

Connected

Sunday 10th December 2023

Second Sunday Of Advent

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church *Isaiah 35: 1-10*

Emmanuel *Isaiah 11: 1-10*



During this season of Advent we're preparing for Christmas and looking ahead to the coming of Christ. So often during these weeks I find myself increasingly with 'tunnel vision' thinking about all that's needed for this season.

Our passage, Isaiah 35, invites us to look at a much bigger picture - what God is doing in Jesus and what he continues to do into the future. This vision can be a great encouragement in the here and now.

Come along to find out about a God who transforms our lives!



Today's reading at Emmanuel is from the book of Isaiah and speaks about a utopia where wolves and lambs will co-habit! All lions will become vegetarians! And even the humans won't be a danger to anyone (or anything) anymore!!

Surely it all sounds too good to be true doesn't it? (or a bit bonkers!!)

And what do all these 'loved up' animals have to do with Advent anyway?!

Let's find out together this Sunday.



Christingle Service - Sunday 10th December at 4pm at Christ Church

This Sunday (4pm) we will be holding our Christingle Service. The message in the Christingle has several parts - the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the world that Jesus gave his life for, and the red ribbon representing his blood shed on the cross. Also a lit candle is used to represent Jesus as the "Light of the World". At 4pm the sky is getting dark and, when we turn most of the lights off in the church, the lit Christingles really stand out. It is a lovely moment as we usually sing 'Away in a Manger'.

There is something powerful about a candle light, it can spread its light a long way - what a great picture of the effect of our Living Gods Love to our community and town. Yes, it is great for families but many adults have also appreciated it - all are welcome!

Tom



What's On This Week

Sunday 10th December

Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel
Christingle Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Monday 11th December

Town Centre Carol Service at 12:30pm at Emmanuel
Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 12th December

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

Wednesday 13th December

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week
Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel

Thursday 14th December

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

Friday 15th December

Carols By Candlelight at 7pm at Emmanuel

Sunday 17th December

Carols By Candlelight at 6pm at Christ Church

Christmas Notices!

Volunteers for Christmas Services

If you are able to help with various jobs during/after our Christmas Services at Christ Church, please sign-up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.

Christmas Invitations

There are now some Christmas invitations available to pass on to your friends, family, & neighbours. If you are able to take a batch of invites to deliver to a specific road within our Parish, please speak to Emma in the Church Office. Thank you.

Christmas Cards

Please check the pigeon holes for Christmas cards!

Verse For The Week

" Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. "

Isaiah 35: 5-6

Prayer Pointers

Monday:

This weekend is when the Christingle service happens. Please pray for the Christingle preparations on Saturday morning (and maybe come along and join in). Then pray for the service on Sunday afternoon - for all the visitors who will come along and have a great time and learn about Jesus the Light, the Creator, and the Saviour of the world.

Tuesday:

Please pray for those who will be affected by upcoming strikes; for travellers and people on NHS waiting lists. Pray for negotiators to hear God's wisdom and have the courage to act on it.

Wednesday:

Remember schools/colleges in your prayers as this term nears its end; for pupils/students, teachers and other staff, chaplains, and volunteers. We pray particularly for Christ Church School and Christ Church Preschool and their Christmas parties, services, and productions.

Thursday:

Please ask God to be especially close to anyone who will be lonely or afraid this Christmas and to any who are homeless. Thank God for The Salvation Army, Somewhere to Go, Crisis at Christmas, Shelter, Centrepoint, and other homelessness charities you may know of. May they all get great responses to their appeals.

Friday:

Don't forget to pause in these busy days and reflect on the 'Reason for the Season' - praising God for his amazing plan of salvation that brought Jesus to earth as a baby, born into poverty and displacement.

Saturday:

We pray for God's healing hand to be on those in need in any way.

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...

Carol Singing In Care Homes

This Sunday, 10th December, is the last chance to sign-up for Care Home Carol Singing - please add your name to the sheet at the back of Christ Church if you would like to take part on either one or both of these afternoons...



Wednesday 13th
2:15pm Earfield Lodge
3:15pm Cherrywood House

Thursday 14th
2:15pm Nashley House
3:15pm Highcroft

NB/ please meet at Christ Church at 2pm for both afternoons

Congregational Christmas Cards

There is a 'message board' near the south door at Christ Church if you would like to send a card to the whole church family. Please do take a look &/or add one of your own.



Cancellation...

Please note - for anyone who has a Men's Breakfast noted in their diary for this Saturday (9th), this is no longer going ahead - the next event will be advertised in due course.

A walk is being planned for the first week or two of January...



Some Sad News...

Many of you will have known
Pon Duchesne

We are sad to inform you that Pon
passed away this week

Please keep the family in your
thoughts and prayers

Details of her funeral will follow in due course

Parking Around The Church...

If you are visiting Christ Church, either on a Sunday or during the week, and are parking in the surrounding roads, could we please ask that you are considerate to our neighbours (e.g. do not block driveways or park in front of dropped curbs, etc). Thank you.

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

Bible Reading Notes

Bible Reading Notes are now available at the back of Christ Church for those who have ordered / paid for them.

ALPHA COURSE



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.

More coffee anyone...

BRIDGWATER CONVENTION

The Bridgwater Convention is a weekend of teaching and seminars (something of a parallel with the Keswick Convention) exploring how we can be confident in the Bible. It will be taking place on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd February 2024.

The main speaker is Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society who wrote The Bible Course.

If anyone is interested in attending, please click [here](#) for more information/to book tickets or have a word with Emma in the Church Office.

The Bereavement Journey a place to talk

A place to process grief for anyone bereaved, any time

In the new year we will be running another Bereavement Journey course.

Start date: Monday 22nd January (for seven weeks)

Time: 7pm-9pm

Venue: The Spire Centre

Further details will follow in future weeks...



As promised at last Sunday's service at Christ Church...

Terry's 'Only Connect' puzzle...

Only Connect Prize Advent Wall

Advent means 'coming' and refers to the coming of God's salvation. We look forward to the final consummation of God's salvation and prepare to celebrate his first coming to earth in the birth of Jesus.

Following the fairly easy quiz last Sunday, here, as promised, is a more challenging puzzle. Can you sort this wall into four connected groups of four items and say what is the Advent connection of each group?

Mary	Thorn	Star	Black
Red	Trumpet	Lily	Prophet
Gall	Baptist	King	White
Pale	Blood	Patriarch	Angel

And can you say what is in the last square of this sequence with an Advent theme.

Tamar	Rahab	Ruth	?
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A sweet prize is on offer to the first correct entry to the Church Office or the highest scorer that has arrived by Thursday 14th December. Answers in next week's Connected.

