the things I've learnt over the years is that you don't have to be "good" at everything for God to use you. I might not be the best at football or even completely know all the answers to all their questions – but I found (even at my age!) that if I'm prepared to listen and build friendships, it's amazing what God can do. Over the space of the camp and the daily teaching and worship, I've seen teenagers really grow and deepen in their faith. . . and, so often where God is at work, I find myself growing and deepening a bit more too.

It's a way I've found of serving God's mission across this country – I do appreciate these camps are not everybody's "cup of tea" – but I love them even if I don't play brilliantly in the football matches! I've found God so often takes our personalities and interests and is able to use them – and for me this fits.

Most years I usually come home having pulled a muscle because I've been a little too enthusiastic – so if I'm hobbling a little, please be kind to your Vicar!

*Tom*

# Prayer Pointers

## Monday

Please remember and pray for all the church leaders whose ministries have benefitted you, especially those who have been here in Emmanuel and Christ Church.

## Tuesday

School holidays bring special problems for families with younger children. Please pray for children, grandchildren, godchildren - especially those from divided families who sometimes face very difficult choices.

## Wednesday

Ministers' and Missionaries' families face special strains and today we pray for Larissa's 3 children and Andy & Helen's 3 children; for each of them, protection, well-being, and good health.

## Thursday

I and several other people locally receive a weekly prayer alert which this year celebrates 16 years of service. Andy Page and a team run it so please pray for them as they continue to keep us well informed about prayer needs internationally and UK-wide.

The email is free on request - [www.prayer-alert.net](http://www.prayer-alert.net).

## Friday

Let us remember with gratitude the musicians and singers in Christ Church and the choir in Emmanuel who so enrich our worship. Please pray with thankfulness for all those who choose hymns, read Bible readings and lead intercessions this Sunday.

## Saturday

Pray that God will open doors of opportunity to each one of us this week to share our Christian story with another person. I am thinking how I would phrase my story of Jesus at work in my life, maybe prayers answered, or strengthened by him in times of great stress or need. I guess we all have our own personal story. [www.goprayer.world](http://www.goprayer.world) is the Global Outreach Movement encouraging Christians everywhere to share their story of Jesus with one person a month.

## Sunday

We pray for our clergy, our retired clergy and readers and all who will take part in services today. We also pray for the Chaplains in the College, Hospice and the Hospital. Please think and pray for some of them.

# Notices

## *Update on A New Bishop - Have Your Say*

The Diocese are inviting all of us to express views on what sort of Bishop we would like as Bishop Peter has now retired.



*Bishop Peter Hancock*

Why not take a few moments to have your say? You can find the form on the Bath and Wells Diocesan website, or by [clicking this link](#).

**Note** - this is a different link to the one included in last week's Connected. There are also a few paper copies which can be obtained from one of the Church Wardens, or from the Church Office. The deadline for submissions is Friday 20th August 2021.

*Did you know that after Peter Hancock was ordained, he served two curacies, one in Christ Church and one in Emmanuel? (Actually, that's Christ Church, Portsdown and Emmanuel Church, Radipole in the Diocese of Salisbury!)*

## *Mission Partner News*

For those of you who supported The Morrisseys in West Africa, either in prayer or financially (or both), there is a closing newsletter from them which is available from Phil in the Church Office.

## *Church At Home Packs*

There won't be any Church at Home Packs throughout the month of August BUT they will be available again from Sunday 5th September. We really hope that everyone will continue to explore the teaching each Sunday further for themselves.

Read the passage again, talk about it, reflect on it, create, play, pray and do something with what you learn. It's really important that what we learn goes with us into each week as we live out our faith in our everyday lives.

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## *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.*

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# Coffee time after the Service...

## Meeting Together Again

*With Services and groups starting to open up again, here are three opportunities to meet with others.*

### Wednesday Communion

This service has been up and running for a month now. It is great to be able to take some space in the middle of the week to focus on God and His saving Grace.



Do join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 10.30 in Emmanuel Church.

### Open Gardens

There will be a late summer programme of Open Gardens on Saturday afternoons between 2.30 and 5.30, commencing with Barry and Glenys' at 2 Southridge Heights on August 14th.



The next is with Meg on September 4th at 4 Sandringham Road, and finally with Alan and Maureen on September 18th at 17A Woodspring Avenue, Worlebury. Garden chairs are generally in short supply, so please put one or two in your car boot in case they are needed. Pray for fine weather!

### Ladies Together Afternoon Tea

It was quite an emotional experience as 30 of us met together on Monday for the first time in seventeen months, but a good time was had by all.



We took the opportunity to remember three dear friends who are sadly no longer with us - Christine, Janet and Mary.

Please do join us when we meet again on the 23rd August at 2.30 in the Spire Centre. There's no need to book - just come along!



## The Power of Poetry

### "Rain, Rain Flow Away"

*Prompt action by Hillside Councillor resolves drainage issue*



The rain in Spain runs easily down the drains.  
But not so here near my abode,  
on Hillside and surrounding roads.  
It should run smooth,  
It should run free,  
To join the sea by gravity.  
Then rise again like Phoenix bird,  
To cleanse and feed this precious earth.

The way is blocked it can't run free,  
to find a way to join the sea.

What happened to the Gully Whale?  
Is it scrapped or up for sale?  
Please send one round to clear the drain.  
Thus ease the flow of precious rain.

*Dave*

## Last Week's Connected

*Thank you for all the positive comments I received as a result of last week's edition. I hope to produce more 'specials' as and when time allows!*

*Phil*



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