

Connected

Sunday Next Before Advent

Sunday 26th November 2023

Christ Church Proverbs 31: 1-9 Safeguarding Sunday

If I asked you who King Lemuel was in the Bible... the answer isn't likely to be on the tip of your tongue! Pretty much the only thing we know about him is that he wasn't too powerful or arrogant to listen to advice from his mother! The King's mother did not want the power going to her son's head! Before his coronation, she warns him against abusing his power. She reminds him of his duty to uphold justice and protect the weak. A mandate that remains for Christians today.

How would King Lemuel's mother judge the church today? Sadly, throughout history, some Christian leaders have abused those weaker than themselves and betrayed their privilege. Others have smothered the voice of the weak and protected their friends.

On Safeguarding Sunday we will acknowledge this sin, remembering that Jesus stands in solidarity with those who have endured abuse.



Emmanuel 1 Corinthians 13



Love, love, love.
All you need is love!
But what about faith?
What about hope?
How do they fit in?
Is one really greater
than another?

Blue Christmas



I'm sure I'm not the only person to have noticed that, on my TV and in the shops, you can't escape the fact that Christmas is coming! This may well raise up different feelings inside us all - from excitement, to a feeling of being over-busy, or even reminding us of difficult memories.

Next Sunday (3rd December) is Advent Sunday and our Evening Prayer Service (6pm at Christ Church) will be a quiet reflective service helping us prepare for all that is to come.

We have called it "Blue Christmas"; but Christmas doesn't have to evoke difficult feelings and you'd be very welcome to come along to use the time to prepare.

We would love for you to join us; Christmas can be such a rush for so many of us - let's use the time of Advent to prepare well.

Tom

Prayer Pointers

Monday

Living God, teach us to be still in Your presence, to listen to Your voice, to seek Your will, and to respond to Your guidance. Deepen our relationship with You through Christ so that we may know Your presence with us more fully each day and share Your life more abundantly each moment.

Tuesday

We pray for our world which struggles to live justly and in peace. Guide world leaders as they make decisions that will affect so many people - thinking particularly of those in the war-torn areas of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Syria, and Iraq. Give those leaders Your wisdom leading to peace and harmony, and change the mindset of the extremists who insist that theirs is the only way.

Wednesday

We pray for those who are persecuted or tortured because of their faith in You and ask that You will be close to each one, encouraging and upholding in ways beyond our imagination.

Thursday

Help us to respond to the needs of others, remembering that Your love is not just for the Church, but for the world. Show us where You would have us serve You, and give us the vision to hear and to respond.

Friday

We pray for those who suffer today. For all who endure constant pain or illness, whose minds or bodies are broken by accident or injury - thinking particularly of those we know in our churches, families, or among our friends. We pray for those who grieve today.

Saturday

We pray for those involved in mission, either at home - thinking of all the work that happens at Emmanuel at the Beacon and at Christ Church with all the young families - or our missionaries overseas.

Sunday

We thank You for the assurance that nothing in heaven or earth can separate us from Your love.

What's On This Week

Saturday 25th November

Christmas Bazaar from 10:30am-2pm at Emmanuel

Monday 27th November

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 28th November

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

Wednesday 29th November

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 30th November

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

Saturday 2nd December

Christmas Fayre from 10am-2pm at Christ Church
Coffee Morning at 10:30am at Emmanuel

Sunday 3rd December

'Blue Christmas' at 6pm at Christ Church

Notices

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Friday 1st December and Monday 4th December.

Volunteers Needed!

If you are able to help with clearing-up after the Christmas Fayre at Christ Church next Saturday could you please advise Chris Webber or Emma in the Church Office. Thank you.

Verse For The Week

" When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. "

1 Corinthians 13: 11-12

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...

Emmanuel Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 25th November
10:30am til 2pm

Stalls, cakes, lunches!
Come & join us!

