

Connected

Sunday 21st December 2025

4th Sunday Of Advent

Each family seems to have its own traditions when it comes to Christmas presents. Some will have them ready and wrapped since October and others of us will still have wrapping on the 'to do by Christmas' list! And where do we put them all ready - under the Christmas tree or somewhere else?

Of course, the gifts we give and receive are reminding us of the gift that God gave each of us. Not simply an 'expensive' gift but a gift that cost him everything in giving us the very life of His Son, Jesus.

Philippians 2 tells us of the magnitude of what Jesus did in coming to our world; a journey which started on Christmas Day.

I pray that you have a peaceful and hope-filled Christmas - that you enjoy giving and receiving gifts - but, most of all, that you discover again the wonder of God's most amazing, wonderful gift to us in His Son, Jesus.

Happy Christmas!

Tom



Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Matthew 1: 18-25

In an old interview, John Lennon was quoted as saying, "Life is what happens when you're making other plans."

In this week's readings, we're looking at some people whose lives take a direction they never expected. God is at work in the unexpected.



Verse For The Christmas Season

"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

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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



Mary, the mother of Jesus, is (rightly) recognised as one of the Christian 'greats'. Yet it is easy to forget that she was a very young (probably very early teens) girl. And, being a woman in that society, meant she would have scarcely been noticed.

And yet, insignificant as she might have felt - God saw her and was able to use her wonderfully.

Come on Sunday to find out a little more...



Emmanuel
Luke 1: 26-38, 46-55

Sermon Snippets

Thursday 25th December
Christmas Day

Christ Church

Matthew 1: 18-25

One of the excitements of Christmas Day is giving and receiving presents; and we all hope the gifts have been well-chosen.



God gave us the best present of all – come and find out on Christmas Day why his choice was so good.

Emmanuel

Luke 2: 1-14 +
Titus 3: 4-7

Love came down at Christmas. Christmas is the celebration of the birth that brings sure and living hope into the world.



Sunday 28th December
1st Sunday Of Christmas

Christ Church

Luke 2: 22-40

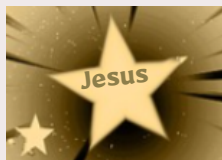
By 28th December you should have had time to unwrap all your Christmas presents. Did you get any nice surprises? Or did you get something you're not sure you will use? And did you get what you really wanted?

We look today at two people who got what they really wanted that first Christmas. Why were they so pleased and how did they know it had arrived? Perhaps we will learn about waiting with patience and discerning when we get something we really needed.

Emmanuel

Matthew 2: 1-12

The wise men were following a star. What do we follow (or influenced by) in life. There are always choices and the best choice is to seek and follow Jesus.



Sunday 4th January
2nd Sunday Of Christmas

Christ Church

Matthew 2: 1-12 (ICB)

Every year at our Nativity Service, I smile to myself as the dads, grandads, uncles, and brothers are reluctantly cajoled into dressing up. Last to arrive... we often end up with fifteen wise men in our stable scene... sparkly robes and wonky crowns! Late again! ...or are they? Are they actually a picture of us? Reluctant, often going the long way round, needing encouragement and cajoling... not late at all but getting there in the end.



Emmanuel

Jeremiah 31: 7-14 + John 1: 10-18

As we continue to celebrate the Christmas season we'll be thinking about God's great work of salvation in Jesus. The Hebrew scriptures, time and time again, speak of God as One who offers compassionate redemption and abundant blessings. The prophet Jeremiah points the way and leads us to the realization picked up in John's Gospel - that God is with us.



Christmas Prayer Pointers

Prayers For Christmas Week

Give praise and thanks to our Eternal Lord Christ who, in great humility, was born of the Virgin Mary and became human for our salvation.

Pray that Christmas in your family will be a time of joy, harmony, and fellowship. But, as you join in the worship of the angels for the great joy of Christmas and for all the pleasures of the festive period, don't forget to bring before God in your prayers all for whom Christmas brings no happiness: the homeless who must spend the Christmas period on the cold streets; those with no family or who have recently been bereaved for whom this is a lonely time; and the sick, who must spend Christmas in hospital or undergoing treatment.

Prayers For New Year Week

As we arrive at the end of the year, give thanks for all God has done for you in the year now ending: for healing in times of illness; for protection in times of danger; for fellowship in times of need.

Ask for God's blessing on anyone known to you for whom this has been a sad year and pray that they will know his presence with them as they face the future.

