

Connected

Sunday 18th January 2026

2nd Sunday Of Epiphany

Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Have you ever had a reaction you weren't expecting? Israel did and it must have been the most wonderful surprise. After generations of disobedience and warnings from God, they now find themselves (deservedly) in exile.

So, what does God first say to them now... maybe "I told you so"? No – his words are some of the most beautiful in the Bible.



Come along / tune in to find out.

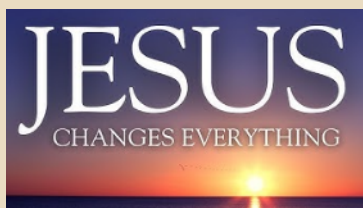
Michael Beasley, our Bishop of Bath and Wells, is visiting us for two days and he is starting with preaching on this passage. Do come and hear what he has to say!

Emmanuel

Isaiah 49: 1-7 + John 1: 29-42

A dozen verses in John 1 reveal immense discoveries about who Jesus is. For John the Baptist, Andrew and his friend, and for his brother, Simon - indeed everyone with eyes to see - Jesus changes everything. He still does.

What do you and I see in Jesus?
What is he asking of us - you and me - today?



Parish Giving Scheme

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who make financial donations to Christ Church. In 2025, donors gave just over £10,000 per month. We also benefit from the Gift Aid scheme through which the church can reclaim the tax that donors (who are taxpayers) have paid, and this brought in an additional £24,000 last year. Our thanks must go to Audrey Flew who manages Gift Aid claims.

A number of donors have switched the method of their giving to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). We can use this scheme at no cost – it's funded centrally by the Church of England – and it offers several features that make it attractive.



Both myself, the Treasurer, and Audrey Flew are volunteers in our roles and, if donors switched to the PGS, it would make our lives easier!

The PGS can be used by both taxpayers and non-taxpayers and the PGS manages all Gift Aid claims on behalf of the church, saving considerable work. Donations, which are taken by Direct Debit on the first of each month, arrive in the church bank account in one monthly lump sum which is beneficial to me as Treasurer. Also, donors have the option of setting up automatic annual inflationary rises, but this is optional. The amount donated each month can be changed anytime by making a phone call or accessing your account online. Donations can be anonymous if that is preferred.

I'm asking all current and potential donors to consider switching their giving to the PGS. Twenty donors have already made the switch and these changes have gone through smoothly. Donations can be either for the General Fund or to support Nicky Boardman, our Family Ministry Worker.

David

For the continuation of this article, please see 'Coffee after the Service...' (on page 3)...

What's On This Week

Saturday 17th January

Ambassadors Group at 10am in The Spire Centre
(*'Singing For Fun' with Abie Evans*)

Monday 19th January

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 20th January

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

Wednesday 21st January

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church
Alpha Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre
(*for those who have signed up*)

Thursday 22nd January

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

Sunday 25th January

Children's Ministry Training at 12:30pm in The Spire Centre

Notices

Verse For The Year Bookmarks

'Verse For The Year' bookmarks are available at the back of both churches 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 Week

"Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit." I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One.' "

John 1: 32-34

Prayer Pointers

Monday

The world is, at present, in a very disturbed state, and numerous countries suffer from poor and corrupt leadership. Pray that, in time, justice and democracy will ultimately reign.

Tuesday

In these countries (as above), many innocent people suffer hardship, lack of food, lack of water, a lack of a reliable energy source, and poor housing. Pray for their wellbeing and that improvements will come.

Wednesday

In this country we have a health service which maybe we sometimes take for granted. Think of those countries which do not have such services or facilities. Pray for people who struggle to get the most basic care and give thanks for our own good fortune.

Thursday

We pray that world leaders will act in a considered way. Not for wealth or territorial gain, but for the welfare and benefit of all people.

Friday

We continue to plunder our world of resources. Over-fishing, destroying large tracts of land for mining of minerals, and destroying habitats. Whilst, Lord, you have given us this world for our use, show us how we can better respect your creation.

Saturday

The situation in Gaza has not gone away. So many are living in temporary accommodation. It is winter and relief aid is not reliable. Pray for relief of the situation and that true peace will come and rebuilding will begin.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Coffee after the Service...

Continued from the front page...

To get started on the PGS – please have your bank account details to hand – you can either:

- phone PGS on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

You will need to quote our Parish name: “Weston-super-Mare Christ Church” and our Parish code: 010 601 339. This call usually takes about 10 minutes to complete. PGS will then send you confirmation of your new gift by post or email.

- complete online using [this link](#).



Please note that your first PGS donation will leave your account on the first of the month and it takes a week or so to set things up. If you are an existing donor via a bank standing order, you will need to instruct your bank to end that standing order. If you have any questions on timings or any other aspects of the scheme, please speak to David White or make contact via the Office. If you ‘miss’ a month’s donations between your existing bank standing order and the PGS, David would be happy to take a card payment donation at your convenience!

We have a FAQ available [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read this through and for all of the donations made to Christ Church, of whatever kind and by whatever route.

David White
PGC Treasurer

Thoughts On Our Verse For The Year

The sermon and the verse for the year resonated with me particularly last Sunday. I can testify to God giving strength to the weary and power to the weak as, due to three major operations in sixteen months, I went from being fairly active to being extremely weak and weary at a level I have never known before.

I am of an optimistic nature and generally look on the positive side, but I have to confess there were days when it was hard to do that and I wished that God would have strengthened me a bit quicker!

I can say wholeheartedly though that, without the Lord, the last eighteen months would have been so, so much harder.

Pat



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: **Sunday 25th January** and **Sunday 22nd March**.

Everyone involved will be asked to bring their own lunch and we will begin the sessions after the morning service 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

Terry Hadley's Funeral

The funeral for Terry Hadley will be held on:

Wednesday 4th February
at 2:30pm at Christ Church

All church family are invited.



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.

More coffee anyone...?

Ambassadors Women's Group Programme Winter/Spring 2026

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

Saturday 17th January

Singing For Fun with Abie Evans -
no musical knowledge needed,
just a fun session for everyone

Saturday 21st February

Social breakfast
9:30am at The Beefeater

Saturday 21st March

Gentle Dance for everyone
with Kerry Searchfield

Saturday 11th April

42nd Street
2:30pm at Weston Playhouse
(sign-up required by end of January)

Saturday 16th May

Walk along Seafront &/or Coffee
10am at Revo

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



Active Men's Group Programme 2026

*(events with no time or venue
listed are currently "to be
confirmed" / further information
and sign-up sheets will be made
available nearer the time)*

Saturday 31st January

Darts Evening
Allstars Sports Bar

Saturday 28th February

Men's Breakfast
8:30am-10am at Christ Church

Saturday 25th April

Men's Breakfast
8:30am-10am at Christ Church

Saturday 30th May

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Saturday 26th September

Oakham Treasures

Saturday 31st October

Men's Breakfast
8:30am-10am at Christ Church

Saturday 28th November

Curry Evening

Walks generally take place on
the third Thursday of each
month - please see Dave
Milsom if you would like to
be notified of these

Any questions please contact
Paul Sodzi, Dave Milsom,
Keith Hallett, or Geoff Fish

Active Men's Group Darts Evening Saturday 31st January Allstars Sports Bar (Regent Street) Time: 7pm



Cost: £5
per head

Food &
drinks can
be ordered
at the bar

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

Ambassadors

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



*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
Emma in the Church Office.*

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