

# Connected

Sunday 25th February 2024

Second Sunday Of Lent

## Sermon Snippets

### Christ Church

John 4: 1-42

We are accruing a succession of illustrations to help us think about our Verse For The Year! We've had the Ferrero Rocher to help us remember to be ambassadors for Jesus and we've had the hula hoop, encapsulating everything that Jesus did on the cross, being placed over us - we are brought back to God - reconciled. As Christians we embody Jesus' love and forgiveness in our lives.

We'll continue to think about these two symbols but we'll add the dropped empty bucket, representing our leaving behind what's bad from before we became Christians. We might have changed our thoughts, words, or deeds but we may also have changed how we think about ourselves. Like 'Legion' last month, the Samaritan woman at the well was an unlikely but powerful ambassador for Jesus.

We might not think of ourselves as ambassadors for our faith but, with Jesus' help, we can help others find their hula hoops so that their lives are surrounded by the love and presence of Jesus too!



### Emmanuel Revelation 21: 1-6

'What is the world coming to?' 'Won't the wars ever stop?' Typical questions we may have heard or maybe asked others. Our Father God is oh! so, so patient. But one day He will end this world in a Götterdämmerung of finality. And God will make 'everything new.' Have you been 'born again,' made new yourself, to live in that place with God? Stunning thought to live with God! Indeed this is the purpose of all. Glorifying God in a future existence, whatever that may involve - what an adventure!

But, 'there was no longer any sea' - what does that mean in this strange and mysterious book of Revelation?



## Appeal For Prayer

As Christians, when we face something that feels beyond us, what can we do? The Psalms give us a clue - when folk in those days faced real trouble they came to God in prayer. The moods in the Psalms vary from dejected to confident; but, in every case, the issues were brought to God.

Our churches face financial challenges - this is particularly true at Christ Church (with an uplift in heating costs this year and a greater amount requested for us to pay the Diocese). So, can I suggest that we do the same and pray! It is what I've encouraged in the appeal letter and one opportunity is a "drop-in prayer" between 4pm-6pm on Sunday 3rd March, followed by a prayer service of an hour at 6pm where we can pray for all the work at our two churches and our needs too. Do please join us!

*Tom*



# What's On This Week

## Saturday 24th February

Active Men's Outing to Haynes Motor Museum

## Monday 26th February

Ladies Together at 12:45pm in The Spire Centre  
(please note the slightly earlier time this week)

Bereavement Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre

## Tuesday 27th February

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

## Wednesday 28th February

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Alpha Course at 2pm in The Spire Centre

## Thursday 29th February

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

## Saturday 2nd March

Active Ladies' Breakfast at 9:30am at The Beefeater

## Sunday 3rd March

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm at Christ Church

## Notices

### *Larissa Unavailable*

Please be aware that Larissa will be unavailable on Thursday 29th February.

### *Finance Appeal*

For anyone who has not yet had a chance to pick up their 'letter from Tom', these are still available at the back of Christ Church.

## Verse For The Week

" I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' "

*Revelation 21: 2-4*

# Prayer Pointers

**Monday:** We pray for Emmanuel PCC meeting this afternoon - that the Holy Spirit will guide all the discussions and decisions that have to be made.

**Tuesday:** TearFund are asking us to pray this week for South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Philippines. Today we pray for South Sudan where 9.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance caused by conflict, flooding, disease outbreaks, and devaluation of the Sudanese pound. Heavenly Father, we lift these people to you and pray they get what they so desperately need.

**Wednesday:** We pray for Eastern DRC where there is ongoing fighting. We pray for protection of TearFund staff and their families.

**Thursday:** We pray for the Philippines recently hit by a huge landslide, triggered by monsoon rains, and efforts hampered by a big earthquake. We pray for access to food, water, shelter, and safety for TearFund's local partners.

**Friday:** Today we give thanks for the life of Rod Crocker. We pray for Sandra, Sarah, and the rest of the family - asking that the Lord Jesus puts his loving arms around them and gives them the peace that only He can bring.

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## 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

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## Watch the Morning Service

at [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

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

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# Coffee after the Service...

## 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 is a sign up sheet at the back of both churches - please sign-up if you would like to attend. Any questions see Kathy Hinchliffe or Anne Jones.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

## 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

(please could we ask that people avoid parking in the car park where possible as access will be required)



## Easter Family Fun!

We need a team to help share the most important story of all with our community!



Easter Family Fun  
Saturday  
23rd March  
2pm-4pm  
at Christ Church

We'll have an Easter hat competition, crafts, games, activities, an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments too!

All team must have current DBS clearance. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church or let Nicky Boardman know if you can help.

(email: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk))

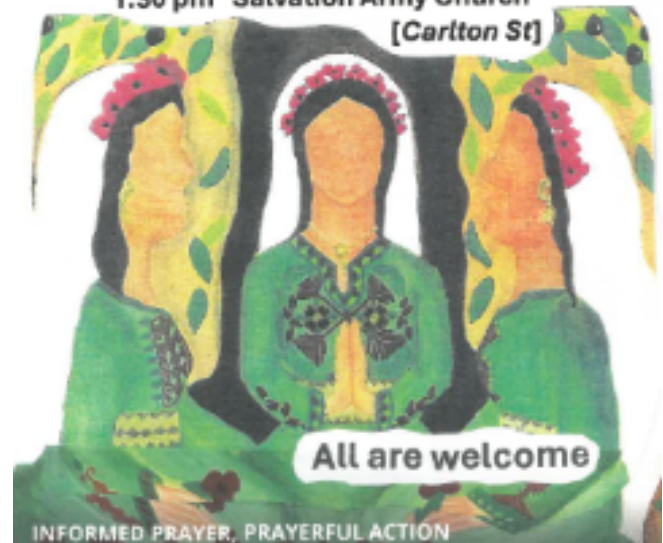
Thank you!

*Nicky*



10.30 am Locking Castle Church

1.30 pm Salvation Army Church  
[Carlton St]



INFORMED PRAYER. PRAYERFUL ACTION



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