

# Connected

Easter Day  
Sunday 17th April 2022

Reading  
John 20: 1-10

## Verse For The Week

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance."

John 20: 1

Since Palm Sunday, the church worldwide has concentrated its teaching on the last few days of Jesus' life and the events that followed.

During this "holy week", on the Tuesday, clergy from across the diocese were invited to a service at our Cathedral in Wells. Ian Girling, Julie & John Birkett, and Larissa (who ably assisted in the service itself) joined me and were led by Bishop Ruth. Part of its purpose was to affirm and encourage us in each of our ministries.



Over the past eighteen months, while the diocese was "one Bishop down", three retired Bishops joined the service as they had been helping Bishop Ruth with her considerable workload – they were given a round of applause. It was a wonderful example of these three that, even though their diocesan job was completed, they were still willing to serve.

This service has been part of the regular calendar but, for the last two years, we had not met together and there was something very special in actually being together after such a long period of relative isolation. Zoom meetings can have their uses but, as we all know, they are no substitute for actually being with people!

As we shared Holy Communion together I thought about how the Easter Sunday message is so crucial. Yes, we share together in memory for what Christ did for us but we're not simply recognising a historical event alone. For all that Jesus did in His death on the cross was vindicated in that three days later He was to rise again. So we remember Good Friday but we do so in the very presence of that God who gave His life for us and is alive today and continuing to be with us in the power of His Spirit. If meeting together in the Cathedral was encouraging because we were with one another again; the greatest thing of all is that we can know God's presence together with us as He is alive and well.

At Christ Church we'll reflect together on what Jesus meant when He said "unless a seed dies it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24). Jesus was prepared to serve us in the ultimate way, by dying in our place. But rather than His death being a defeat, it had a purpose as He was brought back to life and, through the life of His Holy Spirit, is able to bring life to many. Ours is a living faith literally! Although I was reminded of that in the Cathedral, He is there for every single one of us to discover every day no matter where we are. I pray that each of us will explore what it means to encounter and follow a God who is alive and that you will be encouraged by his presence no matter what you're facing.

Happy Easter!

*Tou*

# Prayer Pointers

**Easter Sunday** – Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for the message of Easter, the assurance that life is not in vain, and that death is not the end but a new beginning. Receive the worship we offer you this day and teach us to live each day in the light of your Easter triumph. Risen Lord, lead us from death to life.

**Monday** – Lord Jesus Christ, we are not worthy to bear your name, for we fail you so often in so many ways. We come now committing ourselves afresh to your service, to stay true to you as you stay true to us. Time and again you welcome us back. Teach us to walk in faith.

**Tuesday** – We thank you for our two churches, Emmanuel and Christ Church, the fellowship that we share, and the opportunities that it brings. Please bless Tom and our church leaders with Your wisdom as they seek to guide us on our faith journey.

**Wednesday** – Lord, we pray that you will encourage and support all those suffering with Covid 19 and their families. May they know your peace and constant presence. We pray for others we know who are struggling with illness, grief, or depression.

**Thursday** – We pray for those places where tension and violence continues- thinking especially of Ukraine, where there is so much slaughter. We pray for all those caught up in the awfulness of war - those maimed and injured, those who have lost loved ones, those for whom life will never be the same again. May your spirit of love overcome all that causes people to take up arms against one another.

**Friday** – We pray for all those who have fled or are fleeing these situations and are now having to live in huge refugee camps with food shortages and no life outside their tents. We pray also for all the agencies seeking to help, that they will be provided with the necessary supplies.

**Saturday** – We pray for all Christians everywhere, especially in North Korea, and women in Afghanistan, Syria, and Nigeria who are persecuted because they bear your name. Encourage them and lift them up to know the wonder of your love for them.

O Jesus, Light of the World, be our guide through times of uncertainty ahead, with many changes in our lives including climate change. Teach us to walk by Your light no matter what dark days there may be coming.

# What's On This Week

## Monday 18th April

No Ladies Together this week

## Tuesday 19th April

No Parish Prayers at Emmanuel this week  
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

## Wednesday 20th April

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

## Thursday 21st April

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel  
No Craft & Chat this week

## Annual Parochial Church Meetings

A reminder that the dates for our annual meetings  
are as follows:

**Emmanuel:**

**Sunday 24 April after the service**

**Christ Church:**

**Monday 25 April at 7:30pm**

The new Christ Church Electoral Roll is now  
displayed on the main Church noticeboard - please  
check this & advise Emma in the Church Office if  
any corrections are needed.

At Christ Church we have five vacancies  
for the PCC (Church Council).

