

Connected

Sunday 23rd April 2023

Third Sunday Of Easter

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church
Matthew 6: 25-34

Do not be anxious. How do you hear this? Is it like a headmaster on a stage looking down at a small trembling boy OR is it a loving, caring God who says to you and me "You are more valuable"? Forget the 'more' for a moment and it says you are valuable. That is the mood music for this statement. It is a gentle voice of encouragement and supportive love.



Some of us feel almost hardwired to worry and we look with envy at those people who seem to swim through gentle waters of life without a care. Generally that is a misapprehension. Worry is a gift from God but it is not helpful when it descends into anxiety and worse.

On Sunday we will think about the Creator God who loves us, walks alongside us, and knows our name. Almighty God knows your name!!!!

Emmanuel
John 21: 12-25

'Staying Focussed'

The first of Jesus' miracles in John is at a wedding - it is a 'sign' pointing to who He is. At weddings today, the photographer takes time to focus his camera.



Three points of the sermon:

1. the distraction of Peter;
2. the distortion of what Jesus said which led to rumours and gossip;
3. the Declaration of The Truth in John's Gospel.

We need to 'stay focussed' - and let our light shine before men.

SPRING HARVEST

A small, but perfectly formed, group of us from Christ Church set off on Easter Monday for what, for many of us, is our annual pilgrimage to Spring Harvest which is held at Butlins in Minehead.

We enjoyed a sunny drive down, speeding past the northbound M5 at a standstill with Easter traffic.

Keys collected and chalets found (this proved a challenge for some of us, we won't go into details: it's all part of the Butlins experience!!) the "week" began (Spring Harvest week is five days).

The weather was "unsettled" (wet & windy!) for most of the week, they even had to close the Skyline on one night due to 50mph winds, but it didn't dampen our spirits...

(...to find out more about the week, see 'More coffee anyone...')



What's On This Week

Monday 24th April

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Christ Church's APCM at 7:30pm at Christ Church

Tuesday 25th April

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 26th April

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 27th April

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel
JaM Club at 3:30pm at Christ Church
(pre-registration is required for the above event)

Notices

Larissa Unavailable

Please note that Larissa will be unavailable on 22nd & 23rd April and will be on retreat from Monday 1st May til Friday 5th May inclusive.

Nicky Unavailable

Please note that Nicky will be unavailable from Friday 21st April til Sunday 23rd April inclusive.

Polling Day

Please be aware that the Spire Centre will be used for voting on Polling Day, Thursday 4th May.

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Thursday 27th April and from Friday 5th May til Tuesday 9th May inclusive.

Newsletter from Rosemary Aldis

If you would like to read the latest newsletter from Rosemary Aldis, there are a few copies in the slots next to the Mission Board at the back of church.

More can be printed if required (or emailed) - if there are none left in the slots please ask Emma in the Church Office if you would like one.

Verse For The Week

" Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "

Matthew 6: 26-27

Prayer Pointers

This week our prayers are going to be around the staff and students at the college and in the different schools in Weston super Mare.

Monday: We lift Julie Birkett to You, Lord, in her role as Chaplain at the College. She writes a 'Thought for the Week' and a 'Scripture for the Week' for the students and staff - inspire her to make it thought provoking and meaningful.

Tuesday: We pray for Christ Church School and all the involvement that there is between the school and the church - that seeds will be sown in both children and staff that will take root and flourish and bring glory to God's Kingdom.

Wednesday: We pray that there will be a hunger for the Gospel in the college and more students and staff will long to know more about Jesus. We pray that opportunities will open up for courses like Alpha be approved and welcomed.

Thursday: At lunchtime on Thursdays Julie hosts 'Tea N Talk'. We pray that conversations will be deep, fruitful, and inspiring.

Friday: We pray for the Comprehensive Schools. For the staff as they teach under often challenging situations and for the pupils that their school years give them a good base for when they move on.

Saturday: We pray for a clear vision and opportunity for developing student ministry perhaps at Emmanuel with the support of young people at St. Paul's.

Sunday: Give thanks for all God is doing at the College - for all He has done and for all He will do.

Coffee after the Service...

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Christ Church's APCM will take place this coming Monday 24th April at 7:30pm.

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 Church Office, or from the Wardens.

Also, if you are interested in being a candidate for election to the Deanery Synod, please see either the Church Wardens or Emma in the Office for a nomination form.

