

Connected

First Sunday Of Lent

Sunday 18th February 2024

'Farewell' from Samantha...



As many of you may know, I have been trying to buy a house for the last couple of years. I have recently had success and have been living in my new home for just over a month. However, I am now living in Taunton.

I am settling-in well but it does take me away from Weston-super-Mare and the Church family I have had for over twenty years.

It is a big transition but I am certain God has great things for me in Taunton and I am incredibly grateful for your support and prayers. God bless,

Samantha Evans



Sermon Snippets

Christ Church Matthew 5: 21-26

Our world news is so full of anger every day. I sometimes sit and wonder where the next explosion of anger will come from. My wife says that I shout at my computer if it does not boot up quickly enough and I have not noticed that I do it!

Jesus took the Commandment "you shall not murder" in our passage and extended it to almost say "do not be angry". I am angry about some of the world events where cruelty and terrible suffering are deliberately chosen by wicked people. In history, in the 1930's, Stalin and the leaders of the Soviet Union deliberately starved millions of peasants of their own country into submission, facing awful suffering whilst they lived in luxury. There are times like that to be angry but, for most of us, Jesus is calling us to a life of love not anger and a life of gratitude not jealousy.

Have you been angry in recent days? Have you asked yourself "if Jesus was standing next to me what would he say?". I have promised myself that I will not shout at my computer in future!



On the way to the cross, being crucified on a false charge, dying in yours and my place, Jesus said nothing until at his last he said "Father forgive them" - no trace of anger... just LOVE.

Emmanuel 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?

Join us on Sunday as we begin to understand the immense cost to God to achieve this.



What's On This Week

Sunday 18th February

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm at Christ Church
(Theme : Preparing for Lent)

Monday 19th February

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Bereavement Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 20th February

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

Wednesday 21st February

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church
Alpha Course at 2pm in The Spire Centre

Thursday 22nd February

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

Saturday 24th February

Active Men's Outing to Haynes Motor Museum

Notices

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).

Marking The Beginning Of Lent

Our **Evening Prayer Service at 6pm** this 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.

Please do join us.

Tom &
Larissa



Prayer Pointers

Living God...

As we start this first full week of Lent, we come remembering once more the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness and his refusal to give way. We remember the forty days and nights of trial, and the time of prayer and meditation preparing Jesus for the future. We remember the life, the death, the resurrection, and exaltation that followed.

Living God...

Help us to learn from Jesus' example and to use this season wisely - making time to hear His voice and reflect on His word. Help us to see ourselves as we really are and as you would have us be, ready to follow you and do your will.

Living God...

Help us to use this season wisely so that our faith may be deepened, our horizons stretched, and our love for you increased.

Living God...

We pray for those experiencing a period of testing in their lives, problems they fear they cannot cope with, challenges they feel unable to rise to, questions that are difficult to face.

Living God...

Give strength to all going through such times, knowing that you are walking with them through the wilderness with your loving arms around them.

Amen

Verse For The Week

" Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. "

Matthew 5: 23-24

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...

Rod Crocker's Funeral

The funeral for Rod Crocker
will be held on:
Friday 1st March at 2pm
at Christ Church
All church family are invited



Active Ladies' Group

Calling all active ladies...!

We are hoping to start a group meeting once a month, sometimes Saturdays but also evenings depending on what suits the group.

The first date is Saturday 2nd March, 9:30am at The Beefeater for breakfast so we can get to know each other and talk about ideas for future socials.

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church in the next couple of weeks so we have some ideas of numbers in order to book tables.



Any questions see Kathy Hinchliffe or Anne Jones.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Active Men's Group Haynes Motor Museum Visit

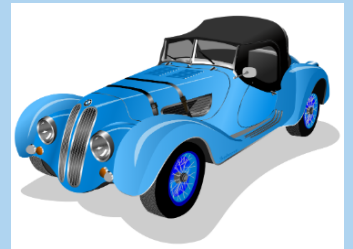
Date: Saturday 24th February
Time: Leave Weston at 9am
Ticket Price: £15

After the museum trip, the plan is to share lunch together - a table has been booked for 12:30pm at The Sparkford Inn in Yeovil.

For those who have already signed-up, you will have received an email from Paul Sodzi with details of how to purchase your ticket (with link and discount code) and a menu for you to confirm your choice of food. Please ensure that you purchase your ticket / let Paul know your menu choices by Wednesday 21st February.

There are still a couple of spaces left so, if you would like to come along, please speak to Paul Sodzi (or Keith Hallett or Dave Milsom).

The plan is to car share up to the museum - Paul will be arranging lifts in due course.



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.



The latest CAP newsletter can be found on our website (under 'Church Life' / 'Mission Partner News') or, alternatively, click [here](#)

More coffee anyone...



Christ Church Finance Appeal



Last Sunday we launched an appeal at Christ Church for our Church finances this year; for those of you who have not yet been able to pick up your letter from me, they will continue to be available at the back of Church for the next couple of weeks.

Please 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 it's work, dropping-in between 4-6pm, and finishing together with a worship and prayer service at 6pm.

Thank you. *Tom*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024
FRIDAY 1 MARCH
A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!
I beg you, bear with one another in love

10.30 am Locking Castle Church
1.30 pm Salvation Army Church
[Carlton St]

All are welcome

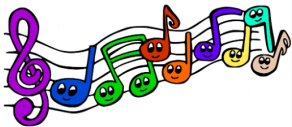
INFORMED PRAYER. PRAYERFUL ACTION

Graffiti in Church...!!

Have you ever taken a look behind the organ...?

John Hinchliffe has...

"I love this and took a photo at last - boys or girls sat behind the organ while pumping the bellows - left their mark!"



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)
t: (01934) 709343
e: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk

Rev. Larissa Trust (Day Off - Tuesday)
t: 07379 754372
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