

# Connected

Sunday 10th October 2021  
19th Sunday after Trinity

## Sermon Snippets

*Nehemiah 2: 4-16*

In verse 4, we see that Nehemiah took a risk. He was very scared when he approached King Artaxerxes to help him, but when God intervened, Nehemiah's requests were spectacularly granted. This gave Nehemiah confidence that his cause and methods were in accordance with God's purposes.

This week's talk will consolidate all the information that we have heard in the last four weeks to consider how Nehemiah's example inspires us to be confident, (or at least fairly confident) that what we are doing is in line with God's purposes.

Drawing on my introduction to beekeeping during my ordination retreat (*see last week's Connected*) I consider how bees within a bee colony instinctively work for the survival and thriving of the colony. Similarly, Nehemiah was able to intuit that God's blessing was upon his decisions and his work towards the flourishing of the community. This was possible because of Nehemiah's:

- Prayerfulness,
- Knowledge of scripture and theology,
- Homework and meticulous preparation, and
- Continuing to discern whether what he was doing was still what God was asking of him.

While some people were unsupportive, the majority supported his work and were dedicated to the task. The people of Israel came together in support of re-building the walls, and the community thrived because of it. These things helped to confirm the call God had placed on Nehemiah's life and he gained confidence in his service to God and his calling.

## Parish

## Prayers



The Tuesday morning Parish Prayers meeting has restarted at Emmanuel Church. This was set up about 20 years ago and had it not been for lockdown would have met every Tuesday in church 9.30-10am with only breaks for school holidays.

Originally it was set up to pray for the Emmanuel Church family and the parish, which of course included the Town Hall, Police Station, Magistrates Courts, Salvation Army and many other places. Since joining with Christ Church we have of course included their church family, activities, and surrounding area.

We would be delighted if anyone would like to join us from either church. If you are coming, do use the Oxford Street entrance and do feel free to pray for whatever is on your heart. Don't feel you have to pray out loud; your very presence is an encouragement to those who do.

*Meg*

## Verse For The Week

Because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

*Nehemiah 2: 8)*

## 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

*Plead that prayer may not just be talked about but practised.*

## Sunday

World Mental Health Day. Pray for those who suffer in ways which often cannot be seen like physical ailments, but tear at the mind in ways unmentionable. Give skill and guidance to all researching for cures in this area.

## Monday

International Day of the Girl Child. Pray for protection and help for all girls being exploited in so many lands, including Britain. May they be kept safe from all extreme ideologies that might affect them adversely.

## Tuesday

World Arthritis Day. Over 200 of these rheumatic musculo-skeletal diseases [RMDs] exist and although some research is proving beneficial more cries out to be developed for the relief of so many lives.

It is also Elizabeth Fry commemoration day, the lady who struggled to improve prison conditions. Pray that prison chaplains may be allowed to run Alpha and similar courses without interference.

## Wednesday

Nero became Roman emperor on this date. Many Christians died horribly under his persecution. Pray for all persecuted people today that justice, not intolerance, may triumph.

## Thursday

The Battle of Hastings is commemorated today. Ok we lost, but only by a trick and our men were tired after beating off another invasion! Pray for a sensible pride in nationality accompanied by outreach in finance and resources to needy nations.

## Friday

International Day of Rural Women. Pray for strength, endurance and justice for all the women who have to undertake hard manual work in so many countries. Reach out in intercession for all Christian women attending country churches in the UK as they face loneliness and isolation in dwindling congregations. Stir Christians to leave their happy circles and break out into friendship with the desperately lonely.

Teresa of Avila Day. She was anti-Protestant but a great praying woman- 'You pay God a compliment by asking great things of Him.' So give many compliments today.

## Saturday

World Singing Day. We are bidden to join in the song of the year, 'Here Comes The Sun'. You can imagine how Christian singers will alter that. How about joining with Pam Rhodes on Premier Radio tomorrow on her lunchtime sing-along show.

# Notices

## *Christians Against Poverty*

If you were planning to attend the 5-Year Anniversary service of the Weston Area CAP Centre this Sunday (10th October), **please note that the service has had to be postponed.** It will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

In the meantime, a 'Special Update' edition of the CAP Newsletter has been produced. This focuses particularly on the ending of the temporary £20 per week increase in Universal Credit payments. [Please click here](#) to read the update, and do pray for people affected by this, as well as the work of CAP generally.

## *Bible Notes 2022*

A reminder that the deadline for ordering the Bible Notes for 2022 is next Sunday, 17 October. Click [here](#) to order and pay via the Christ Church website, or contact Sandra directly on 815181 (email: [dandswilkes@aol.com](mailto:dandswilkes@aol.com)). Payment upon ordering please to David White. If you have any queries please see Sandra. Thank you.

