

# Connected

Sunday 21st November 2021  
Last Sunday before Advent

## Verse For The Week

Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love... in all that has happened to us you have remained righteous, you have acted faithfully while we acted wickedly.  
*(Nehemiah 9: 32a, 33)*

## Sermon Snippets

*(Nehemiah 9: 1-6, 32-35)*

In our passage Nehemiah draws together the people of Jerusalem. They had celebrated a long forgotten feast, the Feast of Booths, and listened to the prophet Ezra who had led one of the earlier returns from exile explaining the Book of God's Law.

Ezra and the leaders looked back over the centuries at the wonder of God's loving provision for them:

- thanking God for His intervention in their history
- God's answer to their prayers as they stood on the banks of Red Sea and then gave them a way across
- safe on dry land God led them through the wilderness with a pillar of cloud to follow during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

After God's great goodness their fathers still failed God and turned from him. The people in Jerusalem confessed their fathers' failures and disobedience and then confessed their own failures and disobedience.

## Christmas Invitations



The Christmas Invitations are now ready. You will find a small supply of them at the back of church. We haven't produced thousands this year. Instead we are hoping that you will all prayerfully consider who you would like to personally invite along to one of the services.

The design reflects the Church of England's 2021 Christmas campaign 'At the heart of Christmas', which has Luke 2:19 as its central verse: *"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."*

An updated list of Christmas Services and events is shown on page 3. Please note that there is an additional service, which is the Town Hall service at Emmanuel. All are welcome to celebrate Christmas alongside those who work at the heart of our town.

We are taking bookings for the Carol Service at Christ Church. This service will fill up so please contact the office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. This service, like some of the others, will be live-streamed, thanks to our dedicated Tech Team!

## 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

## Church Family:

We lift to you Lord our loved ones, those in our Church family who are sick, suffering, hurting or bereaved.

Let us pray for the Christmas Coffee morning at Christ Church on Saturday (27 November), for a good time of fellowship and for the Holy Spirit to flow through all the conversations taking place. Pray for an essence of peace to be experienced by all who attend.

## The Local area:

Pray for those in our community who are struggling with debts and the consequences to daily life that arise from these. Father God, we bring before you our town of Weston-super-Mare, where there are many people feeling insecure, questioning their worth, and with impeding health issues. We pray that they are able to overcome these issues by bringing them to you and laying them at your feet. Thank you, Father God, that you delight in us as we pray, and refresh our outlook on our lives. Amen.

## National Prayer:

Drug related addiction is increasing by extraordinary amounts, particularly in Scotland (by 27%). Pray that more volunteers will come forward to help and for more centres to open. Pray especially for all those working in addiction services, thinking especially of those from Emmanuel.

We bring before our God the car explosion that happened in Liverpool last week. We pray for guidance for all leading the investigation, for all involved in the incident. We know you are upset by our actions and that you love us Lord. Help us to live out Your love that you so abundantly pour out upon us.

## Global Prayer:

Jehovah Elohim, LORD God Mighty Creator, we thank you so much for your gracious gift of creation. We pray for all the scientists and heads of state that gathered together recently for COP26, who are forward thinkers. Please hear our sorrow for what has been destroyed by us over previous decades. Create in us a desire to act in generosity in a way that would heal the environment.

We thank you that no one can separate us from your love; help us rapidly change our lives, to respect your wonderful gift that we are so privileged to wake up to every day.

*We're sorry to bring news of the sad passing of two dear friends - Shirley Adlum and Doreen Gillard. Shirley's funeral will be at Emmanuel on Wednesday 01 December at 11am. Details of Doreen's funeral will be announced soon.*

# Diary Dates

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

## *CAP 5-year Celebration service*

All are invited, either in person or online, to join the celebration of five years of the amazing work of Christians Against Poverty in our town. The service is at 3pm this Sunday 21st November at St Georges Community Centre. Please [click on this link](#) for details of the service, and how you can support the giving of Christmas Hampers to CAP clients.

## *Gardening at Emmanuel*

We will be gardening at Emmanuel on Friday 26th November, 10am to 12 midday. If anyone would like to join us that would be great.

## *Christ Church Christmas Coffee Morning*

This will be on Saturday 27th November from 10am until 1pm in Christ Church.

There will be stalls selling hand-made crafts, home-made cakes, and books, jigsaw puzzles and CDs. There will also be craft activities for children. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

If you have any good quality books, puzzles or CDs that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Church Office during office hours. If you would like to make a cake or Christmas pudding to sell on the stall, please let Phil or one of the Wardens know as soon as possible. Please note that we are not accepting any other items, including gifts or bric-a-brac.

We'd also be grateful for a few people to help clear up after the event!

## *'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...

## Living in Love and Faith



The Church of England has introduced a course on human sexuality and identity - "Living in Love and Faith". I've been on a pilot course run by the Deanery, and there is the opportunity to go on another course in our Deanery. Please let me know asap if you'd like to be included. Also, if you've heard about the course and would like a chat about it - do be in touch with me.

*Tom*

## What's On This Week

### Mon 22 Nov

Ladies Together at 2.30pm at Christ Church

### Tue 23 Nov

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

### Wed 24 Nov

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church  
(note - pre-registration is required)  
Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church

### Thu 25 Nov

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

### Sat 27 Nov

Christmas Coffee Morning 10am - 1pm at Christ Church

### Sun 28 Nov

'Blue Christmas' at 6pm at Christ Church

## 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 12.30pm at Emmanuel Church -

*Town Hall 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 6pm at Christ Church -

*Carols by Candlelight (booking required)*

24 Dec at 4pm at Christ Church -

*Nativity Service*

24 Dec at 11pm 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 -

*United Boxing Day Service*

## Flower Rota

Thank you to the ladies who arranged the flowers at the front of Christ Church over this last year (when we opened up again).

If anyone would like to join us please speak to me. Each person covers one month each. It is a lovely thing to do and I am sure you will enjoy it and you don't need to be an expert.

*Sandra*

## Contact Details

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