

# Connected

Sunday 29th January 2023

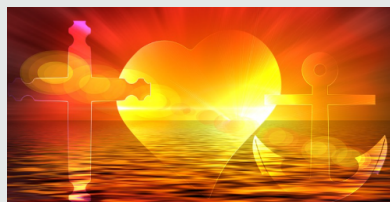
4th Sunday Of Epiphany

## Sermon Snippets

**Christ Church**  
**Matthew 5: 38-47**

Friends took us to the cinema to watch a film about Jesus' crucifixion. We watched the lead-up to this - a depiction of the beating leaving him utterly distressed, the humiliations, the crown of thorns pushed onto his head. Then the pain, in that pitiful state, of carrying the cross. As we left a silent and shocked cinema, I felt that I wanted to weep.

As I think back to that, with my knowledge of Scripture, Jesus suffered that fateful day willingly because He loved me. He loved every other person in that cinema. He loves us in this Church. It was a price that He was willing to pay because of His great love for us human beings. He showed us what loving His enemies meant.



**Emmanuel**  
**Romans 12:9-21**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This is where the rubber hits the road, there should be something that is distinctive about the community we call church.

## Verse For The Week

" Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. "

*Romans 12: 12*



My surprise birthday party achieved exactly what was intended - it was a surprise! I had no real idea of what was happening until I walked into a church full of so many of you.



It was a really fun, well organised, and hugely enjoyable evening - I loved it! Thank you so much to all who worked so hard to put it together; it was obviously a real team effort.



The gifts you gave me were extremely generous; I really appreciate them and will love going out for a meal / to the cinema / setting up my new tablet / spending Amazon vouchers... and munching on my favourite chocolate Toblerone!



It was also very moving to see so many of you and to read your messages in my birthday card. Chris and I love being here and it is such a privilege to be your Vicar. Your support for me is such an encouragement.



Thank you for this party; it has meant a lot to me.

*Tom*



(NB/ for some photos from the night, please see 'More coffee anyone...?')



## 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

## Monday 30th January

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

## Tuesday 31st January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

## Wednesday 1st February

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church  
*(please note that this event is currently full)*

## Thursday 2nd February

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

## Sunday 5th February

Deanery Service Of Light at 4pm at All Saints Church

## Notices

### *Church Office Closed*

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on  
Friday 27th January & Monday 30th January.

### "Everyone Everywhere Growing In Faith"

This is a fantastic opportunity to join together  
as members of Locking Deanery in a  
Deanery Lay Led Service to all  
sing and praise the Lord together.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

*Hayden*



*Celebrating all  
that Jesus is  
doing with us.*

Sunday 5th February at 4pm  
All Saint's Church, Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 2NL

**Deanery Service of Light 2023**

# Prayer Pointers

*The idea this week is to take some time to  
mindfully engage your senses as you pray.*

**Monday:** There are many aromas we enjoy - like flowers, bacon being fried, or cut grass. Engage with a smell that pleases you. The Bible says "we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ" (2Cor 2:15). Do our lives give off this 'pleasing aroma' to God? Take time to draw near to Him, and know that He will draw near to you. Offer God your whole selves as a spiritual act of worship.

**Tuesday:** If you're able to, step outside and feel the sun or the wind on your face, or perhaps feel how cold it is. Pick up some earth or run your hand over the dew on the grass. Thank God for the world we live in - for all its created beauty, the mystery of the created order, and our place within it. We have a responsibility as stewards of His creation. Ask God to show you if there's anything more you can do personally and pray for more appropriate action to be taken to look after our world and its climate.

**Wednesday:** Either go somewhere to admire part of God's amazing world or find some photographs showing pictures of hills, fields, and so on. Really engage with what you see. Then imagine weapons of war destroying what you are looking at. Notice the sense of shock within you and allow this to drive you to pray for peace where there is conflict. There is obviously human suffering in conflict, so ask God to help aid agencies and workers working in dangerous places.

**Thursday:** If you are able to be outside or, if you can, open a window - notice what you can hear. There will be sounds of nature in there somewhere but you may hear traffic, people talking, children, or sounds of activity like drilling, sanding, or sawing. We live in a society of people going about their daily business. Pray that you will be salt and light in this world. There are people who will want to talk about what's going on for them. Do we have the space to listen carefully to them?

**Friday:** Having prepared something to eat today, pause before you eat. Thank God for all that He provides for us. As you eat, slowly and mindfully engage your taste buds and be grateful for the variety of tastes and textures. There are those, though, who would love the opportunity to eat anything today, so ask God to feed those who go hungry and consider how you can personally be the answer to this prayer.

**Saturday:** As well as our five external senses, we have the ability to know what's going on within us - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. If possible, try to find a moment or two of space and peace. In your mind, picture God sitting beside you, listening as you share your worries and concerns with Him. Feel the sense of the love God has for you personally, the word of truth and encouragement from the risen Christ, and the comfort from the Holy Spirit.

# Coffee after the Service...

## NICKY IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN HER TEAM!



Seedlings Baby and Toddler Group - weekly;  
JaM (Jesus and Me) - monthly after school club;  
Families Together - 2nd Sunday monthly;  
Easter Family Event - Saturday 1st April  
...ALL NEED HELP!

If you want to help our families - parents, carers, and children - discover and deepen their relationship with Jesus, and you think you might be able to join us, please chat to Nicky or contact her by email at: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

## Thank you for being part of Operation Christmas Child in 2022!



Your amazing generosity means that thousands of children get to experience the joy of a shoebox gift and to hear of God's love for them.

To celebrate another great shoebox season, we've pulled together a fun video slideshow with highlights from this year, sharing the impact of these very special gifts.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/article/giving-thanks-for-another-great-season/>

We are so thankful to God for everyone who partnered with us this year and made Operation Christmas Child possible. Your kindness is impacting lives for eternity.

Do continue to pray for our ministry partners at this time, as they reach out in love and bring children the joy of a shoebox gift and the Good News of the Gospel.

### *The funeral for...*

Wyn Brass will be taking place at 2:30pm on Tuesday 7th February at Weston Crematorium for any church family who would like to attend. There is also a 'Tribute Page': <https://winifredbrass.muchloved.com> (if anyone wishes to make a donation - for Alzheimer's Research UK and Cancer Research UK - this can be done in person on the day or via the 'Tribute Page')

### *The funeral for...*

Bob Rowe will be taking place at 2:30pm on Wednesday 15th February at Wrington Chapel for any church family who would like to attend. (NB/ please note the date & time has changed since last week's notice)

## *Christ Church Dishwasher*



Our long-serving Christ Church dishwasher has finally become more costly to maintain than to buy a replacement. If someone would like to grab their calculator and estimate how many plates/mugs have been washed I'd be interested!

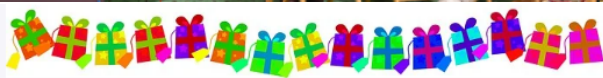
It's likely to cost in the region of £2,500-£3,000. If anyone is interested in giving a little support to help out with the cost, please do have a word with David White or myself.

*Tom*

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# More coffee anyone...?

## TOM'S BIRTHDAY BASH!



### Contact Details

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