

# Connected

Sunday 11th January 2026

1st Sunday Of Epiphany

## OUR VERSE FOR 2026

**Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

ISAIAH 40 V 28, 9



**Emmanuel**  
CHURCH



## Sermon Snippets

### Christ Church

*Isaiah 40: 21-31*

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God...". These words were spoken by Isaiah to an Israel in exile. In truth, the Israelites did know and they had heard... but, in their defeat, they'd forgotten. It can be easy when life is busy, or even when we're dealing with disappointment, to take our focus off God and who He is. Perhaps even a little like Israel had?

Our 'Verse For The Year' starts with these words and my prayer is that we'll be encouraged to put God back at the centre of our lives... and, in doing so, to (re)discover the fathomless nature of His energy, strength, and love.

Maybe 2026 is an opportunity for you to do just this? The Diocese is encouraging us to make this year one of prayer... we can use that to pray for our and others needs. But also, I wonder if you might like to use this challenge to spend a few moments each day lifting your eyes to see the wonder of your God? You might like to use some of the verses from Isaiah 40 as a start.

Happy New Year and may this wonderful God bless you.

*Tom*



## Emmanuel

Matthew 3: 13-17

At the start of this new year, as we remember Christ's baptism, we remember our own baptism, in which God takes hold of us and grafts us into his family, forever. And rather than making some unkeepable new year resolution, let us open ourselves afresh to the Holy Spirit, so that we can share in his mission and become the people he created us to be.

# What's On This Week

## 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

## Monday 12th January

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

## Tuesday 13th January

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

## Wednesday 14th January

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Holy Communion at 10:30am at Emmanuel

Alpha Welcome Supper at 7pm in The Spire Centre

## Thursday 15th January

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

## Saturday 17th January

Ambassadors Group at 10am in The Spire Centre

(*'Singing For Fun' with Abie Evans*)

# Prayer Pointers

**Monday:** Today is 'Plough Monday', a tradition performed in farming communities of blessing the land to ensure good soil fertility in the year ahead. Pray for all who labour to provide food for our table. Join with them on this day in asking God for a good year for agriculture, particularly in the light of last year's unfavourable weather conditions that caused so many problems and loss of income for farmers.

**Tuesday:** Pray for men and women who, through this year, will have influence on society - for those who frame and administer our laws and, increasingly, those who shape public opinion through social media. Pray that they recognise their responsibility to the country and influence for good not evil, for truth not falsehood.

**Wednesday:** Pray for God's protection over our brothers and sisters who are refugees or displaced within their own country. Ask for the Lord to be with them and to send the Holy Spirit to give them fortitude as they try to build new lives.

**Thursday:** This day marks the birth of Martin Luther King. Let us pray that his 'dream' of racial equality and harmony will be achieved. Pray for all like him who strive peacefully for human rights and the freedom of the oppressed.

**Friday:** Pray for those in countries afflicted by natural disasters, remembering especially Jamaica (ravaged by hurricane in November) and south- east Asia (where there were serious floods last month). Pray for the provision of food, medicine, and shelter for those who have lost homes and belongings.

**Saturday:** Midwinter is a time of illness and risk of accident. Pray that the Lord will watch over elderly and vulnerable members of our congregations and keep them safe through the winter months. Give thanks that He has brought you yourself safely through this week, and kept you warm, comfortable, and well fed.

## 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*

" Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

*Isaiah 40: 28-29*

# Coffee after the Service...



## Children's Ministry Team Training.

Our church family is blessed with a growing number of families and children. Those children are growing and our ministry needs to grow with them. We need to build our children's ministry team!

If you are interested in joining the team but don't feel equipped for the role, we are running two training sessions. Nicky and the current team will be there, and we'd love for you to join us. Angeline has a huge amount of experience in training for children's ministry and will be leading sessions after the morning services on Sunday 25th January and Sunday 22nd March. The sessions will cover topics such as: planning; teaching; engaging through senses; discipline; team expectations.

Everyone involved will be asked to bring their own lunch and we will begin the sessions at 12:30pm. We'll provide refreshments for break time and each session should last around two hours.

Please do be in touch with Nicky if this is something you would like to be involved in: [family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)



## Prayer Activities Box

As part of the Diocese's initiative on prayer this year, a "prayer activities box" is going round our Deanery...

...and we are having it on Friday (16th January)!

Do come, for some 45 mins, and join Bev and myself at 10:30am at Christ Church to see what the box suggests and to pray!

Tom



## 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



Our Alpha Welcome Supper is being held on Wednesday 14th January at 7pm in The Spire Centre

If you are interested in attending this year's course, or would like to bring someone along, please do be in touch with Tom or Sian.

## Contact Details

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

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



12noon-1:30pm

Sunday 11th January

Bring your own lunch, Nicky will provide the cake and drinks!  
Please let Nicky know if you would like to come:  
[family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

## REPAIR CAFE

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

# More coffee anyone...?

## Christmas Cards!



If you have not recycled your Christmas cards yet, the Craft & Chat group would be happy to take these - just pop them in the plastic box at the back of Christ Church over the next week or so.

**Ambassadors**  
**Saturday 11th April**  
**Weston Playhouse**  
**42nd Street**  
**(Matinee)**  
**Ticket Price: £27.50**



Join the Ambassadors Ladies' Group on an outing to watch 42nd Street at Weston Playhouse in April.

If you would like to attend, please sign-up by the end of January. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of Christ Church or, for those at Emmanuel who would like to come along, please contact Elaine Fairs or Emma in the Office.

## **Ambassadors Group**

**Saturday 17th January**  
**10am-12noon**  
**The Spire Centre**

'Singing For Fun' with Abie Evans (no musical knowledge needed - just a fun session for everyone!)

Please pop your name on the sign-up sheet if you would like to come along or, for those at Emmanuel, please contact Anne Jones.



## **Active Men's Group**

### **Darts Evening**

**Saturday 31st January**  
**Allstars Sports Bar**  
**(Regent Street)**

**Time: tbc (likely 7pm)**



Join us for an evening of darts! Further details will follow in due course.

If you would like to attend, please sign-up on the sheet at Christ Church or, for those at Emmanuel, please contact either Paul Sodzi or Emma in the Office.

## ACTIVE MEN'S GROUP WALKS



THE 'ACTIVE MEN' TEND TO MEET FOR A WALK ONCE A MONTH (USUALLY THE 3RD THURSDAY). PLEASE HAVE A WORD WITH DAVE MILSOM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED - HE CAN KEEP YOU INFORMED AS TO DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS, ETC. OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

## Life Group Spaces

Hooray! We now have spaces in some of our Life Groups!

Last summer we were completely full but now we have two new groups and plenty of spaces... so have a word with Bev/Penny or Tom and we will look for the best fit for you. It's a great informal place to learn more about the Bible and being a Christian; and a lovely chance to get to know people better.



## **Some Sad News...**

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

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

Details of his funeral will follow in due course.