

Connected

Sunday 31st October 2021
4th Sunday before Advent

Verse For The Week

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
(Nehemiah 8: 10)

Sermon Snippets

(Nehemiah 8: 1-12)

An enemy within?

The walls were completed around Jerusalem. The community of God's people now had a good defence against attack from outside enemies. But Nehemiah and Ezra knew that an outside attack was not the only way a community could be in danger.

If people forgot the values and lifestyle that was theirs and started to ignore or compromise on their core values then, as we have seen so often in history, the society slowly crumbles. So Nehemiah asks Ezra the great teacher of the law to remind the people how they are called to live - with some surprising results.

It reminds us about guarding our own hearts and how we are called to live as the people of God today.

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Rev Julie Birkett

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Julie Birkett will be recognised as a senior member of clergy – a Prebendary.



This will not affect her commitment to our churches or the work she does at Weston College as it's chaplain; in fact it is due to her ministry in these and other areas which has deserved this recognition.

Julie writes: "I am overwhelmed to have been invited by Bishop Ruth to become a Prebendary of the Cathedral Church of St Andrew in Wells. Bishop Ruth writes, *"This invitation comes as recognition of your outstanding service to the Church in this diocese and your faithful commitment to the well-being of the Christian gospel in our times."*

Historically a Prebendary is a senior member of clergy, a member of the College of Canons, who has a role in the administration of a Cathedral. As a member of the College of Canons I will be involved in the election of the new Bishop of Bath and Wells.

When attending cathedral services, Prebendaries sit in particular seats, usually at the back of the choir stalls, known as prebendal stalls. Mine will be Combe X. The first Prebendary to occupy that stall was William Higham in 1561."

In particular it is a joy for us to see someone whose ministry is all about caring and supporting people recognised in this way. A significant part of her ministry is to folk who are not (yet) in touch with church – many of the students at Weston College or patients and staff at Weston Hospicecare. Julie will have some additional Diocesan duties in the Cathedral but this will not affect her being part of the team here I'm pleased to say.

Do continue in your prayers for her and John – Julie has played a strategic role in the Diocese for many years that has been greatly valued, and many individuals are also grateful for her love, care and wisdom.

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

On this day of All Hallows' E'en, let us bring before God the many events which will take place today. We pray that the Light of the World will be seen, especially at the LightFest event at Christ Church.

Monday

As schools return after their half-term break, we lift before God all teachers, support staff, school governors and others in educational authorities, that they may have wisdom in carrying out their duties for the benefit of all children.

Tuesday

We bring before God the desperate humanitarian crisis unfolding in Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans face starvation this winter unless urgent action is taken, according to the United Nations. Please take some time to read the UN information by [clicking this link](#).

Wednesday

Let us commit to praying daily for positive outcomes from the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. (*Also see 'Climate Conference Prayer Pointers' on page 4*) We pray that all parties will attend and engage with each other with respect and a desire to seek common goals that will result in a dramatic reduction in carbon output. "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Gen 1: 31). I wonder what he thinks now.

Thursday

Let us spend a few minutes thinking about each individual known to us personally who is unwell, in hospital, mourning the loss of a loved one, or feeling lonely, depressed or anxious. May each of us have the wisdom to know when we are the answers to our own prayers.

Friday

Pray for Grace and Henry as they prepare for their wedding day today. We pray for their life together, and for their families and friends as they support them in their married life. We pray for all those recently married, and ask God to enable couples to support each other, that they might establish a safe environment in which to raise any children.

Saturday

Remember before God today all those who are taking part in the services in our two churches tomorrow. We think of Nicky, Tom and David as they lead the morning services, and Keith, Jeff and Pam leading the Remembering People service.

What's On This Week

Mon 01 Nov

Ladies Together at 2.30pm at Christ Church

Tue 02 Nov

Parish Prayers at 09.30 at Emmanuel Church
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church

Wed 03 Nov

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church
(note - *pre-registration is required*)
Book Club at 7pm in the Spire Centre

Thu 04 Nov

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

Fri 05 Nov

Wedding of Grace & Henry (see below)

Sat 06 Nov

Emmanuel Coffee Morning and Sale (see below)

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.

Wedding Invitation!

Paul & Rosanne Sodzi would like to extend an open invitation to any church members who would like to come to their daughter Grace's wedding ceremony which takes place at Christ Church at 4pm on Friday 5th November. Some refreshments and cake will be available after the service for everyone. Come and celebrate with Grace & Henry!

tearfund

Big Quiz Evening

We will again be holding the Tear Fund Big Quiz event on Saturday 20th November in the Spire Centre for teams of 3 or 4 people. More details will follow next week.

Emmanuel Coffee Morning and Sale

The next Coffee Morning at Emmanuel will be on Saturday 6th November from 10.30am to 12noon. This will include a sale of books, cakes and bric-a-brac. All are welcome!

