

Connected

Sunday 15th January 2023

2nd Sunday Of Epiphany

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church Matthew 5: 1-13

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness...”. Jesus says we are the people who should have a great positive influence on those we meet during any week – just like salt which flavours and preserves it’s surroundings.

It sounds a bit of a contradiction to say “if the salt loses its saltiness...” because there would be nothing left! But the image is one of sea foam where the salt has been leached out and we’re just left with ‘mush’!!

Today we think of how we can be effective – like salt – for God.



Emmanuel Matthew 5: 38-47

Jesus says, “You have heard people say 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy' but I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who treat you badly. Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven.”

Love your enemies? Pray for those who treat you badly? That’s a clear command. But it’s a hard command! It’s hard when we are treated badly. When we have been slighted, mistreated, or spoken down to? It hurts.

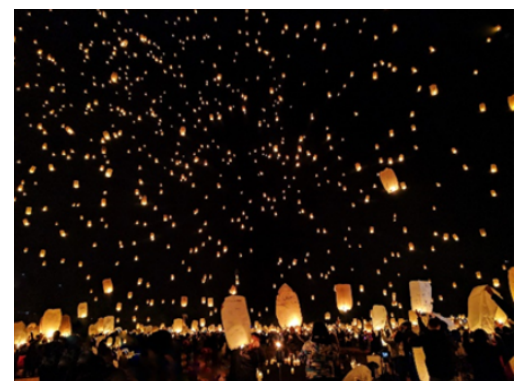
So what practical advice does Jesus have?



Our Verse For 2023

Many of us were able to make the “Church Weekend At Home” last autumn where Adrian Youngs spoke encouragingly of the lives we live as Christians in the ordinary world of our weeks. We’re picking up this theme for our Verse for the Year – which is from Matthew 5 “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...”. The two pictures of salt and light are rich ones where the basic meaning is that both have an effect on their environment – salt mingles with whatever it’s put close to; and light naturally shines out onto it’s surroundings.

Many of us will have heard talks on this before but may still struggle to put it into practice – how are we to be effective Christians in the places where God has put us? My prayer is that we can all grow in this over the next year – that our friends and neighbours will notice a difference and begin to see God in our lives. It’s not easy but I want to encourage you with two things – firstly, God never sends us out alone – He is always with us to give us power and strength – and secondly, we as church family are there to help and encourage each other along!



What's On This Week

Saturday 14th January

Repair Café from 10am-12:30pm at Christ Church

Monday 16th January

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 17th January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 18th January

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

(please note that this event is currently full)

Thursday 19th January

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Notices

Christmas Cards

There are still some Christmas cards in the pigeon holes at Christ Church - please do check these!

Verse For The Year Bookmarks

There will be a handful of 'Verse For The Year' bookmarks available at the back of both churches on Sunday for anyone who would like one.

If these all go but you would like one, please contact Emma in the Church Office as more can be produced.

Everyday Faith Events

For more information regarding this, please see the 'Coffee after the Service...' section or visit: www.bathandwells.co.uk/everyday-faith for further details.

Verse For The Year

" You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. "

Matthew 5: 13-16

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Pray for residents of war-torn countries and those living under dictator's rules who need our prayers.

Tuesday

Pray for those who are working for the NHS and the many challenges they are facing daily.

Wednesday

Give thanks and pray for our amazing, inspirational, and diverse ministry team who guide, teach, lead, encourage, and pray for us. We are blessed indeed.

Thursday

Our Government and parliament need our prayers as they get to grips with the many issues that need to be addressed. Inspire them in their decision making and guide them to make sure that all sectors of our county are included in the decisions made.

Friday

Pray for Ukraine as this unjust war continues. Russia continues to destroy all that the people of Ukraine have built up over years. Pray for peace.

Saturday

Remember those in our congregations, as well as those known to us personally, who are waiting for appointments and/or are on a list for treatment. Pray that they may feel God's presence in their anxiety as they patiently await news or treatment.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Coffee after the Service...



What does it mean to grow in faith?
Who and what helps us grow in faith?
How do we grow in faith?



Explore these themes during our 2023 Everyday Faith events

Register now to get content to your inbox

Resources include:

- Daily videos and content
- 6 weeks of small group material for adults and young people
- Collective worship ideas

Saturday, 4 February Archdeaconry gatherings


Taunton Academy 10:00-11:30

The Blue School, Wells 10:00-11:30

Wellsway School, Keynsham 14:00-15:30

www.bathandwells.co.uk/everyday-faith

Would anyone be interested in reviving the Men's Model Making Group, at least for the winter term? Meet once a week for about 1½ hours. Day and time to be agreed. If you are interested, or just want to know a bit more, please speak to Chris Cole.



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 (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)

t: (01934) 641016

e: office@ccwsm.org.uk

w: www.ccwsm.org.uk



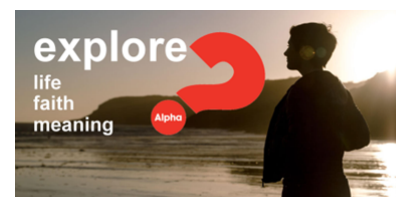
Christmas Cards!

The Craft & Chat group would be happy to take any old Christmas cards - if you haven't yet recycled yours, please pop them in the box outside the Church Office.

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.

The Welcome Supper will be taking place on Wednesday 18th January. To find out more do ask Tom, Larissa or Angie Girling.



Give As You Live

If you shop online for your groceries, did you know you could be earning a free donation for Christ Church with every order? It's a great way to support us for free and the donations really add up over the year!

You can raise donations on your online shopping at these supermarkets: Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons, Ocado and Iceland.

There are also 6,000 other retailers who partner with Give As You Live Online. Simply sign up for an account and start raising money when you shop. From your handy dashboard, just click on the retailer you want to buy from and you'll be directed to their website where you can continue to shop as normal. Your purchase will automatically generate a donation for Christ Church!

If you're interested in signing up to support us, you can find out more here: https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ccwsm?utm_source=charitytoolkit&utm_content=57354&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CTSupermarketCampaign

Raise cashback as donations for us on your online supermarket shopping

