

# Connected

Sunday 9th January 2022  
1st Sunday of Epiphany

## Verse For The Week

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that."

(John 1: 50)

## Sermon Snippets

(John 1: 43-51)

This week we are thinking about prejudice. All around us there are people who are prejudiced against Jesus, and this means that there is also prejudice against the church.

Yet we can all easily slip into making up our minds about something or someone with no just grounds, or through a lack of knowledge or understanding.

Nathaniel wrote Jesus off because of where he came from (i.e. there was no just cause), but at least he was open to meeting Jesus in order to learn more about him. And look what Jesus says that Nathaniel will see!

## 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.

## Happy New Year!

First of all – can I wish you a very Happy New Year. Any new year brings with it for any of us a set of hopes and sometimes worries – this year especially with the Covid pandemic still very much with us all. Sometimes matters will be resolved quickly and there are even wonderful surprises in store for us . . .but at other times we have to move step by step each day even when our own strength is failing.

In Daily Prayers this coming week, we're looking at Psalm 73 – here's an encouraging verse near the end of the Psalm to hold on to: "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever".

May God bless you in 2022.

*Tou*

*PS I couldn't resist showing you a couple of pictures the Ionescus sent me of their Christmas, Romanian style!*



## Prayer for the New Year

You are warmly invited to the first evening service of 2022 at 6pm in Christ Church. Our aim is to pray the old year out and the new one in; to come before God in repentance and to praise him for the good times.

Please bring your 2021 and 2022 diaries with you. These will be used in our first time of prayer. There will also be other interactive opportunities to engage in reflection and personal prayer during the evening.

We look forward to seeing you.

# Prayer Pointers

## Monday

At this Epiphany time we remember that from the beginning the Good News of Jesus Christ was not just for a few but for all. We remember there is no one outside Your love; the Gospel message transcends all barriers and You want to bring light to all corners of the world. We thank and praise You.

## Tuesday

We thank you Heavenly Father for the love and support we get from our church families and pray that each person has a sense of belonging.

## Wednesday

We pray for the AA, NA and CA (Cocaine Anonymous) which have been meeting at Emmanuel all over Christmas, that they will come to find You as their 'higher power' and start a new life of freedom with You.

## Thursday

We pray for all the different groups restarting in both our churches: Ladies Together, Toddlers, The Beacon, Craft & Chat, the Welcome Group, and the different Youth Groups. We pray for the leaders and all who help to make the groups happen.

## Friday

We bring before You the Life Groups as they too restart, that we will all understand Your word more fully from our discussions together.

## Saturday

We pray especially for the new Alpha Course starting 19 January, that those You want to be there will feel that urge to join up and so start a new adventure in their journey with You, Lord.

## Sunday

We bring before you, Lord, all those involved with services today. We pray You will inspire them and fill them with that peace only You can bring, and that all who attend or watch the services will sense Your Holy Spirit at work.

## *In Loving Memory*

*Many folk, especially at Christ Church, will remember Les and Joyce Fake. We have only just heard that Joyce passed away peacefully back in October. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and with close friends.*

# What's On This Week

*A number of regular groups will be restarting this week, including Life Groups. Please get in touch with your Group Leader if you're not sure when your group starts.*

*If you are not part of a Life Group and would like to be, please contact Bev Hall for more information.*

## Sun 09 Jan

Prayer for the New Year at 6pm at Christ Church

## Mon 10 Jan

Ladies Together restarts at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

## Tue 11 Jan

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

## Wed 12 Jan

Seedlings Toddler Group restarts at 10.15 at Christ Church (*pre-registration is required for this event*)  
Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church

## Thu 13 Jan

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

## *Poem - He Was Not There*

This poem formed part of the Connected Christmas Special. What was omitted in that edition was the fact that the poem was written by Barbara McCombie from Emmanuel.

Our apologies to Barbara for not highlighting this, but we very much appreciated the poem!

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## Contact Details

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