## *Ladies Together 11 October*

Just to let you know that Helen Sworn is coming to speak on Monday 11th October. Helen used to be a part of Christ Church, and she is now the International Director at Chab Dai, a charity helping to combat modern slavery and human trafficking. All are welcome to come and join us.

You can read more about the work of Chab Dai by [clicking this link](#).

*"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucado*

# Coffee time after the Service...

## What's On This Week

### Mon 11 Oct

Ladies Together at 2.30pm at Christ Church

### Tue 12 Oct

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

### Wed 13 Oct

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church\*  
Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church  
Book Club at 7pm in the Spire Centre

### Thu 14 Oct

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church  
Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre  
JaM Club at 3.30pm at Christ Church\*

*\*note - pre-registration is required for these events*



## *Emmanuel Harvest Service Sunday 17th October at 10.30*

Emmanuel are supporting the Harvest Barnabas Appeal this year. We have received cardboard boxes to fill with chick peas, lentils, rice, salt, whole meal flour and soap - in bars and not fragranced. Only these items please, and they must be in packages, not jars, tins, or cardboard boxes. If you bring items to church we can put them straight into the boxes for Tom to bless in the service. Barnabas Fund would also welcome a financial contribution towards the shipping of these goods. Please give this to Carl.

In addition, we are going to have a display of fresh flowers for Harvest. We do not have a Flower Rota for 2021, but if anyone would like to contribute to flowers for Harvest and the weeks to Advent, please either give cash or a cheque to Carl, or make an online payment using the reference Flowers to PCC EMMANUEL WSM sort code - 60 23 32, account number 82608393. Thank you.

*Meg & Carl*



Foodbank have expressed their thanks for the generous donations from Preschool, Christ Church and the School. A total of 362.4kg was donated!

## Evening Services

A big Thank You to Julie & John for the excellent service last weekend where they led us in prayer for the NHS (*see page 4 for more about this*).

More evening services are being planned, and they are as follows:

- 7th November - we give thanks for loved ones we have lost, either recently or some time ago.
- 28th November - a celebration of all that Christmas means for those who find Christmas a difficult time.
- 9th January - a time of prayer for the New Year.

Each of these services will be at Christ Church, starting at 6pm. Please note that they will not be 'live-streamed'. More services will be announced in the New Year.

## Contact Details

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

**Rev. Larissa Trust** (Day off - Tuesday)  
t: (07379) 754372  
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**Church Office** (08.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)  
t: (01934) 641016  
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk  
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk



# Prayer for the **NHS**

*Following on from the Prayer Service which John and Julie led last week, here are some facts and figures which they have kindly compiled. We hope that these statements will move you to pray for our Health Service, both in the present and for its future.*

The NHS came kicking and screaming into life on 5 July 1948. It was the first time anywhere in the world that completely free healthcare was made available on the basis of citizenship rather than the payment of fees or insurance. It brought hospitals, doctors, nurses and dentists together under one service. But in the 70+ years since its creation much has changed.

It is important to remember in our prayers too those areas of health delivery which get little or no funding from central government such as the Hospice Movement, especially our own Weston Hospice Care, and for Nursing Homes, Care Homes, Air Ambulance that are privately owned or reliant on charity to continue to provide care.

Public expectation outstrips what the NHS is able to deliver often leading to abuse of health service staff.



The safety of maternity services is under serious threat, according to a new survey by the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). The survey found that over eight out of 10 midwives (83%) do not believe their NHS Trust or Board has enough staff to operate a safe service.

GP surgeries across the country are experiencing significant and growing strain with rising demand, practices struggling to recruit staff, and patients are having to wait longer for appointments.



Mental health phone lines run by the NHS have answered around three million calls during the pandemic.

GP practices have been at the forefront of the NHS's response to the pandemic, but COVID appointments take up practice capacity. The overall appointment count for July 2020 is nearly one million higher than pre-pandemic levels (July 2019).

New figures show attacks including biting and spitting have risen 10% during lockdown and body cams are becoming standard issue for ambulance staff after a rise in attacks. Verbal abuse of primary care staff is an everyday problem.

There are 1,904 fewer fully qualified Full Time Equivalent GPs now than there were in 2015. Since 2015, the average number of patients per practice has increased by 24% whilst the number of GPs has been falling.



The NHS faces unprecedented challenges as we move into an unknown future. The differential effect of the pandemic on ethnic minority groups and deprived communities underlines the deep roots of health inequalities and the need for a comprehensive programme of action. An ambitious programme encompassing social care and health inequalities is needed.

Pre-pandemic, the NHS was already under strain but now 5.6 million people are waiting for hospital care and personnel shortages threaten the quest to tackle the backlog. The NHS in England has 94,000 vacancies, including for 9,691 doctors and 38,952 nurses. Many clinical staff are working unpaid hours beyond the end of their shifts and have no time for meal breaks while on duty. Despite the fact the government is increasing the budget year on year it will barely allow the health service to stand still.

