

Connected

Sunday 5th December 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent

Verse For The Week

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.

(Luke 3: 5-6)

Sermon Snippets

(Luke 3: 2-6)

As you stand at the bottom of Montpelier ready to walk up to Christ Church, you may wish that someone would make the hill flat. Or if you drive down the road you may long for someone to fill in the pot holes and make the rough road smooth! But preparing the way for the Lord and making the road straight for him isn't to do with smoothing out the access to our church.

How can we prepare the way for God to show his salvation to others? And are there any rough patches in the road which affect our relationship with God?

In response to Angeline's question above about preparing the way for God to show his salvation to others, how about giving someone an invitation to join us at one of our Christmas services? You'll find a supply of invitations at the back of church, or you can call in to the office to pick one or two up.



Our Church Administrator is retiring!



It comes as a bit of a shock to me when I realise that I'm getting to the stage of life when one is supposed to slow down and start taking it easy!

The role of Church Administrator can, at times, be quite a challenging one. Our two churches are very active which is wonderful, and we thank God for all that goes on. However it takes a bit of organising, as of course do the weekly services, the occasional services, and the special events.

I've been thinking about all that I have achieved over the time I've been in post: Christmas Fayres, the Eco Church Conference, the 2018 Remembrance events and literature, and the Christ Church Worship songbook to name but a few. Then there's the not-so-glamorous tasks like updating a whole file of process notes, trying to keep the website up-to-date, and GDPR!

It's been quite a role - and it's not over quite yet. I will be here until the end of March next year to help my successor settle in. Please do pray for the right person to be appointed.

Can I also say how much of a joy and privilege it has been to serve our two churches. I'll still be very much part of life at Christ Church, and will still be busy in my counselling practice.

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

Theme: Blessed be the Lord our God ... who guides our feet into the ways of peace.

Response: Lord, come to all we pray for; may you forgive and guide us all.

Monday:

Liberating God, inspire your Church. Pray for Ladies Together and for all who tell of the Lord's love. Ask for forgiveness when the Church misuses resources and fails to live up to Jesus' teachings.

Tuesday:

God of justice. Pray for Parish Prayers, The Beacon and New Dawn Counselling Service. Ask for God's compassion and mercy on all who are hungry, excluded on the margins of society, or caught up in war and violence while suffering from the greed and insensitivity of others.

Wednesday:

Lord eternal, transform our local, national and global politics. Ask God to stir every nation to honour the dignity of all people. Pray for the mid-week Communion service, Seedlings Toddlers Group and JaM Club. Pray for those who do not look forward to Christmas, who may be homeless, lonely, poor or deeply in debt. Pray that your home and heart may be places of love – where all are welcome.

Thursday:

God of healing and hope. Pray for the Friendship Group and Craft & Chat Group. Pray for all known to you who are ill, suffering, distressed or overburdened at this busy time. Ask that they may know the Lord's presence and peace. Ask that all who walk in darkness may come to know the light and love of God. Pray for all who are in hospital or in care homes and those who care for them - paid or unpaid.

Friday:

Lord of life and love. Pray for Life Groups, Locking Deanery, Bath and Wells Diocese and Weston Churches Together. Ask that the Lord will sustain children who mourn for parents, parents who mourn for children, and all those whose hearts are grieving today.

Saturday:

Pray for our vicar Tom, our curate Larissa, and their families. Ask for God's inspiration and guidance on all who prepare Sunday Worship, Christingle and Deaf Church services including retired clergy, readers, musicians and prayer leaders plus those who clean, garden, repair, administer, cater and welcome.

Notices

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

Christmas Coffee Morning

Emmanuel's Christmas Coffee Morning takes place this 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, 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!

If you are driving to Emmanuel, please do use the car park. However you will need to put your car registration number into the monitor in the entrance hall. Please get someone to help you if you need it.

Christingle Service

In preparation for this year's Christingle Service we will be putting each of the elements of the Christingles together in bags to give to people before the service. The 'bagging up' process will start at 10.30 on Saturday 11 December in the Spire Centre. If you are able to spare some time to help with this, please let Nicky, Terry or Tom know.

Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed Tuesday 07 December.

Christmas Notice

Don't forget that we are now asking 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...

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 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 (CO) course first. This takes about 45 minutes, then complete the Safeguarding Foundation (CI) 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

A Message from The Beacon

Thank you so much to those who have donated mugs to The Beacon. Our stock has been replenished and we are so grateful.

Meg & Daphne

What's On This Week

Sat 04 Dec

Christmas Coffee Morning 10.30 - 12noon at Emmanuel

Mon 06 Dec

Doreen Gillard's Funeral at 1pm at Christ Church
Ladies Together at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Tue 07 Dec

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

Wed 08 Dec

Seedlings Toddler Group** at 10.15 at Christ Church
Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church

Thu 09 Dec

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church
JaM Club** at 3.30pm at Christ Church

Sun 12 Dec

Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

(*note - pre-registration is required for these events)

Wednesday Holy Communion Services

Due to the fact that a number of people will be away on Wednesday 22nd December, it was agreed that Wednesday 8th December should be the final midweek service before Christmas.

The service on the 8th starts at 10.30. Anybody who would like to join us will be treated to coffee and mince pies after the service. All are very welcome.

Thank You

A big 'Thank You' to all my friends in the Emmanuel Congregation and the Thursday Welcome Group for their support and love after the loss of my Roy. It has helped me beyond words. Especially I will never be able to say a big enough 'Thank You' to Ian Girling for his unfailing help and support and for making everything so personal and loving — it gave me peace.

Muriel

More coffee, anyone?

Hayley's Graduation



We thought that you might like to see a photo from Hayley's recent graduation for her theology degree from Moorlands College. She finished the degree in summer 2020 but Covid delayed the graduation ceremony until 19th November this year. Hayley also said how much she is enjoying her role as Youth Minister at St Mary's, Stoke Bishop.

Rev Julie Birkett

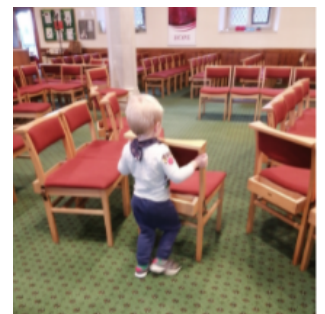
During Choral Evensong at Wells Cathedral on Monday evening Julie Birkett, following an invitation from the Bishop, was installed as a Prebendary of the Cathedral. She now has her own stall in the Quire and is also a member of the College of Canons who, amongst other things, have an oversight role in the running of the Cathedral and are involved in selecting the new Bishop.



This is a worthy recognition of all that Julie does in our community. Many congratulations Julie, our prayers are with you in your new responsibilities.

Help with Chair Moving

It's all hands on deck at Christ Church as chairs get moved ready for the Toddler Group!



This one goes over there!

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

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| 10am to 11am | AD Bath |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm | AD Wells |
| 2pm to 3pm | AD Taunton |

Contact Details

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