

Connected

Sunday 30th April 2023

Fourth Sunday Of Easter

Finance Appeals

Many of you will have known of the financial appeals we have had at both churches - the provisional results are very encouraging.

At Christ Church we've needed to increase our regular giving as costs have increased over these last few years. We've received an increase of some £7,300 for this year (most of which is an increase in regular giving which will help us in future years).

Also, at Emmanuel, we've had an appeal for the restoration of some of the stained glass windows and one-off contributions have amounted to some £10,000. Praise God!

I want to thank you for your prayers and any contributions you have been able to make - particularly as this is not an easy time economically for many of us. These responses will help us - not just now but on into the future for the life and witness of our two churches.

Wonderful!

Tom



Sermon Snippets

Christ Church
Jeremiah 29: 1-14

"If only...". How many times do you say these words? Indeed, how many times have you said them in the last couple of weeks? The truth is we often think this. More than once I've thought "if only I had some musical skills..." but, in truth, I lack what it takes and rejoice in those who are far better at this than me.



The Israelites must have thought it in exile. "If only we were in a better place then we could do so much more..." But God speaks to them, even when they feel they have ended up in the wrong place.

We'll be looking at Jeremiah 29 to see - come along / tune in on Sunday to find out!

Emmanuel
Jeremiah 29: 1-14

We often think of the future as uncertain and there is often a desire to retreat to the comfortable past. But God says we are where we are and there is both a reason and a hope.

Live in the present and build for the future for God has a plan, a plan to prosper us. But only when we seek him with all our hearts will we find him.



Verse For The Week

" Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. "

Jeremiah 29: 12-13

What's On This Week

Monday 1st May

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 2nd May

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

Wednesday 3rd May

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 4th May

Spire Centre being used as a Polling Station all day
No Craft & Chat this week
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 6th May

Church Family Coronation Tea Party
from 3:30pm-6pm at Christ Church

Sunday 7th May

Church Family Coronation Bring & Share Lunch
after the morning service at Emmanuel

Notices

Larissa Unavailable

Please note that Larissa will be on retreat from Monday 1st May til Friday 5th May and also unavailable from Friday 12th May til Sunday 14th May 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 from Friday 5th May til Tuesday 9th May inclusive.

Nicky Unavailable

Please note that Nicky will be unavailable on Friday 12th May and Sunday 21st May.

Tom & Chris Unavailable

Please note that Tom & Chris will be not be available from Saturday 13th May til Saturday 3rd June 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.

Prayer Pointers

This week our prayers are again going to be centred around education as well as the upcoming Coronation.

Monday: We pray for Julie in her position as Chaplain at the College as she visits the different campuses, and for the staff working in the Welfare Department.

Students are under such pressure these days, often at home as well as at college. We pray, Heavenly Father, that the staff have the time to properly listen to the students, and we ask you to gift them with the right responses.

Tuesday: We pray for students facing exams or completion of courses, especially those under particular stress or coping with bereavement.

Wednesday: We pray for staff and pupils in our comprehensive schools who are having to cope with the same sort of stresses and pressures as college students. This can make it challenging for staff to create a good learning atmosphere.

Thursday: King Charles III and Queen Camilla are being crowned on Saturday. Today we pray for their families - that it can be a day of celebration and that at, whatever age, they have the energy to get through the day with a sense of peace and joy. We pray especially for Prince Harry and Meghan that they can put aside their differences and feel a part of the whole.

Friday: We bring the Archbishop of Canterbury before you Lord - that he is full of your grace in the central role that he has. Also our Bishop of Bath and Wells as he assists him and all the other clergy involved with the ceremony.

Saturday: Coronation Day. Holy Father, look down on today - may the sun shine and that all who have travelled to London to be a part of the event be full of joy and celebration. We pray that nothing happens to mar the day. Above all we pray for your new King and Queen, with all the new responsibilities placed upon them, that they will look to you for peace and guidance. We also pray for the police - that there will be no scares or disturbances and that they too can enjoy the day.

Coffee after the Service...

A REMINDER...

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding, of our children and young people and of vulnerable adults, is a responsibility that we all share - not just the vicar and other leaders.

All volunteers who work with children and young people and vulnerable adults need to have a current DBS Certificate and, along with PCC members, are required to keep their safeguarding training up to date, which means renewing the training every three years.

All the training courses are now online and easy to access in the comfort of your own home (or that of a relative or friend if you don't have internet access at home).

It's easy to log onto the Safeguarding Training Portal, scroll down and click on "create an account" and follow the instructions - please make a note of the user name and password you use for future use (link: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>)

Please complete the Safeguarding Awareness (C0) course first (this takes about 45 minutes), then complete the Safeguarding Foundation (C1) which takes about an hour.

PCC members are also required to complete the Domestic Abuse Awareness course. You don't have to do them on the same day but please forward me the email you get sent after completing each course, and also the Certificates (you can print them off and give to me or email them to me to print off for our records).

You only have to do the Safeguarding Awareness course once, but the Safeguarding Foundation course will need to be renewed every three years if you are still volunteering.

The Church of England National Safeguarding Sunday was held last November but, as we had a busy autumn in the Christ Church calendar, it was decided to hold our Safeguarding Sunday service on 26th February this year. Larissa prepared a great service and tackled a potentially difficult subject in a sensitive way. We had some very appreciative comments after the service. If you missed it, you can watch it here:

[ccwsm.org.uk/sermons/sunday-service-26th-february-2023/](https://www.ccwsm.org.uk/sermons/sunday-service-26th-february-2023/)

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks very much!

Anne Jones



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



Weston FoodBank is currently running low of certain stock, namely:

Cooking Sauces

Custard

Rice Pudding

Fruit Juice

Squash

UHT Milk

Toilet Rolls

Shampoo

NB/ If you are able to help, there is a box outside the Church Office for any donations.

Thank you.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Ascension Day



Why pay attention to the Ascension of Jesus? In part, because it is a reminder that the earthly ministry of Jesus has ended: at Pentecost, the torch is passed on to the disciples, and down to us through all the centuries. Now, the story says, it is up to us – we are the ones who are called to be more compassionate, more accepting, more forgiving, more just: more faithful.

We shall be celebrating a Celtic Liturgy of Holy Communion for Ascension Day on Thursday 18th May at 7pm at Emmanuel Church. The Celtic tradition will give us a different experience of prayer. Please note, this will be our Evening Prayer Service for May so all members of both congregations are welcome to attend. Please come and join us.

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.

Operation Christmas Child

God did incredible things through Operation Christmas Child this past year. We are so thankful that more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide, which included the 200 millionth shoebox packed since the project began in 1993. This remarkable year wouldn't have been possible without partners like you who packed the shoeboxes. Thank you for your generosity, faithfulness, and especially for your prayers.

We invite you to explore some of this year's highlights in our Special Report and get a glimpse of just how God expresses His love through simple shoeboxes - from bringing hope in war-torn Ukraine, to sharing the Gospel in remote Himba villages:

[Operation Christmas Child Special Report \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)



Contact Details

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Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)
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Local Event

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

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

Julie Birkett

Lost Property

The Lost Property Box will be on display at the back of church (Christ Church) again for the next couple of weeks. Please have a look to see whether anything is yours.

If items still remain after the next two weeks, they will be disposed of.

Thank you.