

Connected

1st Sunday Of Advent

Sunday 1st December 2024

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church Matthew 24: 42-44 (ICB)

In Advent we use the season to prepare for Jesus' coming... of course his coming for the first time at Christmas, but also for his eventual return.



Much as we love to know what will happen, we don't know when he'll come this second time.

So, what does that mean for us?

Emmanuel 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Everything about this Sunday (the First Sunday in Advent) points to the birth of Jesus - beginning a period of preparation. At the time of the birth of Jesus there were extraordinary signs in the heavens - seen by the Wise Men and by the Shepherds - leading them to a baby in a stable.



We all tend to make preparations for Christmas, with presents and food bought and made ready. Advent asks us to make spiritual preparations - thinking about the promises made by God through the prophets, forecasting the birth of The Special One, Jesus, hundreds of years later. He had exactly the right parents, was born in exactly the right place, into exactly the right family of King David's line with an older cousin, later known as John the Baptist, to go before him.

Our carols sing of all these incredible facts pointing to a living God whose love for us is to send Jesus to be born, live, and then die for us.

Our Christmas Services!

Please see below the dates and times of all our planned Christmas Services. Invitations are now available for you to take away and give to friends/family/neighbours!

Christ Church & Emmanuel

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9: 6



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas



Christ Church Montpelier, BS23 2RH

Christingle Service
4pm on Sunday 15th December

Candlelit Carol Service
6pm on Sunday 22nd December

Nativity Service
4pm on Christmas Eve

Midnight Communion
11:15pm on Christmas Eve

Family Communion
10:30am on Christmas Day

Emmanuel Church Oxford Street, BS23 1TN

Carol Singing In Church Square
2:30pm on Monday 9th December

Town Centre Carol Service
12:30pm on Thursday 12th December

Candlelit Carol Service
7pm on Friday 20th December

Holy Communion
10:30am on Christmas Day

Contact details: t: 01934 641016 | e: office@ccwsm.org.uk | w: www.ccwsm.org.uk



Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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



Prayer Pointers

Monday.

We pray for our Archbishops and Bishops at this difficult and upsetting time - that they will receive Your guiding light to help lead us all in Your way. We also pray that You will grant wisdom to Tom, retired clergy, and readers at Christ Church and Emmanuel as they prepare for Christmas. Be with Larissa in her new role as Vicar.

Tuesday.

We pray that You will be especially close to all those elderly and lonely people living in care homes. Help them to trust in You and grant them patience.

Wednesday.

Father, we pray for our town and the local community that we are part of. We thank You for the opportunities You give us to serve You among the people that we meet each day and pray that You will show us where we, as Christians, are not meeting the needs of people whom You put in our path.

Thursday.

We pray for our country, and especially our new government, in this time of unrest and turmoil. We pray that the right decisions will be made for the good of all and we trust that You will guide us through to where You want us to be as a leading influence in our world.

Friday.

We pray for our world suffering in so many ways because of changing climate. Thank You for the world conference which has made us all more aware of the problems some countries face. Help all countries to do the right things and to be generous to help amend the situation. Thank You that we can know that You are ultimately in charge.

Saturday.

We pray for peace in our world where so many people and countries are suffering the effects of war, especially in Gaza/Israel and Ukraine/Russia. Grant Your wisdom and compassion to leaders and rulers and may Your will be done.

Sunday.

Lord You have my heart and I will search for Yours. Jesus take my life and lead me on. Lord You have my heart and I will search for Yours. Let me be to You a sacrifice.

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day Off - Tuesday)
t: (01934) 709343
e: revtom@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)
t: (01934) 641016
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

What's On This Week

Saturday 30th November

Christmas Fayre : 10am-2pm at Christ Church

Sunday 1st December

Reflective Evening Service at 6pm at Christ Church

Monday 2nd December

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 3rd December

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 4th December

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 5th December

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Friday 6th December

Ambassador's Christmas Lunch at 12:30pm

Saturday 7th December

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

Sunday 8th December

'Come To Church Sunday': 10:30am at Christ Church

Christmas Notices!

Christmas Invitations

If you are able to take a batch of invites to deliver to a specific road within Christ Church Parish, please speak to Emma in the Church Office. Thank you.

