

# Connected

Sunday 29th August 2021  
13th Sunday after Trinity

## Verse For The Week

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

*(Isaiah 55: 8,9)*

## Sermon Snippets

*Isaiah 55: 6-11 and Romans 8: 26-30*

As Isaiah had been charged with telling God's people some hard truths about their disobedient life styles, so he clearly told them that God's ways were far higher than any one of theirs - see 'Verse For The Week' above. It was like comparing an elephant to a mouse. The elephant's viewpoint and understanding was so much greater than the mouse's - so God's viewpoint is so much greater than ours. He sees the beginning from the end, he knows the future, and he knows what is going on inside the mind of each of us.

So when Paul, writing to the Romans in chapter 8 verse 28, says "that in all things God works for good for those called according to his purposes", the good is not from our viewpoint - it is from God's. I have found it so difficult to pray for healing for a friend or relative and not have it answered with a "Yes". I ask the question 'why not or when?' God's timing is quite different to ours.

It is much easier to deal with disappointments in my own life. Looking back over the years of walking with Jesus the disappointments have often proved to be junctions in the road that have lead to new opportunities. They have been times when I have had to learn new lessons of obedience, lessons of patience and humility.

## It's the Bank Holiday Weekend!



*Let's hope for better weather than this!*

The Bank Holidays Act was introduced in 1871 by banker-turned-politician Sir John Lubbock. Until that point, the Bank of England had been observing various saints days and religious festivals. The general population were allowed to take time off, though this would not have been in the form of holidays as we know it today, but on days based around the cycle of seasons. However, this varied across all the regions of the country, so Lubbock thought that some uniformity was needed.

According to Horace G. Hutchinson in the *Life of Sir John Lubbock, Lord Avebury, Volume 1*, his political aims were threefold:

1. To promote the study of Science, both in Secondary and Primary Schools
2. To quicken the repayment of the National Debt
3. To secure some additional holidays, and to shorten the hours of labour in shops

Why were they called Bank Holidays? While most employers were able to give their workers days off on 'public' holidays, it was difficult for banks to do so because the holders of bills of exchange had the power to require payment on those days.

The 1871 Act was revised 100 years later, with additional days added in 1974 (New Years Day), and 1978 (Early Spring).

Whatever you're doing this weekend, have a great Bank Holiday!

# Prayer Pointers

## Sunday

During the coming week, Prayer Pointers will major on issues affecting Christian communities in the wider world. Pray for those in Northern Nigeria who have seen their homes and churches demolished, their children taken hostage and their pastor murdered by jihadist militants. Give thanks that we can freely attend church in this country.

## Monday

“O Lord, the clouds are gathering, the fire of judgement burns. How we have fallen.” As we consider Afghanistan “we stand appalled to see your laws so scorned and lives so broken”. We pray for those desperate to escape from that stricken country. There are a sizeable number of Christian Afghans, but they are scattered within a mainly Moslem population. Pray for them, for humanitarian aid workers, media correspondents and reporters, many with UK connections, desperate to reach Kabul Airport and transport to safer countries. We see scared children, clutching their toys. “God of the poor, friend of the weak, grant us compassion we pray. Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain, come change our love from a spark to a flame” (*Graham Kendrick, 1988 & 1993 Make Way Music*)

## Tuesday

Pray for the church family of Christ Church and Emmanuel. “If one member suffers, all suffer.” We have suffered the loss of John Allchorne. But let us, this afternoon, remember his life with thankfulness for what he has meant to us as a valued member of our fellowship. The coffee always tasted better when John served it! Comfort those who mourn, especially Pat and close members of her family, Angeline and David White. Grant them, Lord, a “time to mourn” and in due course the courage to go forward, experiencing your continuing presence and purpose for them. (*Ecclesiastes 3: 4, 5.*)

### *Thanksgiving Service for John Allchorne*

Just a reminder that the family have requested 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'.

## Wednesday

Pray especially for the women and girls of Afghanistan, who stand to lose most from the regime change and the reputation of the Taliban with regard to them. Pray too for the Services families here in the UK, who may well feel that the lives given to keep the peace during the past twenty years may have been in vain.