Coffee time after the Service...



On Sunday 31st October between 4pm and 6pm, we will be holding our 11th LightFest at Christ Church!

Normally this is a huge community event but last year we had to take it online and delivered LightFest packs to families so that they could take part from home. This year we are back in the building! It will be a smaller event, with very limited numbers to keep everyone as safe as possible. Families have registered and we are looking forward to a fun time together.

LightFest was born out of a conversation that Donna and I had years ago, when our own children were small, about how we approach Halloween as Christian parents. We decided that we wanted to provide something that celebrated the Light of the World instead - and so that's what we did!

There will be crafts, games and activities, a 'light and bright' fancy-dress competition; we'll sing songs and listen to the story 'Jesus is the Light?' from Scripture Union. Then we'll all sit down and have a hot dog tea before heading home!

All the children will receive a goody bag containing a copy of the story and they will be able to get their lanterns lit on their way home.

Please do pray for all the families that are coming, that they will know the life changing effect of Jesus – the Light of the World, and that they will carry that light home with them.

Nicky

Christmas Services

Just in case you missed last week's Connected, the list of Christmas Services is on the Christ Church website. Click on the Events page under the 'What's On' menu. You will also see a Calendar of services and events at Christ Church under 'What's On'.



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!



Contact Details

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

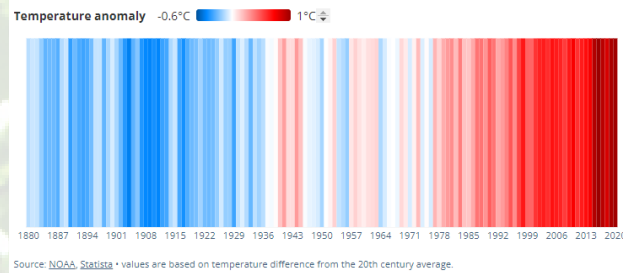
Rev. Larissa Trust (Day off - Tuesday)
t: (07379) 754372
e: curate@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (08.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)
t: (01934) 641016
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

Climate Conference Prayer Pointers

The idea of this list is not just to make interesting reading but to encourage you to plead with God that binding commitments to help our planet are taken at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, 31 October - 12 November.

Global annual land and ocean surface temperature anomalies from 1880 to 2020



Source: NOAA, Statista * values are based on temperature difference from the 20th century average.

- In 2020, the earth's surface temperature was around 0.98 Celsius degrees warmer than the 20th-century average. In the last few years, global temperatures have been consistently among the hottest on record.
- The carbon dioxide emissions released by global fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes have seen a dramatic rise since the birth of the industrial revolution. Most recently in 2019, the world saw roughly 36.44 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted. However, projections for 2020 show a noticeable reduction in emissions due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The Asia-Pacific region produced 16.75 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in 2020. This was more than the combined total emissions of all other regions that year. China alone accounted for nearly 60 percent of Asia-Pacific CO₂ emissions, and 31 percent of the global total. The second most polluting region in 2020 was North America, where 5.3 billion metric tons of CO₂ were emitted. Emissions in Europe and North America fell roughly 12 percent in 2020 compared to 2019 levels, while those in the Asia-Pacific region reduced by roughly 2.5 percent.
- In 2020, ocean surface temperatures were around 0.76 degrees Celsius warmer than the 20th century average. Oceans are responsible for absorbing over 90 percent of the Earth's excess heat from global warming.
- In 1995, the December sea ice extent in Northern Hemisphere reached almost 13.1 million square kilometers. By 2020, the sea ice extent in December had reduced to 11.77 million square kilometers.
- Over the past 20 years, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry have been steadily increasing. At the turn of the century, global emissions were roughly 23 billion metric tons, but by 2019 had reached a record high of 36.44 billion metric tons. Projections for 2020 show a reduction of two billion metric tons.
- Weather catastrophes caused economic losses of 258 billion U.S. dollars worldwide in 2020. Sudden cataclysmic disasters cause devastation on impact. Some weather and climate-related extreme events are storms, floods, heat waves, cold waves, droughts, and forest fires. Climate-related hazards pose risks to human health and can lead to substantial economic losses.
- Global consumption of renewable energy has increased significantly over the last two decades. Consumption levels reached 32 exajoules in 2020. Despite its rapid growth, renewable energy consumption still remains far below that of coal, natural gas, oil and other energy technologies.
- There has been a marked increase in the abundance of key greenhouse gases in 2018 relative to 1750. Key greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The abundance of CO₂ has increased by 260 percent over this period.
- Carbon monoxide is one of the most common air pollutants and is harmful for humans in high concentrations. Leaks from appliances like gas stoves can cause CO poisoning, which is why detectors are a requirement in homes. Every year, millions of deaths attributable to air pollution occur all around the world.

Source: <https://www.statista.com/topics/1148/global-climate-change/#dossierKeyfigures>