

# Connected

Sunday 24th October 2021  
21st Sunday after Trinity

## Verse For The Week

"Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome."

(Nehemiah 4: 14)

## Sermon Snippets



(Nehemiah 4: 7-23)

Have you ever had a job to do and the more you looked at it, the harder it seems to be? Well, if that's you then you're standing in the same shoes as Nehemiah! Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was not easy. Workers were thinly spread, running out of energy and surrounded by enemies. The way Nehemiah tackles the job has lots to tell us – and it involves two things.

Firstly, he prays to God. We've quickly learnt that Nehemiah is a very practical man; but he's also one who's learnt the importance of praying before he rushes in.

Secondly, he gets fully involved and motivates others. It's a great illustration of "praying as if everything depended on God and working as if everything depended on him".

Some of us are more naturally "spiritual" and some of us more naturally "practical". I wonder . . . which one are you? What do you need to develop to be stronger in both areas?

## At the heart of Christmas



You probably don't need reminding of this, but Christmas Day is only a couple of months away!

That statement will raise different thoughts and feelings for different people. At Christ Church and Emmanuel we remember that this is the time when God showed His love for us and stepped in to humanity.

We thought it appropriate to let you know now about the services and events at our two churches leading up to Christmas so that you can be praying for them, and praying about who you might invite to one or more of the services.

The Church of England's theme this year is 'At The Heart of Christmas'. The C of E website talks about this being an invitation to all of us "to discover, or rediscover, the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead." (see Luke 2: 19)

There is a list of events shown on page 3. We will also be producing some invitation cards for you to give to your families, friends and neighbours personally, so that they can know what is actually at the heart of Christmas.

## 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

## Sunday

On this Bible Sunday we thank God for his Word. Pray, too, for Bible Societies and Translators who continue to translate and print the Bible for those around the world who do not have access to God's Word.

## Monday

We pray for our MP, John Penrose, for those in authority over us in Central and Local Government and ask for wisdom in decision making.

## Tuesday

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, for our creation and preservation and for our redemption in Christ, for grace received and hope of glory.

## Wednesday

Give thanks for the Life Groups. Remember before God the leaders, hosts and each member, that we may grow in Christ week by week.

## Thursday

Pray for Church Mission Society Pioneer Ministers Fiona Mayne and Cathy and John Wheatley who minister for God in Haywood Village and on the Bournville respectively. Pray for good contacts and solid conversations.

## Friday

Pray for the work of Tearfund; for those who work to relieve poverty and injustice in third world countries.

## Saturday

Remember before God those who are not well. In particular, pray for people known to you personally, and name them now before God.

### *A Message from Mike & Pat*

*We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and messages after the passing away of our daughter Claire. We have been overwhelmed with your love and care which has meant so much to us and the family.*

*We also want to thank all those who have faithfully prayed and supported us over the last 20 years since Claire was diagnosed with MS after the birth of her son Jacob.*

*Mike and Pat Hurst*

*God's love never fails - Psalm 136:4*

# What's On This Week

## Mon 25 Oct

Ladies Together at 2.30pm at Christ Church

## Tue 26 Oct

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

## Wed 27 Oct

Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church  
Book Club at 7pm in the Spire Centre

## Thu 28 Oct

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

## Forthcoming Services

There are two special services coming up in the next couple of weeks:

### Lightfest

(4pm on the 31st October at Christ Church)  
Registration is required for this service. Please pray for the team and for people to come to celebrate the light, rather than the darkness.

### Remembering People

(6pm on the 7th November at Christ Church)  
This will be a gentle and reflective service where anyone who would like to come can remember those who are no longer with us. Please feel free to bring a photo which can be placed on a table during the service. Candles will also be lit.

## *Gardening at Emmanuel*

We will be gardening at Emmanuel on Friday 29 October, 10am to 12 midday. If anyone would like to join us that would be great.

### *Lightfest*

For this year's Lightfest, we would be very grateful for donations of the following:

- Clean glass jam jars
- Glow sticks
- Wrapped sweets (eg. individual bags of Haribo)

Please either let Nicky know, or bring your donations to the Church Office.

**Thank you!**



# Coffee time after the Service...

## Emmanuel Church Harvest Donations

Very many thanks to all who contributed to Emmanuel's Harvest response to the Barnabas Aid appeal. We have 13 filled boxes ready for collection. It was surprising how much the boxes held and we were able to put at least 2 of everything asked for into each box.

It was decided that instead of flowers in the windows to decorate the church, it would be better to put that money we would have spent towards shipping costs. Altogether we have raised £215 towards shipping.

By way of personalising the boxes we were given stickers to put on saying 'this box comes with love from ....' and we have added 'Emmanuel Church, Weston super Mare, England'.

We don't know which country the boxes will end up in, but it will be somewhere where people are dying of starvation due to harvest failure because of drought, floods and locusts.

Meg

## Online Shopping Donations

If you are doing some shopping online, why not access your favourite stores via Give As You Live? If you do this they will make a donation to one of their listed charities, of which Christ Church is one.

Simply click on the image below. This will take you straight to the Give As You Live website. It will ask you to create an account if you don't have one already. Just enter Christ Church Weston-super-Mare as your chosen charity and start shopping!



## Christmas Services

- 28 Nov at 6pm at Christ Church -  
*'Blue Christmas' - a service of reflection*
- 12 Dec at 4pm at Christ Church -  
*Christingle Service*
- 16 Dec at 2pm at Emmanuel Church -  
*Carol Singing in Church Square*
- 17 Dec at 7pm at Emmanuel Church -  
*Carols by Candlelight*
- 19 Dec at 5pm at Christ Church -  
*Carols by Candlelight*
- 24 Dec at 4pm at Christ Church -  
*Nativity Service*
- 24 Dec at 11.30pm at Christ Church -  
*Midnight Communion*
- 25 Dec at 10.30 at both Churches -  
*Christmas Day Communion services*
- 26 Dec at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church -  
*Joint Boxing Day Service*

## At the heart of Christmas



*"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas."*

Bill Crowder

(author and writer of devotional material)

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