

# Connected

Sunday 15th August 2021  
11th Sunday after Trinity

## Verse For The Week

If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

*(Esther 4: 14)*

## Sermon Snippets

*Esther 3: 1-11, 4: 1-17*

In the story of Esther, Haman orders a decree that all the Jews in the empire be killed. He doesn't know that Queen Esther is Jewish. Her relative, Mordecai, sends a message asking her to speak up for her people but, if she does, she may be killed. Mordecai realises that this might be why she had become Queen - "for such a time as this"; maybe this is your calling.

We may be used to hearing about clergy being "called" to their ministry but what about everyone else? Have you ever thought that God has called you to serve him where you are?

Think about the places you regularly spend time. Who are the people you meet there? What might God be calling you to do there? What might God be calling you to be to these people?

Are we open to the possibility that God might want us where we are for a reason? It's unlikely we'll be used to save a nation of people, like Esther, but if we're willing to serve him, God can use us, even in our everyday lives, "for such a time as this".

If you want to think more about making a difference for God where he's called you to be, I'd recommend Mark Greene's book, "Fruitfulness on the Frontline".

*See page 4 for information on the festival of Purim*

## Evening Services



Many of you will remember the "Prayer Unlimited" evening services we held in early 2020 which were really successful – that is until Lockdown put paid to them!!

Well, we're planning to build on what we'd learnt by starting a new "Prayer Service" once a month in the evening. These are likely to start at 6pm.

Each of these evenings will be put on by a different team, so should be full of variety and interest. We'll be looking at different areas, both within our churches and more widely. However the crucial thing about these services is that we will have space to pray as well as hearing some background teaching and also a time for worship. Whilst there are many things we can do as churches, it's vital that we have opportunities to pray together.

You'll see an article by Terry on page 3 about the service in September where we'll be praying for the environment. Everyone is welcome. It's fine to not 'pray out loud' - so why not give this service a try?

*Tom*

## 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.

# Prayer Pointers

## Monday

The Wardens in both churches have much responsibility – Bev and Angie at Christ Church and Pat and Mary at Emmanuel. Pray the Lord will give them strength and wisdom in their work.

## Tuesday

Tuesday is Tom's, and Larissa's, day off. Pray for refreshment and rest for them and that they will enjoy a day with their families. Larissa and Robert are on leave for a week from the 16th - pray they will be rested during that week.

## Wednesday

Thank the Lord for Phil in the office and all the work he does so often in the background. Praise the Lord for the Connected sheet he produces each week, and pray as he plans ahead for the autumn, and also starts planning for Christmas!

## Thursday

We are thankful to the Lord for the gardeners, grass cutters and cleaners who keep the inside and outside of our two churches in good order. Pray for adequate numbers to volunteer.

## Friday

Commit to the Lord and ask Him to guide those preparing for the Sunday services - for those who read the Scriptures, those who lead intercessions, those who lead the services, and those who bring the Lord's message.

## Saturday

Commit to the Lord our missionaries: The Potter family serving with Project Pag-asa School for orphans in the Philippines, Lucy Monk serving as a mission partner with Interserve in South Central Asia, CITA Secretarial and Computer Training Institute in Ghana, Andy Page – working with international prayer ministries, and Christians Against Poverty, helping local people recover from financial difficulties.

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### *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.

# Notices

## *John Allchorne*

You may have already heard about the sad passing of John. A Thanksgiving Service will be held in Christ Church on Tuesday 31st August, starting at around 3.15pm.

It would be really helpful if you could let Phil in the Church Office know if you are thinking of attending, though you won't need to book seats. The family request that people wear something aqua or purple - John's favourite colours. Don't worry if you don't have anything smart in those colours; the family are saying that 'colours are more important than formality'.

## *A New Bishop - Have Your Say*

Don't forget to have your say on what sort of Bishop you would like to see following Bishop Peter's retirement. The deadline for submissions is Friday 20th August 2021.

You can find the form on the Bath and Wells Diocese website, or by [clicking this link](#). There are also a few paper copies which can be obtained from one of the Church Wardens, or from the Church Office.

## *Men's Walking Group*

Some of the guys in our churches are organising a walking group, perhaps on a once per month basis. The distance of the walks will be determined by the people who want to go on them. If this is something you're interested in, please contact Phil in the Church Office. It might also be something that you can invite a friend along to.

