

Connected

1st Sunday Of Epiphany

Sunday 12th January 2025

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church Colossians 1: 1-8

This is the first edition of Connected since the Christmas season... and so I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Christmas, whilst only a few short weeks ago, now feels a long way away as our perspective shifts to all that 2025 brings. I hope for you that there are some things to look forward to; maybe you're thinking of a short holiday somewhere? For most of us there is likely to be a mix of the good and one or two more challenging things. It can be easy to feel a bit overwhelmed with all that's to come. I pray that we can all move into 2025 with the strength, grace, and encouragement that comes from our Christian identity.

This is what we'll be looking at together in Paul's letter to the Colossians. In particular, our "Verse For The Year" is about being rooted in Christ – I hope that this coming year we can put our roots down into the difference that our Christian faith makes.

I'll be starting the series looking at the difference our Christian hope can give us.



May God encourage and bless you in 2025.

Tom

Emmanuel Matthew 2: 1-12



We three Kings - a story of light and darkness, of seeking and finding.

A Prayer For The New Year

*God give me a quiet year
Nothing too astounding
Keep me steady,
calm, and clear
With blessings safe
and grounding*

*Let me simply plod
A path that's not
too rough
Being me is very odd
And that is quite enough*

*Help me walk,
not rush or race
Through days both
bright and dreary
Grant me strength to
keep my pace
When life feels long
and weary*

*God, keep my feet
upon the ground
My thoughts from
going wild
In your peace let
me be found
Your calm and
plodding child*

*(Rev. Tim Haines -
inspired by a poem he
came across in Australia)*



OUR VERSE FOR 2025

**Just as you
received Christ
Jesus as Lord,
continue to live
your lives in him,
rooted and built
up in him,
strengthened in
the faith as you
were taught and
overflowing with
thankfulness.**

COLOSSIANS 2 V 6,7



What's On This Week

Saturday 11th January

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

Sunday 12th January

Families Together at 12noon in The Spire Centre
Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel

Monday 13th January

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 14th January

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

Wednesday 15th January

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 16th January

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel
Alpha Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre

Saturday 18th January

Ambassadors Group at 10am in The Spire Centre
(Dance Workshop with Kerry)

Notices

Christmas Cards

There are still a few Christmas cards in the pigeon holes at Christ Church - please do have a look to see if any are for you!

Verse For The Year Bookmarks

There will be a handful of 'Verse For The Year' bookmarks available at the back of both churches on Sunday for anyone who would like one. If all these go but you would like one, please contact Emma in the Church Office as more can be printed.

Desserts For Alpha

If you are able to supply a dessert for our Alpha course (either home made or shop bought) please add your name to the sheet at the back of Christ Church.

Verse For The Year

" So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. "

Colossians 2: 6-7

Prayer Pointers

Monday: Lord Jesus Christ, as we have celebrated your birth in Bethlehem, a birth that changed the course of history forever, we rejoice that the future of the world was shaped by your coming and transformed by your life, death, and resurrection. A new chapter has begun. Help us, in turn, to start again, to let go of the past, and embrace the future, secure in your forgiveness and transformed by your grace.

Tuesday: Lord of all, as we have heard the good news of Jesus again, and rejoiced in the wonder of this season, we pray for those for whom it brings no joy - only reminding them of their pain. We pray for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless, thanking you for organisations that provide food and warmth at this time of year where some can meet up with others and receive encouragement.

Wednesday: We pray for the troubled and fearful, especially those who have no jobs at this difficult time. We pray for the sick and suffering in body, mind, or spirit, including lonely and elderly people - many of whom are confined to their homes.

Thursday: We pray for your world in all its needs - those in lands where there is poverty, famine, or natural disaster, and places where people are living in fear of persecution and fighting as in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia. Gracious God, at this time of giving and receiving, reach out in love to your troubled world. Bring comfort in distress.

Friday: Strengthen all those who work to build a fairer society and a more just world. Challenge each of us who have so much to share our plenty with those who have so little. May we not just talk of goodwill to all but do something to show what it means.

Saturday: Help us then to go with joy in our hearts and wonder in our eyes, to share the love that you have shown and to make known the great thing that you have done in Christ.

Sunday: May Jesus be born again in our hearts and made known through our lives.

Coffee after the Service...



