

Connected

Sunday 11th February 2024

Sunday Next Before Lent

Ash Wednesday - Marking The Beginning Of Lent

Within our benefice we will be offering two ways to mark the beginning of Lent this year. **Holy Communion** will be celebrated using the **Book of Common Prayer** at **10:30am** at **Emmanuel** on **Ash Wednesday (14th February)**. And our **Evening Prayer Service** at **6pm** on **Sunday 18th February** will focus on Lent. During this evening service there will be the opportunity to be marked in palm ash on either your forehead or the back of your hand as a visible sign of your repentance. We will use the words of Genesis 3:19: remember that "you are dust and to dust you shall return" - turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. If you do not feel comfortable receiving the ashes, please do not feel any pressure to come forward. You are welcomed warmly to one or both of these services.

Lent is the forty day period that leads up to Good Friday and Easter. During Lent we remember Jesus' temptation in the desert and his final hours with his disciples where he washed their feet and ate his last supper with them; we remember his betrayal, arrest, and trial before his death on Good Friday. Lent is a sombre season. As Christians we use this time to repent of our sins, put behind us our old way of life, and welcome our new life in Christ.



Larissa

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church *Romans 5: 1-11*

As I mentioned in my sermon a couple of weeks ago, 'reconciliation' is something easier said than done. For an accountant it's normally not too difficult involving a few adjustments. But to bring two people together can be a fair bit more challenging... let alone if we are thinking about a reconciliation between us and God.

Why should there be a problem anyway? How on earth might it be resolved? What might it mean for each one of us? Listen in on Sunday as we begin to understand the immense cost to God to achieve this.



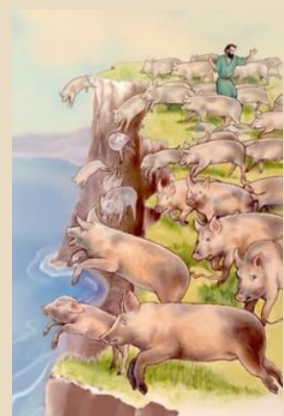
EMMANUEL *MARK 5: 1-20*

THE MAN WHO SAYS HIS NAME IS 'LEGION' IS A SURPRISING, YET POWERFUL, EXAMPLE OF WHAT BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST LOOKS LIKE. WHEN JESUS PUT THIS MAN'S LIFE BACK TOGETHER, WE SEE EVIDENCE OF JESUS'S WORK OF RECONCILIATION. THIS IS SEEN IN 'LEGION' RETURNING TO COMMUNITY LIFE AND BECOMING HIS BEST SELF THROUGH BEING A COMMITTED DISCIPLE.

NOW THAT 'LEGION' IS RECONCILED TO GOD AND HIS NEIGHBOURS HE IS READY TO TAKE UP THE ROLE OF AMBASSADOR.

IF JESUS CAN DO THIS FOR 'LEGION', THE SAME CAN BE TRUE OF US.

LET'S EXPLORE HOW WE CAN BE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST TOO!



What's On This Week

Saturday 10th February

Repair Café from 10am-12:30pm at Christ Church

Sunday 11th February

Families Together at 12noon in The Spire Centre

Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel

Welcome Tea at 4pm in The Spire Centre

Monday 12th February

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

No Bereavement Course this week

Tuesday 13th February

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 14th February

Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

No Alpha Course this week

Thursday 15th February

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Sunday 18th February

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm at Christ Church

(Theme : *Preparing for Lent*)

Notices

Tom Unavailable

Please note that Tom will be unavailable from Tuesday 13th til Saturday 17th February inclusive.

Church Office Closed

Please be aware that the Church Office will be officially closed from Monday 19th February til Friday 23rd February inclusive (although it will be manned on occasion during this time).

Verse For The Week

" You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. "

Romans 5: 6-8

Prayer Pointers

Monday.

At this time of unrest in the world, pray for the world's leaders and statesmen - that they will have vision and courage to uphold what is right in the Lord's sight and, through their service, promote the welfare and peace of mankind.

Shrove Tuesday.

On this day of carnival and celebration, join with the rest of the world in making your prayers of thanksgiving for all God's gifts: for health, for home, for food, for family, and for every happy thing that has come to you - praise the Lord!

Ash Wednesday.

Traditionally a sombre day on which we ask for God's forgiveness: for any moment when we have grieved Him by our words or actions, failed in witness, wavered in faith, or fallen away in love - forgive us Lord.

Thursday.

Give thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ; for the memory of their words and all they accomplished in life; for the assurance of reunion with them in the world to come.

Friday.

While public worship in Britain declines and churches are emptier, crime and wickedness are increasing. Pray for a renewal of faith and a recovery of Christian values - that a healthier and happier spirit will prevail throughout the land.

Saturday.

As the days lengthen with the promise of brighter days ahead, pray that you will feel God's love and guidance in the week ahead. And for His light and brightness to fill your life.

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...

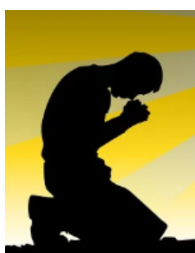
Save The Date...

Our Church Weekend this year will be **October 18th-20th**. Please "save the date" in your diaries. As we gather together as a Church family, Donna Pilgrim will be leading us in our shared time together.



Christ Church Finance Appeal

This Sunday we will be launching an appeal at Christ Church for our Church finances this year: there will be a letter from me to each of us. I am asking that you will join me in praying about this over the coming season of Lent.



On Sunday 3rd March there will be the chance to pray for Christ Church and all its work, dropping-in between 4-6pm, and finishing together with a worship and prayer service at 6pm.

Thank you. *Tom*

60th Anniversary!

We will have been married for 60 years on 28th March. We are so grateful to God who has been with us over all these years.

We would like to share with our Church family by inviting you ALL to a bring and share lunch in the Spire Centre on Sunday 7th April at 12:30pm.

Sign-up sheets and 'suggested contributions' will be made available in a few weeks' time.

We would love for you to celebrate with us.



Keith & Jill

 **Christian Retreat Centre**
Uphill Methodist Church
Trustees: David Smith, Tish Hill, Wynne, Roger Marr, N. Gossard, 01934 633111

A Quiet Day For Lent

*"Seeking Peace for the World
turning to God in our hearts"*

To be Led by
The Rev Tim Erridge
(Incumbent for Blaydon and St Andrew's Bourneville)

THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

10.00 - 3.00 (LUNCH PROVIDED)

BOOK NOW - COST £10

For further information talk to Sue Cannock at Christ Church or Meg Hill at Emmanuel. Or, if you would like to book a place, please contact Steve Marr via email: s.j.marr@btinternet.com or telephone: 01934 633311

Some Sad News...

Many of you will have known Rod Crocker.

We are sad to inform you that Rod passed away on Thursday.

Please keep Sandra, Sarah, and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Details of his funeral will follow in due course.

New Job...?

Christ Church School is looking for a Site Caretaker.

Please see the noticeboard at Christ Church for full details of the vacancy and how to apply.



Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day Off - Tuesday)
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Rev. Larissa Trust (Day Off - Tuesday)
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