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.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed from Monday 23rd December til Friday 3rd January inclusive.

Verse For The Week

" Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. "

Matthew 24: 42-44

Coffee after the Service...

Christ Church Christmas Fayre

This Saturday, 30th November
10am til 2pm

Variety of Stalls / Games / Light Lunches
Children's Corner (& Father Christmas will be
making an appearance at 11am!)

See you there!

'Blue Christmas' Healing & Wholeness Evening Service

This Sunday, 1st December
6pm at Christ Church



Please do join us for a reflective
service - helping us prepare for the
Christmas season; to find space and
purpose in this special time.

Carol Singing in Care Homes

Please do sign-up on the sheet at the back of church
if you are available to join us for carol singing in
some local Care Homes on either one or both of
the following afternoons:

Wednesday 11th December
&/or Friday 13th December
starting from 2:15pm
(meet at Christ Church at 2pm)

Thank you!



Christingles



We will be preparing the oranges for the
Christingle Service on the morning of
Saturday 14th December (from 10am)
in the Spire Centre (Rooms 1+2).

If you can help with this, please contact Nicky
(family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

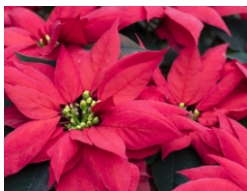
Emmanuel Coffee Morning

The next 'Coffee Morning and Sale'
at Emmanuel will be taking place on
Saturday 7th December from
10:30am-12noon

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



Notice for Emmanuel Church Family:
Please bring poinsettias when you
come to the Coffee Morning so
we can decorate the church ready
for Deaf Church the next day.



Come To Church Sunday

Next Sunday, 8th December, will
be our 'Come To Church Sunday'
at Christ Church.

Flyers/invites are still available
(on the table at the back of church)
for you to take away and pass on
to anyone who you would
like to invite.

If anyone is taking part in the Foodbank
Reverse Advent Calendar, please ensure that
your donation box/bags are delivered to the
Church Office by next Sunday 8th December
at the latest. Thank you!

More coffee anyone...?

Big Give Christmas Challenge



Tastelife UK is a registered charity which offers help to those who struggle with eating disorders and to their supporters. Tastelife believes in breaking free from eating disorders and rediscovering life in all its fullness. Their website is www.tastelifeuk.org.

During the week of **3rd-10th December**, Tastelife is holding a Big Give Christmas Challenge where all donations will be doubled. Please see the QR code on the poster at Christ Church (which will take you directly to the Tastelife Big Give donation page) or click [here](#). Any donation given during the Big Give week will be doubled. If these dates are missed, a donation can still be given to the charity from their website (it just won't have the doubling effect).



Christian Retreat Centre
Uphill Methodist Church

ADVENT Quiet Day

To be Led by

The Rev Judith Lincoln



THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER

10.00 – 3.00 (LUNCH PROVIDED)

BOOK NOW – COST £10

Contact :- Stephen Marr
01934633311 – s.j.marr@btinternet.com
By 3rd December

Uphill Methodist Church – Uphill Road South, Uphill B923 49D

Frances Trickey's Funeral

The funeral for Frances Trickey will be held on:
Friday 6th December at 12:15pm at Christ Church

All church family are invited.

Please do feel free to wear colourful clothes.

Donations can be made to
Weston Hospicecare
either on the day or via:
francesrickey.muchloved.com



Dave Wilkes Funeral

The funeral for Dave Wilkes will be held on:
Thursday 12th December
at 12 noon
at Christ Church



All church family are invited.

Please wear bright clothes.

Lunch will be served after the service.



Our next Alpha course will be held on Thursday evenings, starting on 16th January at 7pm.

It is 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 Tom or Angie.



A place to process grief for anyone bereaved, any time

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

Start Date:
Wednesday 8th January

Time: 2:30pm

Venue:
St Augustine's Church Centre

Further details will follow...



This coming week (2nd-8th December) is National Grief Awareness Week. The theme this year is Shine A Light. For more information about this year's campaign, how to get support and how to get involved please see: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/ngaw/ or www.ataloss.org



CAP Christmas Hampers

If you would like to contribute financially to this venture please forward your gift to: Account: Destiny CAP
Sort Code: 40-46-18 / AC No: 71605925