

# Connected

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

Sunday 28th April 2024

## 'THY KINGDOM COME' PRAYER CHALLENGE

Jesus disciples were told, as Jesus ascended to heaven, to wait together until they received the promised power of the Holy Spirit.

We are setting aside the days between Ascension and Pentecost this year as a special time of prayer. In recent years we have been using the resources of 'Thy Kingdom Come' to seek in prayer for the extension of the Kingdom of God amongst our friends, community, and nation. This year we are using the time across our two churches to build up to 24-hours of prayer on the 18th/19th May leading up to our Pentecost celebrations. We are asking all our members to sign-up and pray at home for one hour in the 24 hours but this will need a bit of preparation which will take place between 9th and 17th of May.

- 1) We will all have a booklet with a short reading and thought for the day for the period of Ascensontide;
- 2) There will also be a leaflet with suggestions and ideas to help you pray for one hour which, for many of us, may seem a long time. The leaflet will cover the themes of praying for others, our town, and our country as well as prayer for up to five friends or family who we would like to come to faith in Christ.
- 3) We are asking everyone to sign up during this period for an hour of prayer with a few other people. These meetings can be with your Life Group (if you are in one) or at meetings in one of our churches and will help us to practice the hour of prayer with others ready for when we pray on the final day.

There will be two timetables in church for you to sign up to. The first will be for the hour together which you will attend with others, the second will be for the hour you opt to pray during our 24-hour prayer on the final Saturday to Sunday.



## Christ Church

*Romans 8: 22-30*

This week we're looking at one of the best known verses in the New Testament:

Romans 8 v 28.

It's a wonderful verse but can get naively misused. For example, for anyone bereaved it can be very difficult to look for "good" in that situation...

and yet the verse still stands.

So what is it saying?  
Come along/tune in to explore with me!



## Sermon Snippets

### Time to speak up?

Just healing a poor beggar in Jesus' name gets Peter and John into trouble!

These 'men had been with Jesus' and it showed. Courage is often needed to be an ambassador for the Lord Jesus. Peter and John witnessed boldly, even though they stood before the same authorities who had condemned Jesus not long before.

Where are we under pressure to speak out about the exclusivity of Jesus' claims?

## Emmanuel

*Acts 4: 5-12*



# Prayer Pointers

**Monday:** Pray for the Christ Church Annual Church Meeting being held this evening at 7:30pm. Especially for the election or re-election of Church Wardens and their deputies.

**Tuesday:** Pray about declining church attendance, which is a reflection of a general falling-off of Christian activity in the UK as a whole. However, we thank God for those who have recently joined our number – some with considerable previous experience of church life elsewhere – that they may be welcomed and encouraged to continue.

**Wednesday:** May Day – the loveliest day of Spring! Give thanks that, despite changes in climate, the countryside is beginning to green up. Pray for farmers and growers whose spring planting has been seriously delayed by the very wet soil conditions.

**Thursday:** Pray for Emmanuel Church, with its prominent town-centre location and potential for growth, as Tom and the leadership explore the way ahead.

**Friday:** Pray that negotiations may begin to bring a halt to the madness of the conflict and destruction in Israel/Gaza. Pray for all the people in that region – whether they be Palestinians, Jews, Muslim, or Christian. Wipe away the tears from their eyes, young and old alike, especially the children. Lord – have mercy!

**Saturday:** Pray for all who will be ministering in any way in both churches tomorrow. The preaching of sermons certainly; but also those who welcome people at the doors, read the lessons, lead the prayers, serve the coffee, and clear up afterwards. Pray for those who provide for the children who come. Also for those with a prayer ministry after the close of the services.

**Sunday:** May we come with hearts prepared and minds receptive – to contribute all that we can offer in a manner worthy of all that the Lord has done for us. We also pray over our hopes or fears for the week ahead.

# What's On This Week

## Monday 29th April

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre  
Christ Church APCM at 7:30pm at Christ Church

## Tuesday 30th April

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

## Wednesday 1st May

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

## Thursday 2nd May

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm at Christ Church  
(NB/ Please note the above will take place in Church as  
Polling will be taking place in The Spire Centre)  
Welcome Group at 2:30am at Emmanuel

## Saturday 4th May

Coffee Morning from 10:30am-12noon at Emmanuel

## Notices

### *Polling Day*

Please be aware that the Spire Centre will be used for voting on Polling Day, Thursday 2nd May.