Documentation for the Christ Church APCM has now been sent out to all members. There will be limited numbers of paper copies available on the night for those who are not signed-up to our mailing list. There is also one copy available for viewing on the noticeboard.

If anyone would like to raise something under 'Any Other Business' we would ask that this is made known to Tom by the end of the day on Friday 21st April.

The End of Year Financial Statements & Accounts 2022 for Christ Church are now available to view either (1) on the noticeboard outside the kitchen or (2) on our website: <https://ccwsm.org.uk/2022-accounts/> or (3) contained within the documentation sent out earlier this week. Please submit any finance questions to finance@ccwsm.org.uk by 4pm on Friday 21st April.

Emmanuel Coffee Morning

Emmanuel are restarting their monthly 'Coffee Morning and Sale'. This has always been on the first Saturday of the month but, as the Coronation is on the first Saturday in May, we will be holding our first one on:

Saturday 29th April
10:30am - 12noon

Come and enjoy a browse and a chat over coffee and cake.



Coronation Events



Coronation Tea Party

Saturday 6th May 2023

3:30pm-6pm at Christ Church

(all food will be provided)

(donations towards costs - gratefully received on the day)

'Bring & Share' Lunch

Sunday 7th May 2023

after the morning service at Emmanuel

Sign-up sheets available for both events



Before...



Christ Church would like to thank Paul Matthews for remaking one of our donated benches in the courtyard.

After...



Along with Mary's bench we will be using this area for coffee in the summer.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

More coffee anyone...



Every year Spring Harvest has a theme, and this year was no exception. "Flipped : Life in the Upside Down Kingdom" was based around the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's gospel. The premise of the week was that we, as followers of Christ, are called to model a way of life that challenges the status quo. Each day had a theme summarised as:

- King of the Kingdom : The world says "Be your own king", Jesus says "I am the King"
- People of the Kingdom : The world says "Chase popularity", Jesus says "Welcome everyone"
- Purpose of the Kingdom : The world says "Keep all you can", Jesus says " Give all you have"
- Perspective of the Kingdom: The world says "Worry about tomorrow" Jesus says "Trust God today"
- Promise of the Kingdom: The world says "Become the boss", Jesus says "Become like a child"

As always the Spring Harvest programme was extensive, and used many different speakers/styles/formats to explore the theme. This includes an extensive Children and Young peoples programme. It would be great for some of our Christ Church families to experience this! Our party ranged from those in their 20s to those in their 80s, and I think I can be confident in saying there was something for everyone. The programme runs from 8am through to 11pm each day, so you really need to pace yourself and not do too much.

The highlight for us was the excellent Bible teaching in the morning, with two contrasting sessions. Dr John Swinton from Aberdeen University explored different aspects of Jesus teaching in Matthew in a gentle, thought-provoking way, drawing on his experience not only as a theologian but also his work on mental health and dementia research. In complete contrast another morning Bible session was led by Rachael Gardner, a very lively dynamic youth worker who, with her husband, are church planting in a rundown housing estate in Blackburn. She brought to us the many challenges and opportunities that this has brought them, linking this directly with the challenges of Jesus teaching.

Evening celebrations are now split between four venues, again offering different things for different people. We really enjoyed the large celebration. The worship was excellently led by Lou Fellingham alongside a different, challenging speaker each evening. Favourite new song this year for us was "Lean In" written by Lou & Nathan Fellingham : we need to learn this at Christ Church! To finish of the day, comedians Tim Vine and John Archer were probably the highlight of the After Hours programme each evening.

So, we are all ready for next year : the theme is "Up and Alive" based on Ephesians (Minehead 8th-12th April 2024). Would you like to join us? Booking opens on 14th June! But also do look up "My Spring Harvest" www.myspringharvest.com : it's free to join with articles, podcasts, and Spring Harvest talks and gives you a flavour of the event.

Can anyone help...?

I have tried to get a scrap metal chap to collect our old dishwasher with no success.

If there is anyone in the congregation with a large vehicle who could take it to the tip, could you please let me know. Thanks.
Angie: 01934 420411

Paul & Rosanne

Local Event

Good Grief is a week-long festival in Weston exploring grief at the beginning of May.

For further details:
<https://cultureweston.org.uk/projects/good-grief-weston/>

Julie Birkett

Contact Details

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