

Connected

Sunday 28th November 2021
1st Sunday of Advent

Sermon Snippets

(2 Peter 3: 1-13)

Today marks the start of a special church season – Advent. Of course with Christmas just around the corner, we use this time of year to get ready for all that's to come – cards, shopping and the like. But the season of Advent is really there to give us all the chance to spiritually prepare as well for what's to come.

Our faith tells us that Christ has not only come (at Christmas) – but will come again. His second coming will not be like the first – this time he will come as a holy God to hold all people of the world to account as judge. Now that view might sound a bit harsh – but remember God is a God of the deepest of love – his world matters to him seriously and if things are going wrong then he will one day take action. This is not a spineless God but one who strongly cares and will act.

Now, you and I can point to many injustices in the world and rejoice that God will one day hold them to account . . . but we need to realise he will come as our judge too – all our inner motives and thoughts will be “laid bare”. So, the more I think about my own “performance” in life the more uneasy I become at this thought. But the reason we reflect on this is not to depress us but to take hold of all that Jesus has already done for us on the cross, accepting what should have been our judgement as his own.

In the midst of all the busyness at this time of year; this Advent can we find the space to reflect on these things?

Doing Advent Together

At the heart
of Christmas



Tom asks an important question at the end of his Sermon Snippets this week about how we will each find the space to reflect on what the season of Advent means for us.

In last week's Church at Home packs there is a whole section on 'doing Advent together'. Simply [click on this link](#), then scroll down to page 9. There are some great resources listed there - things to read, things to listen to, things to watch and things to make.

One of the items listed is this booklet. In it the author suggests ways in which we can reclaim the traditions of the Advent season, focusing on how we might prepare ourselves for Christ's glorious return.



Let us all commit to spending some time praying about how we can keep Jesus at the heart of Christmas.

Verse For The Week

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3: 9)

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

Father God we praise you for your constant faithfulness in this ever-changing world.

Church Family:

Yahweh Rophe, we come before you today to acknowledge that you are not only our Creator but the Lord who heals us. We bring before you our loved ones, those in our Church family who are sick, suffering and in pain. We pray that you will heal us today in body and soul, and that you will transform us in ways that glorify you. Amen.

Please take some time to reflect over the “Blue Christmas” service tonight (Sun 28th Nov), for all the preparations, planning, for all who will attend, and anyone we may know who finds Christmas to be a difficult time.

The Local area:

As the colder weather approaches, we bring before the Lord the street in which we live, the local town and community, those living on their own perhaps still cautious of going out, families on the edge, and especially the homeless.

Matthew 6: 32-34 “Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”

National Prayer:

We pray for the community of Wisconsin after a vehicle ploughed into a Christmas parade, for the whole community left in trauma, the immense grief, the question of justice that they must be feeling, and we pray that they will know God’s peace and comfort.

We lift to you Lord God our community midwives. Their needs are complex, with overnight calls, a lack of staffing and the morale is low. We pray that where they encounter difficult circumstances leading to longer working hours, that all midwives will have strength and be filled with Your peace Lord, knowing you are in control.

Global Prayer:

Lord we lift before you the hundreds of migrants that have gathered at a crossing on the Poland-Belarus border, but are being stopped from entering the EU by Polish troops. The migrants are trapped between Polish guards on one side and Belarusian guards on the other. We pray for compassion by the governments involved and for a swift and peaceful solution for all involved.

Diary Dates

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

Christmas Coffee Mornings

The Christ Church Christmas Coffee Morning is this Saturday 27th November from 10am until 1pm.

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.

Emmanuel's Christmas Coffee Morning is the following week - Saturday 4th December, from 10.30 to 12noon.

This event will have stalls selling gifts, books, bric-a-brac, and home-made cakes. There will also be a raffle.

If you have any good quality gift items, books or puzzles that you would like to donate to the Emmanuel event, please take them to the church on Friday 3rd December between 7.30 and 8.30pm, or on the Saturday morning from 9.30am. No more bric-a-brac please!

'Blue Christmas'

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

Funeral Information

Shirley Adlum's funeral will take place at Emmanuel Church on Wednesday 1st December at 11am.

Doreen Gillard's funeral will be on Monday 6th December at 1pm at Christ Church.

Christmas Notice

Please note that we have now decided to ask people to book in advance for the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm, as well as the Christ Church Carols by Candlelight service on the 19th December.

This is a change from the original plan and is not reflected on the Christmas Invitation cards.