## Thursday

Pray for the people of Haiti, who once again have suffered a devastating earthquake, with great loss of life. Pray for Marc Desmornes, Regional Manager of Christian Aid, who is trying to channel help to those rendered destitute. “We see families moving to wherever they can stay safe, with nothing but the clothes on their backs” (*Church of England Newspaper*)

## Friday

What is the greatest threat facing the human race at the present time? War? Plague? Famine? Natural Disasters? All these are with us right now – but the greatest, which we all thought was a generation away, is with us already: Climate Change! Pray for the forthcoming service at Christ Church on Sunday evening, September 5th. Reducing our individual ‘carbon footprint’ could seem futile, but collectively it can make a difference. (*Revelation chapters 15 and 16*). See the *Eco Church* piece on page 4.

## Saturday

As we look forward to a pleasant Open Garden with Carl Evans this afternoon, give thanks and pray for an oasis of normality after a week of doom-laden events. Pray for those taking part in services at Christ Church and Emmanuel tomorrow, that all that they do will be under the control of the Holy Spirit.

---

## *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.

---

# Coffee time after the Service...

## What's On This Week

Usually, August is a quiet month for a Church Administrator. However this has not been the case this year! So, in order to help myself remember what's going on, and also to let everyone else know too, I have decided to start this new regular section of Connected. I hope you find it useful.

### Tue 31 Aug

Thanksgiving Service for John Allchorne, starting between 3.00 and 3.15pm at Christ Church

### Sat 04 Sep

Open Garden hosted by Carl starting at 2.30pm (for directions, please contact the Church Office)

### Sun 05 Sep

Prayer for our environment starting at 6pm in Christ Church

*I hope to include a piece next week about all the groups which will be restarting soon. Watch this space!*

## Christ Church Baby & Toddler Group

At the beginning of May and after over a year of Facebook Live sessions, our group was able to meet up outdoors!



It was so lovely to be able to meet new families and some returning with babies born during lockdown! Although our garden is not ideal, we really enjoyed using the flat, accessible areas when the weather allowed. We played, chatted, sang songs, read Bible stories and prayed together. We closed for the summer break and gave each child a Bible story book to enjoy at home.



*Here is a picture of Olivia enjoying her Bible story book!*

We have plans to open a new group, meeting back inside Christ Church sometime in the Autumn. It's going to look a little different to the group we ran pre-Covid! Please do pray for the team and the families that will come.

*Nicky*

## The Church Scythe



*Before scything*

In 2014, David and I went on a scything course so we could cut the grass in the church garden that's above the Spire Centre, because we were trying to make it more wildlife-friendly and as there was nowhere to plug in our lawnmower. A few years ago we reluctantly had to admit we were no longer fit enough and the scythe has remained in our shed – until this month. Our son Matthew asked if he could have it to use on the overgrown and neglected grounds of his church, St John's in Deepcar just outside Sheffield.

We gave him a quick course on our front lawn and he took it home. St John's is on even more of a steep slope than ours, being on a hillside which rises from a river valley to the Peak District. After Matthew's first attempt, whilst holidaying at home last week, he sent us these before and after pictures. It's good to know the scythe (and our family) are still working for God.



*After scything*

*The Church Scythe*

*David & Stella*



# More Coffee, anyone?

## JaM Club Sunflower Competition

Back in April during our JaM Club online session, we heard the Parable of the Sower... or the soils! To help us think more about that, using the craft packs, we made newspaper plant pots and filled them with good soil and planted sunflower seeds. We decided it would be fun to hold a sunflower competition!

On Thursday 26th August we announced the winner!

It seems that growing sunflowers is quite tricky and the slugs, wind and rain have all taken their toll.



Enzo and Leahanna's got battered by the weather and eaten and so they planted some more....but they've only just reached 18cm. Well done for persevering!



Jenson's sunflowers survived wind, rain, slugs and moving house and the tallest has reached 125 centimetres! So Jenson is our winner!

Rose planted her JaM Club seeds and added some more. Hers are just about to open and the tallest one is 36 inches or 91.4 centimetres - Well done Rose!



Everyone gets a certificate and some sweets but Jenson also gets the trophy and a 'Pizza Garden' to grow!

Well done JaM Club!!

*Nicky & Angeline*

## 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!



## 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