### *Church Office Closed*

Please note that the Church Office will be closed from Friday 3rd May til Tuesday 7th May inclusive.

### *Larissa Unavailable*

Please be aware that Larissa will be unavailable on Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May.

## *Verse For The Week*

" When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. "

*Acts 4: 13*

---

### *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

---

# Coffee after the Service...

## Open Gardens



The new programme for the coming season of Open Gardens is now available at both our churches. Please do take one.

Open Gardens are informal social events and are an ideal way for newcomers to meet with other church members. So please do come along and, perhaps, invite a friend to join you!

The first Open Garden will be on:  
**Saturday 18th May**

**2:30pm–5pm**

(please see the programme for further details)

There will be teas, coffee, cakes, and soft drinks (under cover – if the sun fails to shine!)

## 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

## A reminder...



...that the Men's Breakfast which was originally scheduled for this coming Saturday has been postponed until:

**Saturday 18th May**

Please sign-up if you would like to attend.

## SAVE THE DATE - Emmanuel Church Family

Claire Horton, the Parish Development Advisor for our Deanery, is coming to Emmanuel on Monday 20th May to help us explore our church vision.



This is an exciting opportunity to come together, as the whole church, to pray, talk, share, and discern where God is leading us now, and in the next season, in the life of our church. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come and be part of the event; to hear about Bishop Michael's vision for

the Diocese and how his vision can help shape our ministry and outreach to our community at a local level.

It is likely to be a morning session followed by a shared lunch but exact details will be confirmed soon. (Please note: this event is specifically for those who attend Emmanuel or are directly involved in its ministry).

So, please put the date in your diary - it's going to be a significant time for us as we seek God's continued leading together.

*Donna*

## Some Sad News...

Many of you will have known David Evans. We are sad to inform you that David passed away last week.

Please keep Linda and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Details of his funeral will follow in due course.

# More coffee anyone...

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Christ Church's APCM will be taking place on: **Monday 29th April at 7:30pm**

At Christ Church we have **two vacancies** for the PCC (Church Council). This is an important role - please reflect on whether you would like to put yourself forward or maybe suggest it to someone else you think would be good in that role. **Nomination forms are available at the back of church, from the Church Office, or from the Wardens.**

Documentation for the Christ Church APCM has now been sent out electronically to all members (NB/ please do check your junk/spam folders if this hasn't arrived in your inbox). There will be a limited number of paper copies available on the night for those who are not signed-up to our mailing list. There is also now one copy available for viewing on the noticeboard.

If anyone would like to raise something under 'Any Other Business' we would ask that this is **made known to Tom by the end of the day on Friday 26th April.**

The End of Year Financial Statements & Accounts 2023 for Christ Church are now available to view either (1) on the noticeboard outside the kitchen; (2) via our website: <https://ccwsm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Final-CCWSM-Accounts-2023-IE-Certificate.pdf> or (3) contained within the documentation which has been sent out this week. **Please submit any finance questions to [finance@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:finance@ccwsm.org.uk) by 4pm on Friday 26th April.**

## *A reminder...*

As first 'advertised' back in February, our Church Weekend this year will be taking place:

**October 18th-20th**

Please "save the date" in your diaries.

Donna Pilgrim will be leading us as we all gather together as a Church family.



## **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING 5 MAY 2024**



For those at Emmanuel, please do not leave boxes unattended - just give them to me or one of the Wardens. For those at Christ Church, please let Emma have your boxes and she will pass them on to me.

The 5th May is not a hard and fast date - just bring the boxes to church as you are able. I shall return the boxes when they have been counted and let you know how much was raised.

Many thanks to all who support the Children's Society.

*Carl*



**A reminder... if you would like to donate to Foodbank at any point, there is a box outside the Church Office for any donations.  
Thank you.**

## **Emmanuel Coffee Morning**

The next 'Coffee Morning and Sale' at Emmanuel will be taking place on:

Saturday 4th May  
10:30am-12noon

Come and enjoy a browse and a chat over coffee and cake.