This is an important role - please reflect on whether  
you would like to put yourself forward or maybe  
suggest it to someone else you think would be good  
in that role. Nomination forms are available at the  
back of church, from the Office,  
or from the Wardens.

You can view the Christ Church Finance Report /  
2021 Accounts by visiting:  
<https://ccwsm.org.uk/2021-accounts/>  
or [clicking on this link](#)

## Watch the Morning Service

at [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

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

# Coffee after the Service...

## *A Thank You & Testimony from Penny*

I'd like to thank my Christ Church family for all your prayers, cards, visits, and encouragement during these long months since I've had TN (trigeminal neuralgia) and been unable to be with you in church.

When it started again last May (I've had it on and off for many years) I fully expected the meds to work as normal and I'd soon be fine again. But it got worse. The meds weren't working. Weeks and months went by, medications were changed, there were visits to doctors and consultants, an MRI, and some different meds.

I had explained to God that I needed Him to heal me quickly as I was really rather busy. God listened and smiled! Time went by. I explained again, saying how busy I was and how only I could do all these important jobs. God listened and smiled! More time went by, more meds. Then (this was my best argument so far), I was becoming a burden to my family! God listened and smiled! Oddly enough, Barry and the children didn't seem to see me as a burden. Maybe I wasn't trying hard enough!

Despite the medication, the pain got so bad that I finally just had to let go, and then, when I stopped struggling, amazingly I began to discover more of how much God loved me and how close He was to me. Isn't that weird? Or maybe not? His agenda, His timing, His purposes, all so much better than anything I could have planned.



This time of awful pain, rather than being a time of fear and loneliness, became the most amazing time during which God spoke to me. He carried me through it. He taught me new things about Him, about myself, about my attitudes and behaviour, so much that I needed to learn.

Probably for the first time in 45 'busy' years as a Christian, God finally had my full attention. I began to learn a little of what Jesus meant when He said He would leave us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. He has truly been my Comforter, when there was nothing and no-one else who could take away the pain. I saw Jesus smile at me. I found His presence in a way I had never known before. This time with TN has turned out to be one of the most precious times in my life. God is truly answering prayer.

My meds are starting to work now and I am looking forward to being back in church very soon. So, once again, thank you so much for praying for me and for encouraging me.

*Blessings, Penny xx*

### **Contact Details**

**Rev. Tom Webber** (Day off - Tuesday)  
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**Rev. Larissa Trust** (Day off - Tuesday)  
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**Church Office** (09.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)  
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e: office@ccwsm.org.uk  
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

## **Notices**

### *Annual Parochial Church Meetings*

In anticipation of our APCMs, if anyone wishes to raise something under 'any other business' we would ask that this is made known to either Tom or the Church Wardens before Friday 22 April.



# More coffee, anyone?

## EASTER SERVICES

Please join us for our upcoming Easter Services and events...

Good Friday  
15th April at 10:30am  
Interactive Service  
Christ Church

Good Friday  
15th April at 10:30am  
Reflective Service  
Emmanuel

Good Friday  
15th April at 2pm  
Last Hour Service  
Christ Church

Easter Sunday  
17th April at 10:30am  
Family Communion  
(followed by Easter Egg Hunt)  
Christ Church

Easter Sunday  
17th April at 10:30am  
Holy Communion  
Emmanuel

## Churches Together

Join with Christians from churches across our town to celebrate the Easter message:

Good Friday 15th April at 11:15am  
Open Air Worship Service  
Worle High Street

Good Friday 15th April at 12noon  
Walk of Witness + Worship  
Starting at Emmanuel Church

Easter Sunday 17th April at 06:30am  
Sunrise Service + Breakfast  
Weston Sea Front (opp Carlton Street)

### Bible Reading Notes

The 'Every Day with Jesus' & 'Inspiring Women'  
Bible reading notes are available at the back of church for those who have ordered them.



Worle Wind Band Concert  
Saturday 23 April 2022  
at 7:30pm

There are still a few tickets available from the Church Office if you would like to attend this event.

## VISIT TO WELLS CATHEDRAL

Our two Churches have been invited to an afternoon at Wells Cathedral. It will be on **Tuesday 24th May**. We will be accompanied by our own Cathedral Canon, Julie.

The planned programme is as follows:

2:30pm Arrival where the Dean will welcome us  
3pm Tour of the Cathedral  
4pm Tea  
5:15pm Choral Evensong then depart

If enough people are interested we may explore getting a coach. There will be no charge other than the coach but we would like to make a contribution towards the tea. There will be a sign up list in both churches. We would like an idea of numbers by the end of April.

