

Connected

Sunday 22nd August 2021
12th Sunday after Trinity

Verse For The Week

"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
(Matthew 7: 14)

Sermon Snippets



Matthew 7: 13-23

This Sunday we are looking at a short extract from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel.

Jesus has explained what is entailed in following him but says if we are to take his teaching seriously we will actually need to follow. In this short statement he maps out three sets of "twos".

There are two roads – one which is narrow following him, and one which is broader and easier. There are two destinations of "life or destruction". The surprising thing – given that only one road leads to "life" – is that relatively few find it.

This is quite a realistic picture of the challenges following Jesus entails and also the number of folk who actually 'do that following'. It's quite a challenge to you and me if we want to find the life Jesus speaks of. Do we sit back and ruminate....or have we the courage and determination to get up and walk that narrow road?

Christians Against Poverty

My thanks to Dina for suggesting that we include the following from the latest CAP Newsletter for those who are unable to access it online.



Paul Larcombe writes: I often listen to the BBC Radio 4 Money Box programme (available as a podcast). During August, they are focusing on The Hangover, recognising that Covid has been an economic crisis as well as a health emergency. In this new four-part series Felicity Hannah meets households, businesses and local councils whose lives have been changed completely. This week she travelled to Stoke on Trent to meet two households who have experienced the financial highs and lows of the Covid crisis - Katie, a self employed piano teacher and a single mum of four, and Tyler, in his early twenties, who lives at home with his parents. Both have had their lives transformed due to money matters.

I was fascinated to hear the interview with the Money Advice Manager for Citizens Advice in Stoke on Trent who said, "We're seeing gradually now people in very different situations, so they are people that would not have claimed before, people who've been working, who suddenly have either been furloughed or lost their jobs, self employed people who've had no income; and generally a level of client that we would very rarely see regularly."

This is why it's important for people to come forward now, while there is some capacity. If you know of someone who needs financial advice, the New Client Enquiries team can be reached on 0800 328 0006, or if you want to find out more, please call me on 07563 880577. Face to face visits are resuming. We are fully able to book in new clients and we are able to help them to become debt free.

To read the whole newsletter, just [click on this link](#)

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Pray for a happy time as Ladies Together have their second summer tea this afternoon. Pray as plans are made for the autumn programme starting mid-September. Pray that the men's group will enjoy fellowship when they meet later in the autumn.

Tuesday

Pray for Tom and his sister as they travel to Guernsey to visit their father whom they haven't seen since last December. Pray that it might be a special time together.

Wednesday

Thank God that Christ Church and Emmanuel have been able to pay their bills throughout the pandemic. Thank God that we have had reserves that we have been able to call upon. Let's pray that church income, mainly donations from members, will increase to a level which matches continuing required expenditure. Let's rejoice that we have the Spire Centre, the building of which was funded by members' giving years ago.

Thursday

Praise the Lord that the smaller Life Groups have been able to meet together recently. Pray that the larger groups will be able to meet together by October, and pray for them as they continue to meet on Zoom at present.

Friday

Thank the Lord for all the AV team in Christ Church as they work hard to produce the Sunday Service visuals on the screens, and the team in Emmanuel who produce the additional sound for their services.

Saturday

Do pray for your neighbours – those above you or below you, or either side of you, or across the road from you, or whose garden backs onto yours. Pray for opportunities to chat about the Lord and the help and encouragement He can be to them in these difficult times.

*“God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer.”*

~ Mother Teresa

Notices

John Allchorne

A reminder that 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'.

Mission Partner News

For those 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 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.

Gardening at Emmanuel

Calling all gardeners! A team of people will be gathering on Friday 27th August from 10am to midday to tidy the grounds at Emmanuel. Please just come along - your help will be very much appreciated.

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 on 643429.

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Coffee time after the Service...

Open Garden Gathering

We had a wonderfully sunny and warm day for our Open Garden on August 14th, which was nothing short of a miracle, as the days either side of it had been grey and rainy.

As it was, the thirty five people who came at some time during the afternoon were able to sit in the garden and enjoy the sunshine and the amazing view which we have. We were glad that Larissa was able to come and meet members of Christ Church and Emmanuel congregations in an informal setting.

Special thanks must go to Jeff and Carole, who did sterling work in the kitchen, brewing up a continual supply of tea throughout the afternoon. We hope that the remaining two Open Gardens events on the 4th and 18th September are equally blessed with a lovely day.

Barry & Glenys

New Venue for the next 'Open Garden' Event



I should have been hosting the the next Open Garden event scheduled for September 4th. However the work planned on the outside of my house has been delayed. The house is surrounded by scaffolding!

This means there's a bit of an obstacle course to walk down the side of the house to the garden. In addition, the dining room door leading out on to the garden has a scaffolding pole right in front of it so it can't be opened! As work on the painting has yet to begin I am doubtful that the scaffolding will have gone by Sept. 4th.

Carl has very kindly agree to host the Open Garden instead. If you don't know her address but would like to come along, please contact Phil in the Church Office.

I will look forward to welcoming you all next summer.

Meg

Life Group Garden Gathering



This is a photo of some members of Christine's Life Group meeting in her garden for a cuppa and a catchup before the summer break.

Stone Repairs

In January, following a routine 5-yearly inspection of our tower, the engineer from Dawson Steeplejacks informed me that there was a problem as stone had moved on the spirelet and was in urgent need of repair.



This was made safe as soon as possible by Dawsons. Then it had to be established how the damage was caused as our insurers would only pay if the damage was caused by storm or lightning. Once it was established that it was storm damage, including viewing it from the other side via a drone, work to repair it could be done.



During the work, old stone and ironwork had to be removed and replaced with new. One of the stones taken out was part of a base for the new flag-pole installed in 1952 at the time of the funeral for King George VI. (see photo)

Ben Dawson saved this for us as it had been inscribed at the time in 1952 and is a most interesting souvenir of the occasion.

Dina

More Coffee, anyone?

Climate Sunday Service - 5th September



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, wrote last week, this will be the first of an occasional series of evenings covering different topics and opportunities to pray together in an unlimited way.

Terry

What can we each do to help the environment?

Back in November 2019, Christ Church hosted an Eco Church Conference. There were lots of tips about how we can look after our planet, both individually and collectively.

If you would like some ideas about how you can be more ecologically active, why not visit the Eco Church Resources page? Just click on the logo below to find lots of information on energy, insulation, food, transport, waste, investments, and even coffee cups!



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?

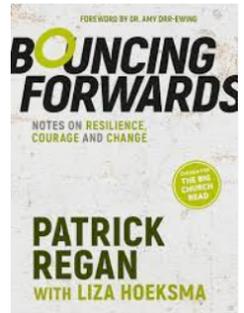
'Bouncing Forwards' by Patrick Regan. It's about managing issues such as mental health, trauma or loss from a Christian perspective, looking at resilience, courage and change.

When does it start?

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

Are you interested?

Speak to Bev Hall.



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