

Connected

Sunday 6th February 2022
4th Sunday before Lent

Verse For The Week

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."

(John 3: 5)

Sermon Snippets

(John 3: 1-7)



We are continuing on our journey through John's Gospel and, in our 1st Sunday services at Christ Church, looking at characters who had to overcome obstacles to follow Jesus.

We all have questions, don't we? Nicodemus had questions. A leader, a member of the Jewish high council, a Pharisee – he was a good man with a good job who followed God's law – a man of status. But he knew there was something more. He needed to ask the one person who could give him the answers he was looking for - Jesus. But he couldn't risk being seen... he would need to overcome his status in order to get there.

Do we give ourselves a status? Are there questions that we are afraid to ask? Does our imagined status stop us coming to Jesus?

How can we get to a place where we know that the only status that really matters is where we stand with Jesus?

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee



Sunday 6th February marks the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne at the tender age of 25. She was in Kenya with her husband Prince Philip at the time, and returned home immediately following the news of the death of her father, King George VI. She was immediately proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II by the Accession Council. Her coronation took place in the June of the following year.

The Queen was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on April 21, 1926, in London, and on the 9th September 2015 became the longest-reigning monarch in British history, surpassing Queen Victoria's 63 years, 7 months and 2 days.

You are probably aware that Platinum Jubilee celebrations will take place throughout the year, and will culminate in a four-day weekend celebration from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, with the Thursday and Friday being Bank Holidays. The celebrations include a 'Platinum Pudding' competition (I kid you not), but unfortunately it's now too late to enter!



Prayer Pointers

Monday

We celebrate seventy years since Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne. Give thanks for her Christian example and devotion to duty, and for the seventy years of peace in her realm with which we have been blessed.

Tuesday

Pray for all those who are struggling to cope with the winter cold; those living on the streets and those who cannot afford the cost of heating their homes. Pray that they will receive the necessary financial support.

Wednesday

Give thanks to the Lord for all those, such as lifeboat volunteers and mountain rescuers, who place themselves in peril in winter weather for protection of the public. Pray that the Lord will watch over them and keep them safe.

Thursday

Pray for those you know who are ill, lonely or facing some major problem in their life. Pray that they may find healing, support and comfort in the Lord.

Friday

Two years have now passed since the first deaths in this country from Covid 19. Pray for the souls of all those we have lost and for the Lord's comfort on all who mourn loved ones so cruelly and prematurely taken from them.

Saturday

Give thanks to the Lord for the week now ending; for success and for failure, for laughter and for tears; because we know that through it He has been blessing us with His everlasting love. Pray for the opportunity in the week ahead to serve Him well and to deserve that love a little more.

Sunday

Pray for all those taking part in our Sunday services.

Church Office closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th February.

What's On This Week

Mon 07 Feb

Ladies Together at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Tue 08 Feb

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

Wed 09 Feb

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10.15 at Christ Church
(please note that this event is currently full)
Holy Communion at 10.30 at Emmanuel Church
Alpha Course at 7pm in the Spire Centre

Thu 10 Feb

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

Notices

Thank You For Packing a Shoebox!

Generous folk of Christ Church and Emmanuel raised £400 for Operation Christmas Child last year. Other people kindly donated directly to the Samaritan's Purse website to arrange for a shoebox to be packed and sent to the children who would otherwise have not received anything at Christmas.

Your generosity is very much appreciated, as you can tell from this photo!



Bible Notes

'Inspiring Women' and 'Every Day With Jesus' Bible reading notes are now available at the back of Christ Church for those who have ordered them.

Reminders from the Diocese

Archdeaconry Days

To register for the course which starts this Sunday 06 February, [click on this link](#) or search online for Bath & Wells Archdeaconry Days. Scroll down and click the 'Sign up here' link.

Healing Forums

If you wish to register to attend the Healing Forum online on 15 February, [please click on this link](#) to receive access to the Zoom meeting.

For details of these two events please see last week's Connected.

Coffee time after the Service...

Covid Reflections from a Positive Vicar!



Two weeks ago I had what felt like a normal winter cold coming on. It was a Wednesday morning and I had a busy day ahead of me – morning prayers, communion at Emmanuel and then the new Alpha course in the evening. So, to be on the safe side, I took a lateral flow test and to my surprise (because I've taken so many tests that returned a negative) this one was positive. And not just a "faint positive" which I've heard some people have had – no – there was a thick bold line leaving no doubt at all! There and then I had to step back from everything and go into isolation. I want to thank all of those in the church family who very willingly stepped up and shouldered my responsibilities. I think they've done a brilliant job and I'm very grateful indeed.

Having to go into isolation has been a peculiar experience for me. We are fortunate to have a large house and so I've used one half of the house with my own bathroom/bedroom/living room and Chris has carried on (still testing negative) in the other half of the house. It's a strange life – my dinner is cooked for me and is left on a little table next to the "in-between door"! I have felt unwell and have been grateful to have some time to start to recover. . . . But what I found most difficult is having to temporarily let go of things that I was very involved in - the Alpha course, which had just started, would be a good example of that. As I'm sure you know, I love being with other people and seeing God at work through all of us, and to have to step back to the sidelines hasn't been at all easy.

. . . . But that's not to say God hasn't been at work even in this strange situation for me. I'm being made to learn once again to let God be at work without my direct involvement. Even during these days of isolation when I would have loved to have been part of things, He has been using this circumstance to remind me to rely on Him and not in my own strength alone. . . . A lesson I've had to learn before but am still relearning!

Tom

A New Resource: 'Digging Deeper'

Many of you have appreciated and used the "Church at Home Pack" which Angeline and Nicky have produced since the first lockdown.



As a church family we have been very grateful for this resource helping to bring the faith we hear about on Sundays into our everyday lives. I know it's been used by both young families and also many others during these periods where we've been isolated – although of course "faith in our everyday" is relevant whatever! A very big "thank-you" to both of them for the huge amount work and creativity they've put in.

I'm delighted to say a resource to help us reflect on what we've heard in church will continue to be produced – and you can find out more about "Digging deeper" below . . .

Tom

If you come away from church on a Sunday wanting to think a bit more about what you've heard, here's something we hope can help you do that. Each week you'll be able to access our new resource to dig deeper into Sunday's Bible passage.

You can find it on the Christ Church website under the sermon video. Scroll down to the bottom and click on 'Notes'. There will be three sections - Chat, Study, Think – and you can use them on your own, with a friend, in your family, or with your Life Group.

Give 'Digging Deeper' a try and let us know what you think.

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