In these unstable times, pray for the peace of the world in the year ahead and pray for leaders of the free world - that God will grant them wisdom and guidance.

Give thanks to God, who is the same last year, next year, and forever. And in whose hands our future is secure.

Prayers For Epiphany Week

The Feast of the Epiphany is when we recall the arrival of the wise men, guided by a star. Praise God for those who have been the 'star' in your life - those who first led you to Jesus and all those who have given guidance on your spiritual journey.

The gifts of the wise men, incense and myrrh, remind us of the culmination of our Saviour's earthly life. Give thanks to the Lord Jesus for his suffering for us and for death and resurrection. Gold is a precious gift that is bright and does not tarnish - praise God for his precious gift of the Holy Spirit and pray that, in the year ahead, he will grant you a faith that is bright and never fades.

What's On...

Friday 19th December

Carols By Candlelight at 7pm at Emmanuel

Sunday 21st December

Carols By Candlelight at 6pm at Christ Church

Monday 22nd December

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 23rd December

No Parish Prayers this week

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 24th December

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Nativity Service at 4pm at Christ Church

Midnight Communion at 11:15pm at Christ Church

Thursday 25th December

Family Communion at 10:30am at Christ Church

Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel

No Craft & Chat this week

No Welcome Group this week

Monday 29th December - Friday 2nd January

No groups/events being held this week

(save for The Beacon on Tuesday 30th December)

Sunday 4th January

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm in The Spire Centre
(Theme: Setting Our Sights On A New Year)

Monday 5th January

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 6th January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 7th January

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Thursday 8th January

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 10th January

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

Sunday 11th January

Families Together at 12noon in The Spire Centre

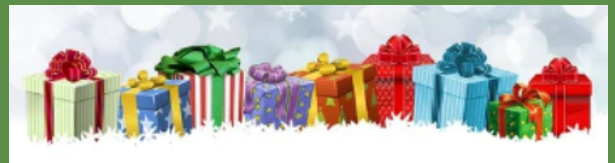
Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel

Coffee after the Service...

Christmas Morning At Christ Church

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Christmas Day Family Communion at 10:30am as we celebrate the birth of Jesus all together as a Church family.

If you would like to bring along one of your Christmas presents to the service on Christmas morning to show Tom & the congregation please do so!!



Congregational Christmas Cards

There is a 'message board' near the south door at Christ Church if you would like to send a card to the whole church family.

Please do take a look on the board &/or add one of your own.

Evening Prayer Service

**Sunday 4th January
6pm in The Spire Centre**

Setting Our Sights On A New Year

We would love for you to join us at 6pm on Sunday 4th January as we look forward to the new year which lays before us.



We are holding a reflective service which will give us the opportunity to prepare for all that may occur as we navigate the days to come.

Terry

Christmas Notices!

Christmas Cards

Please check the pigeon holes for Christmas cards!

Church Office Closed

The Church Office is now closed. It will re-open on Monday 5th January at 9:30am.

More coffee anyone...?

Christingle Service

All ages were there - families with children, yes, but also adults without children. It felt like family coming together. All were fully engaged in the service and, when those lights dimmed and the candles were lit, silence fell - and it felt like we all took a breath and paused...
...just for a moment...

...and it was beautiful.

Nicky



THE CRAFT & CHAT GROUP ENJOYED A FESTIVE GET-TOGETHER FOR THEIR FINAL SESSION BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS BREAK...



explore

life
faith
meaning



Our next Alpha course will be starting on:
Wednesday 14th January
7pm in The Spire Centre

It is designed for anyone who would like to explore the faith a little... maybe you have a family member or friend or colleague who you could invite along?

If so, please do be in touch with either Tom or Sian.


THANK YOU

For all those who are involved in music and worship in our churches...

On Wednesday 24th December, the Diocese will be praying for all those who are involved in music and worship in our churches using the following prayer from the monthly Diocesan Prayer Calendar:

Creative God, we give thanks for all who help people worship you through music over this Christmas time. We pray that, through the gift of music, something of your incalculable love may be felt and understood. Amen.

With thanks for all that you do through music to draw others into worship.

REPAIR CAFE

THE FIRST REPAIR CAFE OF 2026 WILL BE HELD ON:
SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY
FROM 10AM-12:30PM
AT CHRIST CHURCH



12noon-1:30pm
Sunday 11th January

(family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

The 1st Families Together of the new year will take place on Sunday 11th January... bring your own lunch. Nicky will provide cake and drinks. Please let Nicky know if you are planning to come.

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