

Connected

Sunday 20th March 2022

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sermon Snippets

John 14: 1-14

"I am the way, the truth and the life"

As a teenager in the sixties I collected a large number of pop records by groups such as The Beatles, but there were also hits by individual singers such as Dionne Warwick singing 'Do you know the way to San Jose', and Tony Christie's 'Is this the way to Amarillo'. Titles suggesting that people were not sure of the way they should be travelling. Tony Christie's song is still around today especially for Line Dancers!

These days many cars have their own inbuilt wayfinders, known as 'SatNav', but these are not infallible, sure guides to set you on your way as they have been known to mislead people who subsequently find themselves going the wrong way.

The text I will be preaching on this Sunday is John 14 v 6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life", one of the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John. This is a clear text about the Way of Salvation, telling us that there is no other way to Heaven - Jesus is the ONLY Way.

Life is more than we will experience on this earth, which ends in death (unless Jesus returns in Glory first). Paul in his letter to the Christians in Ephesus says to them that once you were dead but now you are alive for ever through Jesus. Eternal Life begins the moment you accept Jesus as your Saviour, not when you die physically. You have it NOW, if you are trusting in Him.

Have you ever asked a person in the street for directions? They may say 'first left, second right, third left' and so on - and it sounds so complicated. In contrast Salvation is not complicated, there is nothing for you to do, except simply to accept that Jesus died for YOU on the Cross.

You then have a Hope that is steadfast and certain.



On the 23rd March it will be two years to the day since the start of lockdowns, brought on by the Covid pandemic.

Bereavement has been in everyone's mind during this time. The National Day of Reflection, coordinated by the charity Marie Curie and officially supported by the Church of England, is a special day to reflect together on loss and grief.

The Church Support Hub website has an extensive suite of resources designed to help those individuals and groups who would like to spend time reflecting on life and loss during the last two years. The website page includes a suggested framework for a day of reflection, prayers, and other liturgical resources to download.

To access the website, [click on this link](#).

Verse For The Week

"I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through me."

John 14: 6

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Prayer Pointers

Monday – Ukraine is still uppermost in our thoughts and prayers. Let us continue to pray for successful peace talks with Russia, a cessation of the devastating bombing of civilians, for safe escape away from the violence, and refuge for those fleeing the country.

Tuesday – Give thanks for the many people and countries who have felt moved and are able to offer accommodation, security and temporary homes for refugee Ukrainian families.

Wednesday – Pray for Australians from Brisbane to Sydney who are suffering devastating floods again. They had hoped that measures that were put in place would stop this repeated flooding.

Thursday – Pray for all who continue to be mentally troubled by what is happening across the world. Let them turn to you, Father God, for peace of mind and to know of your love and care for us all.

Friday – Thank God for Food Banks as their practical help and loving care is needed by many more with the price of food and utilities rising alarmingly.

Saturday – Yemen is also in need of our prayers with the ongoing conflict causing severe famine and suffering.

Sunday - Let us give thanks for our town which is gradually changing for the better. Since the pandemic new businesses are popping up. The sea front and the High Street are buzzing with businesses returning.

CAP Newsletter

The latest CAP newsletter is available to view on the Christ Church website. Do have a look at this and pray for the amazing work which goes on in our town. [Please click on this link](#)



What's On This Week

Mon 21 Mar

Ladies Together at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre

Tue 22 Mar

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

Wed 23 Mar

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

Thu 24 Mar

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church
Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre
JAM Club at 3.30pm at Christ Church
(*pre-registration is required for this event*)

Notices

Electoral Roll Reminder

To be on the Electoral Roll you will need to complete a form which you can get from the Church Office or from one of the Church Wardens.

The deadline for any new additions to the Electoral Roll for either church will be Monday 28 March.

The dates for our Annual meetings are as follows:

- Emmanuel: Sunday 24 April after the service
- Christ Church: Monday 25 April at 7.30pm

If you have any questions please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

Open Gardens

There is still a need for five more hosts, if we are going to have a programme of Open Gardens this summer. Some, who have opened their gardens in previous years, are either no longer with us, or unable to do so this time.

Remember - these are social not horticultural events - just somewhere to sit and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake. They are a great way of getting to know each other from both churches.

There is a signing-on clip board in Christ Church on Sundays, which will be available until April 3rd. Alternatively, please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

Coffee after the Service...

Thank You from Samaritan's Purse



Thanks to the amazing donations received by Samaritan's Purse, they have been able to open their first Field Hospital in Lviv, Ukraine.

At the opening ceremony, Maxim Kozitsky, the governor of Lviv, spoke. "When I saw the field hospital I felt like I had walked into a movie, but unfortunately this is Ukraine," he said. "We thank Samaritan's Purse for coming here to help us. We pray that this 'movie' will be over soon."

They also are operating a Medical Stabilisation Point at the Lviv train station that is serving as a triage centre. The railway terminal has become a major transit hub for the mass exodus of refugees fleeing the fighting across Ukraine.

If you would like to give towards this, information is available on the 'Ukrainian Appeal' page under 'Church Life' on the Christ Church website.

Simply click on this link:

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/ukr/>

To pay by debit / credit card, please scan the QR code below on your smart phone, enter the amount and then choose to Pay Online Securely.

Alternatively, please mark any cash in envelopes or cheques with "Ukraine appeal".

Thank you



Congratulations to Larissa



Larissa outside Salisbury Cathedral

Larissa received a Master of Arts with Merit in Theology, Ministry and Mission at St Thomas A Becket and St Edmund Church, Salisbury.

Many congratulations, Larissa!

"Happy birthday to a very valued member of our Christ Church family, Lesley Fitzgeorge. She had a very special birthday ending with not just "one zero" but two!! She was 100 years old last Friday.

As I popped in there was a letter sticking out of the letterbox which I took in – only to discover it had a royal crest and was from Buckingham Palace!

Congratulations and God bless you, Lesley!"

We have since received a telephone call from Lesley to let us know that, rather than receiving gifts from her friends and family, she has requested a contribution towards sponsoring a guide dog for the blind.

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