Christingles



We will be preparing the oranges for the Christingle Service on the morning of Saturday 9th December (from 10am) in the Spire Centre (Rooms 1+2). If you could help with this, please contact Nicky (family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

Christ Church Christmas 'Fayre'

Saturday 2nd December from 10am til 2pm

In what can be a busy time, come and relax with us with a cup of coffee and cake/mince pie! Light lunches will also be available.

Also:
* Children's Corner
* Book/Puzzle Stall
* Edibles (cakes, chutneys, etc.)
* Crafts
* Gift Items



Carol Singing In Care Homes



We will, again, be visiting a few Care Homes around Christ Church parish for some carol singing on the afternoons of Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th December.

Please do sign-up on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to take part on either one or both of these afternoons. We would love for you to join us!

Please continue to bring any donations to the Church Office as follows:

- Books / Puzzles / Craft
- Brand New / Nearly New Gift Items
- Edibles (cakes, chutneys, etc)

Please see Chris Webber or Emma in the Office if you can help in any way

Carol Service Choir Sunday 17th December at 6pm

We have already started rehearsing for our annual Christ Church Christmas Choir...



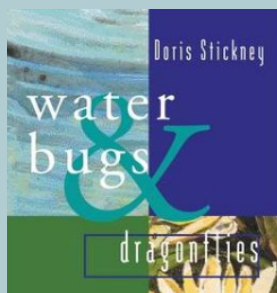
If you haven't yet come along but would like to, we are rehearsing on Sundays from 12:30pm til 2pm. This Sunday, 26th November, will be your last opportunity to join - please contact Angeline : angeline.white@ccwsm.org.uk

More coffee anyone...

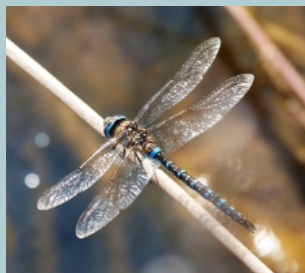
Water Bugs & Dragonflies

Following on from the recent Bereavement Course, from which we all really benefitted, Tom asked if I could submit a resume of the little book entitled *Water Bugs & Dragonflies*.

After completing this wonderful course, I needed a way to explain death to my recently bereaved sister-in-law who is a non-believer. I was recommended this booklet to help explain death and after-life to her.



Water Bugs & Dragonflies by Doris Stickney is a delightfully simple way of explaining death to children and those struggling with faith.



By using the analogy of the shore loving water bug's life underwater as our time on earth, and their emergence as dragonflies into the brighter sunlit world above the water as our life after death.

The booklet contains advice for parents and those trying to convey the after-life to unbelievers.

A few copies can be found outside the Church Office. If you are not wanting to pass a copy onto someone else, but would simply like to read what it says, it would be helpful if you could return it afterwards so that others can benefit from the simple explanation.

Heather



CAP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR CAP'S CLIENTS YOU CAN EITHER PAY ONLINE TO:

PCC EMMANUEL WSM

ACCOUNT NUMBER 82608393

SORT CODE 60 23 32

(USING THE REFERENCE HAMPER)

OR PUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED 'HAMPER' AND PLACE IT IN OUR NEW COLLECTION BOX

OR JUST GIVE ME YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

THE PAYMENT FROM EMMANUEL HAS TO BE MADE BY FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2023.



Carl

THE LATEST NEWSLETTER FROM CAP

(WHICH INCLUDES DETAILS OF THE CAP CHRISTMAS HAMPERS) CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE (UNDER 'CHURCH LIFE' / 'MISSION PARTNER NEWS') OR, ALTERNATIVELY, PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#).

Contact Details

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GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE



OUR NEXT ALPHA COURSE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS STARTING IN MID-JANUARY.

IT'S DESIGNED FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE FAITH A LITTLE... MAYBE YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO YOU COULD INVITE ALONG? IF SO, PLEASE DO BE IN TOUCH WITH ANGIE, LARISSA, OR TOM.