12noon-1:30pm

Sunday 12th January

We will be starting the new year of Families Together with a party! For catering purposes, please let Nicky know if you would like to come:
family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Ambassadors Women's Group Programme Winter/Spring 2025

(all events will take place from 10am-12noon
in The Spire Centre unless otherwise stated)

Saturday 18th January

Fun dance workshop with Kerry Searchfield -
if you have two left feet or prefer to stay seated,
you can still come along - this is for everyone

Saturday 15th February

Social breakfast
time and venue tbc

Saturday 15th March

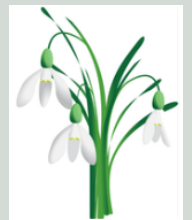
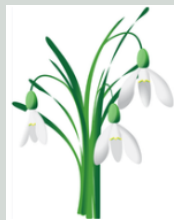
Easter Crafts

Saturday 5th April

Art Workshop with Angie Girling -
it doesn't matter if you haven't drawn or painted
since school - come along and have some fun!

Sign-up sheets will be made available each month
for you to book your place.

Any questions please contact Kathy Hinchliffe,
Anne Jones, Elaine Fairs, or Helen Evans



REPAIR CAFE

The next Repair Cafe will
be held this Saturday,
11th January
from 10am-12:30pm
at Christ Church

Active Men's Group

The Active Men's Group
is planning a trip to:

Venue: Helicopter Museum
Date: Saturday 25th January
Time: likely to be 10am

If you would like to attend,
please put your name on the
sign-up sheet available at the
back of Christ Church

(NB/ if any men from Emmanuel
would like to join, please get
in contact with Paul Sodzi or
the Church Office).

Further information will follow
in due course.



Christmas Cards!



The Craft & Chat group
would be happy to take
any old Christmas cards
- if you haven't recycled
yours yet, please pop
them in the plastic box at
the back of Christ Church.

Theatre Production

Oddments Theatre Co. are
performing "The Hiding
Place" on Saturday 8th
February at 7pm at St Nicholas' Church, Uphill, BS23 4SD.

Tickets are £10.00 each / £8.00 for students (Y6 upwards) -
these need to be booked in advance - available from Gail (tel:
07886 719449 or email: rowls_spetchleyroad@hotmail.com).

This is an excellent, professional production about a Dutch
family, the Ten Booms, who rescued Jews during the Nazi
occupation of the Netherlands in World War II, and what
happened to this family.



More coffee anyone...?



**Would you like to support young children to lift their mood, build their resilience and know that they are safe and well-supported?
Can you join our school team as a part-time volunteer and be a ROC mentor?**

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) mentors are everyday people, who are trained by the ROC staff, to use their life experience and skills to be a 'friend with purpose'. Mentors come alongside children in our school, helping them to make positive life choices, improve their resilience as well as self-esteem and personal wellbeing.

If you are interested in this, please email ROC directly on info@roc.uk.com to register your interest.

Further information can also be found on <https://roc.uk.com/roc-mentors/>
Online training sessions start at the end of January 2025.

One or two hours per month of your time would make a massive difference to children.

If you think you can help, please register your expression of interest by **Wednesday 15th January** using the email address above. Thank you.

Book Of The Month

**How to Hear God -
Pete Greig**

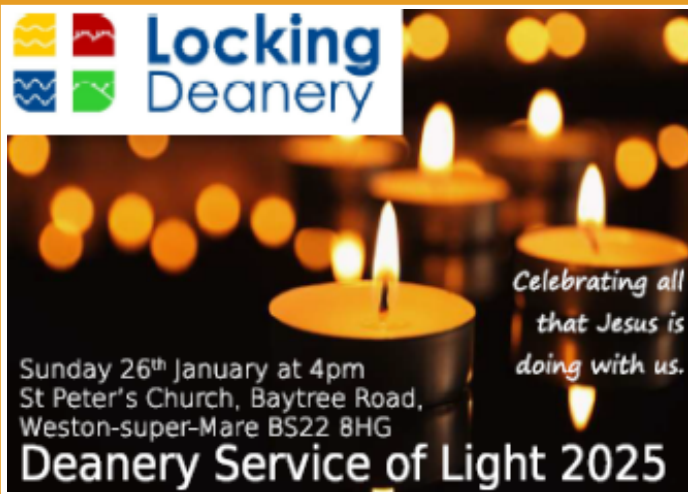


'How To Hear God' is the book we read in the summer at Book Club. It is written by Pete Greig who has written a number of books on prayer and is renowned for pioneering 24/7 prayer ministry in the UK.

Have you ever wished God would speak to you? In this book we learn that it's not a question of whether God is speaking to us, but rather whether we are listening to Him. With personal examples, some astonishing and some prosaic, Greig describes the different ways in which our God communicates with us. There are exercises to help us hone our listening skills and stories of outstanding results in the lives of well-known Christians to encourage us. Greig uses the story from Luke 24 of the disciples who met the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. On this framework he explains how we can hear God through the Bible, through encountering Jesus, through prophesy, and many other ways. At Book Club we discovered that we were often already hearing God but not always realising it.

There is a copy of 'How to Hear God' in the Christ Church library at the back of the church. Do borrow it and then return it for someone else to read.

Bev



Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

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