

Connected

Sunday 26th September 2021
17th Sunday after Trinity

Verse For The Week

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3: 5)

Sermon Snippets

Ezra 1: 1-5

We've been looking over the last couple of weeks at Nehemiah – how he returned to Judah and oversaw the building of Jerusalem's walls. We've been told that years before, Jerusalem had been destroyed, and thousands of people were taken captive from Judah to Babylon. So, what led to them being able to return?

There are two answers to that question. The first we find in historical documents and artefacts, and centres around Cyrus the Great, ruler of Persia. When he conquered Babylon he put in place a policy which allowed captives (including the Jews) to return to their homeland and worship their gods.

The second we find in another historical document - the Bible - where God gives us his viewpoint of the same event. And it shows that behind the wars and politics, God was at work.

When we look at national and global politics and wars we need to remember that there are two perspectives. Political leaders and rulers are making decisions which they think are in their favour but we mustn't forget that God is there too. He can, and does, work through all sorts of situations on a national and global scale sometimes without people even realising. If I can trust God to work in big global political decisions, how much more should I be able to trust him in the places I find myself, and in the decisions that affect my life.

The Beacon



We have just had the 3rd week of The Beacon after having to close at the start of lockdown 18 months ago. It is one of Emmanuel's outreach projects which we started over 10 years ago. It is an off shoot of Somewhere To Go which didn't meet on a Tuesday, and has an overt Christian element. We cook a meal for the homeless and vulnerable and then, for anyone who would like to stay we put 3 tables together and sit round with tea and cake and talk about what Jesus can do in our lives.

We like to have volunteers who are trying to move on in their lives and over the years quite a number have gone on the Alpha course at Christ Church and gone on to get baptised. They are a great testimony on how the Lord can turn our lives round and keep us on track. The volunteer helpers have a prayer time before we open the doors. We say a prayer of thanks before we serve the meal and occasionally someone asks if they can do it and it is humbling to listen to them. Jeff Morgan leads the discussion time. At the moment he brings an updated version of a parable which people can relate to. We end the discussion time by standing and holding hands in a circle and one of us rounds it off with a prayer.

We used to cook for 40. It has been a slow start but numbers are gradually increasing and it is lovely to see new and old faces. We had 8 stay for the discussion time this week which is about average but even when there is only one or two we often feel that they needed the time to themselves. 2 people who go to STG come early and put the tables and chairs out for us. They couldn't wait to get started which spurred us on!

Meg & Daphne

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Please pray for Nicky and Angeline as they finalise plans for family and children's ministry, and as they gather a team together. Please pray for all the children, young people and parents / carers to feel safe and loved here.

Tuesday

Remember Tom and Chris as they have a short break, that they may feel rested and refreshed. Also pray for Larissa and her family as she is now officially our curate, asking God to give her a fruitful time whilst she is here.

Wednesday

Missions abroad that we support are having a tough time because of the Covid virus. Pray for Lucy, the Potter family and CITA secretarial college to be safe and able to get back to regular working as soon as possible.

Thursday

We love to pray for our church family at Christ Church and Emmanuel. Keep in mind those who are not well, those who are struggling in any way and those who have lost loved ones. Our loving Heavenly Father holds them close in their distress.

Friday

Pray for our government, national and local, to have wise and compassionate hearts as they make policies and decisions on our behalf.

Saturday

Please pray for everyone preparing services for tomorrow. Ask God to prepare your heart to listen and remember and act on what we hear.

CAP 5-year Celebration Service

All are welcome to attend the 5-Year Anniversary of the Weston Area CAP Centre - Sunday 10 October 2021, 3pm at St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close, St Georges, BS22 7XF.



For the latest CAP newsletter, [click on this link](#)

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

What's On This Week

Mon 27 Sep

Ladies Together at 2.30pm in Christ Church

Tue 28 Sep

Parish Prayers at 9.30 at Emmanuel Church
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church.

Wed 29 Sep

Book Club at 7pm in the Spire Centre

Thu 30 Sep

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church.
Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre.

Sat 02 Oct

Coffee Morning at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church

Notices

Tom on Holiday

Tom and Chris will be away from Sunday 26 September to Friday 01 October inclusive. Please pray that they will return feeling refreshed.

Emmanuel Coffee Mornings

Emmanuel Church will be restarting the popular Coffee Mornings. These will take place on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30 until 12noon. The first event, which includes sales of cards, cakes and also a bookstall, will be on Saturday 02 October. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bible Notes 2022

We owe Barry Sutton-Jones an enormous 'thank you' for the dedicated way he co-ordinated the Bible Reading Notes for Christ Church and Emmanuel, but now Barry is retiring after 12 years!! Sandra Wilkes is taking on the co-ordinator role and ordering the notes from 'Life' Christian Bookshop. Click [here](#) to order and pay via the Christ Church website, or contact Sandra direct on 815181 (email: dandswilkes@aol.com). Payment upon ordering please to David White. Please place your order by 17th October. Any queries please see Sandra. Thank you.

Evening Prayer Services

On Sunday October 3rd at 6pm we'll have the second of our Prayer Services - "Praying for the NHS", led by John and Julie Birkett. A future date for your diary - the third Prayer service will be November 7th as we give thanks for loved ones we have lost, either recently or some time ago.

Coffee time after the Service...

Emmanuel Church Wardens



Last Sunday at Emmanuel we presented Pat with a bouquet to express our heartfelt thanks for her four and a half years as one of our Wardens. She has done an amazing job and we are so grateful to her. The baton has been passed on to Keith. He has already done one stint of four years and we so appreciate his willingness to do another. The photo shows Pat with her bouquet with Mary (our other Warden) and Keith. We do feel so blessed.

Thank you

I am full of gratitude to all those people who came to see us after church last week to volunteer their valuable time in serving through practical help at Christ Church.

I am very happy to say that the kitchen rota is filling up nicely, though a few more are still needed. Welcomers are also stepping up, which is wonderful as they are the first faces (even if they are masked!!) everyone sees when they arrive.

Sadly no one has expressed a desire to lead a Life Group, or to host one. I appreciate this is quite a commitment but small groups play an essential role in our church families, both Christ Church and Emmanuel.

Also still needed: gardeners, maintenance team (skilled and unskilled), Family, Youth and Children's Ministry team members and – last but not least – someone to join the Christ Church PCC.

Angie, Nicky and Bev look forward to hearing from even more wall repairers (Read Nehemiah ch3, or watch last Sunday's sermon on the church website, if you don't get the reference!)

Bev

Christ Church Harvest Service – at 10:30am on Sunday 3rd October



During the service we will be collecting donations for Weston Foodbank. Here is the current list of items that are urgently needed:

- Tinned Potatoes
- Fruit Juice
- Squash
- Custard
- Rice Pudding
- Long Life Milk (Semi Skimmed or Whole)
- Cooking Sauces (Not pasta sauces please)
- Instant/Microwavable Porridge
- Toilet Rolls
- Cleaning Products
- Toothbrushes
- Razors and Shaving Foam

An up to date list of needs can be found on the Foodbank website:

<https://westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Nicky

Note - Emmanuel's Harvest Service is on the 17th October, with collections going to the Barnabas Fund. More details will follow.

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