

Connected

Sunday 7th November 2021
3rd Sunday before Advent

Verse For The Week

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward'.

(Genesis 15: 1)

Sermon Snippets



(Genesis 15: 1-6)

These days I'm getting more and more used to ordering things off the internet and they arrive pretty quickly . . . and if I'm willing to pay the extra - within 24 hours!

Abraham was asked to trust over a far longer period and the fulfilment of a promise wasn't a neatly packaged box but the birth of a child to his elderly wife. It was about trusting in God for an unlikely promise he'd heard and then having to wait for it.

We too have to trust God and in today's "instant" world it's not an easy thing to do. But Abraham had reasons to trust – as he looked back at the last few years he'd obeyed God and knew his presence. He was trusting a God he'd got to know – and although it can't have been easy, it did make trusting possible.

Even when answers to our prayers don't come as quickly as an Amazon package, are we prepared to trust in one who will give us something far richer than what might slip through our letterboxes?

Being Family

One of the things I know many of us have valued over the years about both Christ Church and Emmanuel is the way we have become "family" and supported each other.



At Christ Church in particular, we're privileged to be a church for all ages, and for the whole of it's history this has been a place where children, youth and all generations have worshipped together and supported one another.

As some of us begin to meet again on site, we aim to continue this – to have times where we worship as all ages together and also times when we have teaching that is age appropriate. Our plan is to have age appropriate teaching for children covering the time from the sermon up to and including the intercessions each Sunday (apart from our normal all age "First Sunday service").

However, this is still partly an aspiration as we currently we do not have people to teach in these sessions for each of the Sundays. Please join me in praying that folk come forward to serve us in this way. If you're interested and would like a chat – do have a word with Nicky.

Nicky

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

We thank You for our two churches, Emmanuel and Christ Church, the fellowship that we share and the opportunities that it brings. Please bless Tom and our church leaders with Your wisdom as they seek to guide us on our faith journey.

Monday

We think about COP26 which continues until Friday. We praise You that nothing in all creation is hidden from Your sight or takes You by surprise. Please grant all leaders the heavenly wisdom needed to face an uncertain future; wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, considerate, impartial and sincere, with the determination to work in every way possible to protect Your beautiful world from future damage leading to climate change beyond control.

Tuesday

Lord, we pray that You will encourage and support all those suffering with Covid-19 and their families. May they know Your peace and constant presence, thinking especially of Ian Girling and Larissa's husband, Robert. We pray for others we know who are struggling with illness, grief or depression.

Wednesday

We pray that You will be especially close to all those elderly and lonely people living in care homes in our town. Help them to trust in You and grant them patience.

Thursday

We pray for all those people struggling to live in war situations or in places which are suffering from floods and fires caused by climate change while Covid is all around them.

Friday

We pray for all those who have fled or are fleeing these situations and are now having to live in huge refugee camps with food shortages and no life outside their tents. We pray also for all the agencies seeking to help, that they will be provided with the necessary supplies.

Saturday

We pray for all Christians everywhere, especially in North Korea and women in Afghanistan, Syria and Nigeria, who are persecuted because they bear Your name. Encourage them and lift them up to know the wonder of Your love for them.

O Jesus, Light of the World, be our guide through the times of uncertainty ahead, with many changes in our lives because of climate change and the Coronavirus. Teach us to walk by Your light no matter what dark days there may be coming.

Diary Dates

also see 'What's On This Week' on page 3)

Remembering People

This service, at 6pm this Sunday (7th November) at Christ Church, will be gentle and reflective. Everyone is welcome. In the service we will 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.

tearfund

Big Quiz Night

Saturday 20th November
7pm at Christ Church

Come and join a great fun evening supporting the work of Tearfund.

Teams of 3 or 4, but individuals can come along and you will be fitted into a team.

The quiz will include a broad range of topical questions.

In the half time break, drinks and delicious puddings will be served.

Suggested donation of £5 per person. A sign up list will be in both churches on Sunday.

For more details speak to Liz or Chris Cole.

CAP 5-year Celebration

All are invited, either in person or online, to join the celebration of five years of this amazing work which goes on in our town. The service is at 3pm on Sunday 21st Nov at St Georges Community Centre. Please [click on this link](#) for more information and for the latest news from CAP.

Christ Church Christmas

Coffee Morning

This will be on Saturday 27th November. More details and times will follow in the next couple of weeks.

'Blue Christmas'

This is a reflective Christmas service particularly for people for whom Christmas can be a difficult time. It will be at 6pm on Sunday 28th November in Christ Church.

Coffee time after the Service...



We had a lovely time on Sunday 31st October celebrating Jesus – The Light of the World at LightFest! We limited numbers to keep everyone as safe as possible and 12 family groups came along.

We made Crafts, did a 'Find the Light' Treasure Hunt, cheered on Zach and Jess as they completed the 'Lights Out Challenge', we sang and danced, listened to an amazing story – Jesus is the Light!

'Light and Bright' was the theme for our Fancy Dress competition this year and our winners were Arthur and Ben who came dressed as a Lighthouse and a Fire Engine - complete with working lights! And Steph won for the adults, dressed head to toe in pink! A Hot Dog tea finished off the event and all the children received a goody bag with a copy of the story inside.

Huge thanks to the team that gave their time to prepare and run this event!
Nicky



*LightFest
Craft Table*

What's On This Week

Mon 08 Nov

Ladies Together at 2.30pm at Christ Church

Tue 09 Nov

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

Wed 10 Nov

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church
(note - pre-registration is required)
Service of the Word at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church
Book Club at 7pm in the Spire Centre

Thu 11 Nov

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

Sun 14 Nov

Remembrance Sunday Services at 10.30 at both Churches

Ladies Together

It is wet and it's cold. Such miserable weather,
But hey! It's Monday....it's "Ladies Together"!
Inside the Church it's warm, and we mingle;
A lovely feeling - it quite makes one tingle!

Time for reflection, to give others a thought,
For some life's not easy and problems are fraught.
Then comes our speaker with great tales to tell
Of conflict and anguish...but good things as well.

There's lots of time for laughter and chat;
Solving all problems - well, women do that!!
To give peace and love is our final decree,
Followed by cake, and a nice cup of tea.
I look forward to the start of the week,
For love, hope and guidance...that's just what I seek.

Brenda

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Christ Church Maintenance Work

During Half Term a team of dedicated and hard-working volunteers did some amazing work at Christ Church. Here are just a few 'before-and-after' photos of their work.



At the back of room three.

After the trees were cut back it revealed an unsightly wall. This has now been painted to protect it and give a better appearance.



The area above the chancel.

This was peeling. It has been cleaned down, filled and painted.

Also an area of roof above the music area had exposed lathe and plaster and this has also had plaster board fitted and has been painted.



The exterior woodwork outside room three.

This looked tired and was peeling. It has now been sanded down and given two coats of Sadaline to protect it.



A very big thank you to every one who has worked on this project!

Angie & Bev