## *St Paul's Event - Our True Identity In Christ*

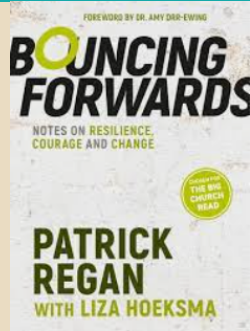
St Paul's are hosting a half-day conference on Saturday 21st August starting at 9am through to 1pm on our True Identity in Christ. A couple of people will share their testimonies and will talk about how we can step into our true identity in Christ, through biblically based, life affirming declarations.

Tickets are £5 each and include coffee and pastries. For more information, please [click on this link](#). Please note that this event is not suitable for children.

# Coffee time after the Service...

## The National Big Church Read

*The National Big Church Read is an opportunity to read and discuss Christian literature together – just like a Book Club.*



### Who is it for?

*Anyone interested in the book on offer.*

### How does it work?

*You read a chapter of the set book each week, watch the video, then discuss in a group.*

### How long does it last?

*Depending on the book, 6-10 weeks.*

### How much will it cost?

*It costs the price of the book. If enough people want to take part, we can buy the books at a small discount.*

### What's the book?

*'Bouncing Forwards' by Patrick Regan. It's about managing issues such as mental health, trauma or loss from a Christian perspective, looking at resilience, courage and change.*

### When does it start?

*It starts on 8th September and lasts for 10 weeks.*

### Are you interested?

*Speak to Bev Hall.*

## Sermon Addendum

I forgot to stress in the sermon last week that David would have had no idea about a crucifixion in Psalm 22 as that horror was not invented until some 600 years after his time. This showed he was prophesying.



*Jeff*

## Jubilee for the Earth - Climate Sunday Service



All over the country Churches are coming together to pray for the environment on September 5th. This is in advance of the major United Nations conference to be held in Glasgow called COP26.

We invite you to join us live in Christ Church for an hour of prayer starting at 6.00pm on Sunday 5th September. Using what we have learnt about the Prayer Unlimited evenings we are holding a service of prayer for this important topic.

Mixing praise and thanksgiving with confession and supplication, we want to come before our creator God. Mixing music and silence, liturgical and extempore prayer, we hope everyone will find an opportunity to pray.

As our vicar, Tom, talks about on page 1, this will be the first of an occasional series of evenings covering different topics and opportunities to pray together in an unlimited way.

*Terry*

### Dominoes

Do you have a set of Dominoes you can lend for a few days at the beginning of September? If so, can you please contact Terry Baillie on 643429.



## Contact Details

**Rev. Tom Webber** (Day off - Tuesday)  
t: (01934) 709343  
e: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk

**Larissa Trust** (Day off - Tuesday)  
t: (07379) 754372  
e: curate@ccwsm.org.uk

**Church Office** (08.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)  
t: (01934) 641016  
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk  
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

# More Coffee, anyone?

*Following on from the Sermon Snippets on page 1, Angeline has given us more to chew on this week - in more ways than one!*

**The festival of Purim celebrates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from death by the courage of Esther.**

The whole story is read and everyone boos, hisses, stamps their feet and uses rattles and cymbals to drown out Haman's name whenever it is mentioned!

Jewish people are instructed to eat, drink and celebrate throughout the festival. One of the things they eat are tasty biscuits called 'Hamantaschen' or 'Haman's Pockets'. If you'd like to try them, there's a recipe below.

## *Hamantaschen (Haman's Pockets)*

### **Ingredients**

2 eggs  
125ml vegetable oil  
112g caster sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1½ teaspoons baking powder  
Pinch of salt  
345g plain flour  
Jam or chocolate spread for the filling



- Beat eggs, add oil and mix.
- Add the sugar, vanilla, baking powder and salt.
- Add the flour gradually and mix well.
- Refrigerate for a few hours or overnight.
- Preheat the oven to 180 C / Gas mark 4.
- Knead the dough until it becomes soft enough to roll.
- Cut the dough with 7cm biscuit cutter or drinking glass.
- Put about 1 tablespoon of jam or chocolate spread into the middle of each circle.
- Fold up the edges of the circle and pinch the corners together to make a three-cornered hat.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes.
- Put on a rack and leave to cool.

