

# Connected

Sunday 18th December 2022

4th Sunday Of Advent

## Sermon Snippets

### Christ Church

**Matthew 1: 18-24**  
**+ Micah 6: 6-8**

The sermon at Christ Church will centre around the theme of humility, patience, and obedience. Obedience to a God worthy of our obedience.



### Emmanuel

**Matthew 1: 18-24**

Joseph is one of the key Christmas characters and yet we often don't hear too much about him. However, Matthew's gospel does dwell on him a little more and so we're looking at him on Sunday.



One of the things we hear about him is his character. He hears the news that his fiancée was pregnant but not with him and that must have filled him with hurt and possibly anger. And yet he does not press home his rights to publicly shame Mary. Instead, he is kind and treats her with compassion.

Kindness is such a simple virtue and yet one so valuable.



## Season of Advent



During the weeks of Advent we may have received an avalanche of Christmas cards - the postal strikes permitting! Some of these will depict a traditional stable scene, with a warm bed of clean straw and a selection of docile animals standing by. Not a bad place to spend a night in an emergency but not if one is on the point of childbirth after a long and arduous journey.

The birthplace of Jesus is more likely to have been a smelly lean-to hovel, which hadn't been cleaned out for several weeks.

This short poem may come closer to the reality:

### The Dawn Of A New Age

The door, disturbed by unseen draft,  
swings open on a creaking hinge -  
Admits a dawn-red shaft of light.

It falls on figures huddled close for warmth.  
A man; a woman, clasping tightly to her breast  
A tightly wrapped-up bundle of torn clothes.

Gently they sleep,  
Worn out by travail - all emotion drained.  
And all around them, damp and blood-stained straw,

In years to come they'll call it - 'Christmas Day'.



*Barry*

*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

# What's On This Week

## Friday 16th December

Candlelit Carol Service at 7pm at Emmanuel



## Sunday 18th December

Candlelit Carol Service at 6pm at Christ Church



## Monday 19th December

No Ladies Together this week

## Tuesday 20th December

No Parish Prayers this week

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

*(last session before Christmas)*

## Wednesday 21st December

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

## Thursday 22nd December

No Craft & Chat this week

No Welcome Group this week

## Saturday 24th December

Nativity Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Midnight Communion at 11pm at Christ Church



## Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day Communion at 10:30am at both

Christ Church & Emmanuel



## Christmas Notices!

### *Volunteers for Christmas Services*

If you are able to help with various jobs during/after our Christmas Services, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

### *Christmas Invites*

There are now some Christmas invites available to pass on to your friends, family, & neighbours.

If you would like to take a batch to deliver to a specific road please ensure you let Emma in the Church Office know in order that there are not duplications!

### *Christmas Cards*

Please check the pigeon holes for Christmas cards!

### *Church Office Closed*

Please note that the Church Office will be officially closed from Wednesday 21st December til Wednesday 4th January inclusive (although it will be intermittently manned during this period).

### *Age Appropriate Teaching*

Please note that there will be no separate age appropriate teaching for the children on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

# Prayer Pointers

## What's on your mind this week?

Getting last minute cards in the post? Will they even get delivered?

Please think about individuals and families who are anxious about paying their bills, buying their food, or even where they are going to be living this Christmas. Ask God to provide for their needs and to hear the message of hope in Emmanuel.

## What's in your heart this week?

Christmas concerts?

Meeting up with the family?

Pray for those who are grieving for lost loved ones, those we know and those we hear about on the news. We pray especially for those in Jersey, Solihull, and in Ukraine. May they be comforted by our loving Father.

## What are you doing this week?

Carol singing?

Buying presents?

Please pray for the Foodbank, Street Pastors, CAP, Winter Warmth, Somewhere To Go - who are all ministering in Jesus' name to people struggling in our community. Let your prayers guide you into supporting one of these charities.

## What are you saying this week?

Happy Christmas?

Come with me to the Carol Service, or the Christmas Eve Nativity, or Church on Christmas morning?

Pray for your friends and family to hear about the real reason for the season.

### Funeral Service

*The funeral for Jill Kavan will be taking place at 12:15pm on Thursday 22nd December at Christ Church for anyone who would like to attend.*

## *Verse For The Week*

" She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. "

*Matthew 1: 21*



# Coffee after the Service...



## Decorating The Christ Church Christmas Tree!



Some fun was had last Saturday getting the tree ready for all our Christmas Services...!



### Christ Church Directory

Don't forget that the new Christ Church Directory is now available - please take a copy from the back of church.

### Christmas Morning

If you would like to bring along one of your Christmas presents to the service on Christmas morning to show Tom & the congregation please do so!!

### Alpha Course at Christ Church



If you're exploring the Christian faith, or have a friend who is doing that, then the Alpha course could be right for you/them.

We're starting Wednesday evenings mid-January. To find our more do ask Tom, Larissa or Angie Girling.

### Congregational Christmas Cards

There is a 'message board' near the south door at Christ Church if you would like to send a card to the whole church family. Please do take a look &/or add one of your own.



Caring, Listening, Helping

Message from Street Pastors...(see last week's Connected for full details)

Link for new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088213270945>

And, if you would like to volunteer to be a Street Pastor, please contact them.

### TURNING STAMPS INTO BIBLES

Please save used Christmas Stamps, (NOT the standard everyday ones) and place them in the Stamp Box on the table inside the Church door. It would be helpful if a 5mm border be cut round each one.

British Special Issue stamps and foreign ones are also collected throughout the year.

The sale money raised enables The Bible Society to provide affordable Bibles around the world for people hungry to read the Word of God for themselves.



### Contact Details

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