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". Tom has been on a pilot course run by the Deanery, and there is the opportunity to go on another course in our Deanery.

Please let Tom know asap if you'd like to be included. Also, if you've heard about the course and would like to have a chat about it, do be in touch with him.

Book Club

What was Book Club like?

Our first Book Club was an experiment and we discovered a few things like:

- *don't hold it in the winter when it's getting cold and it's dark outside – it might be better in a home*
- *technology is a mixed blessing*
- *a relaxed atmosphere helps us share differing viewpoints and experiences*
- *we'd like to do it again*

What about the book 'Bouncing Forwards'?

Here is some feedback:

"Good to read of someone with first hand experience of mental problems who has come through with positive mental attitude."

"Good advice applicable to other traumas in life."

"The book was wordy but the video synopsis helped clarify it."

"Good idea to think outside the box but quite difficult to do at the beginning."

"Later practical chapters made more contact for me"

"I became aware that I close up and don't always share myself. Now I hope to improve on what I've started."

"We were able to talk in an unusually direct and honest way instead of conventional and cautious 'Christian jargon'."

"The book was completely on my wavelength bringing Biblical truths and psychological insight together."

"Very helpful to hear other people's thoughts and experiences – it was very supportive and made you feel less alone."

"The book asks us to have a more positive and constructive view of ourselves in line with how God sees us."

We hope to hold another Book Club at some stage next year.

What's On This Week

Sat 27 Nov

Christmas Coffee Morning 10am - 1pm at Christ Church

Sun 28 Nov

'Blue Christmas' at 6pm at Christ Church

Mon 29 Nov

Ladies Together at 2.30pm - now in the Spire Centre

Tue 30 Nov

Parish Prayers at 09.30 at Emmanuel Church

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church

Wed 01 Dec

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church

(note - pre-registration is required)

Shirley Adlum's Funeral at 11am at Emmanuel Church

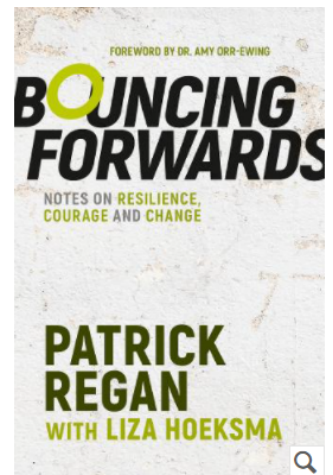
Thu 02 Dec

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church

Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Sat 04 Dec

Christmas Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12noon at Emmanuel



More coffee, anyone?

Church of England Safeguarding Training

All volunteers who hold a church DBS certificate are required to do Safeguarding training every 3 years.

We were due to hold a training session in March 2020 but it was cancelled due to the first Covid lockdown and it is unlikely that face to face trainings will recommence. Most of us are now in the position that we need to renew our training as it is out of date.

Therefore you will need to access the online training which you can do in the comfort of your own home. Please can you log on to the Safeguarding Training Portal:

<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Scroll down and click on "create an account" and follow the instructions. Please make a note of the user name and password you use for future use.

Please complete the Safeguarding Awareness (C0) course first. This takes about 45 minutes, then complete the Safeguarding Foundation (C1) which takes about 1 hour. You don't have to do them on the same day but please forward me the email you get sent after completing each course, and also the certificates (you can print them off and give them to me or email them to me to print off for our records).

You only have to do the Safeguarding Awareness course once, but the Safeguarding Foundation course will need to be renewed every 3 years if you are still volunteering.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Anne Jones

Bath & Wells Archdeaconry Days

God calls... everyone, everywhere

Sunday 6 - Saturday 12 February 2022

The focus of the 2022 Archdeaconry Days will be on the many and varied ways in which God calls us. We will be hearing stories of calling from people across the diocese and reflecting on how we hear God's call in our own lives.

To register for information, visit www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere

- **January 2022:** The Calling Podcast
- **Sunday 6 February at 3pm:** Worship with Bishop Ruth at Taunton Academy
- **Monday 7 - Friday 11 February:** Daily videos and resources.
- **Saturday 12 February:** Online sessions hosted by the Archdeacons
 - 10am to 11am AD Bath
 - 11.30am to 12.30pm AD Wells
 - 2pm to 3pm AD Taunton

The Vicar on his knees



I'm not sure if this an act of penitence as Tom kneels at the cross or if he's just having a bit of fun. Whichever it is it looks very creative!

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

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