

Connected

1st Sunday Of Lent

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Evening Prayer Service - Lenten Healing & Wholeness

Having started with Ash Wednesday, we're now into this season of Lent. It's a time to reflect on our Christian lives and seek to build them up. Although it's good to do that at any point in the year, there's something about a season which helps us take the opportunity it offers rather than always leaving it as a good intention.

Next Sunday is the 1st March and our evening service (6pm at Christ Church) will be a Healing & Wholeness Service to help us reflect together. We'll be thinking about Psalm 103. In particular, we'll be thinking about the fact that we, in the full scope of creation, are so small and our lives are so temporary - almost that 'we are dust'. Now I know that may sound a bit derogatory to many of us! However, the writer's intention is to compare our smallness and the shortness of our lives with the everlasting nature of God and His love for us. It's not meant to depress but to encourage!

And so, this Lent, I pray that you will know a little more of how you fit into God's plans and His fathomless love for you.

Tom



Christ Church Isaiah 56: 1-8

(Anglican Communion presided over by URC Minister)

This week's reading highlights a huge turning point in Israel's history. As we meet them in Isaiah 56, God's people have been granted their freedom from enslavement in Babylon and so are returning to their homeland. Far from being the happy ending some of them may have been expecting, they now face huge challenges ahead but, luckily for them, God is not finished with them. This return is the start of something new and the challenge, if they're willing to accept it, is to embrace this new start and open themselves up to God's leading in a new, more inclusive way.

Sermon Snippets



Emmanuel

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
+ Matthew 4: 1-11

"Did God really say...?" - Have you ever thought this? It was asked in the Garden of Eden and has weaved its way through history. Even Jesus had this question planted in his mind. As we enter this period of Lent, we'll see what we can learn from the way Jesus responded, to help us keep trusting God.

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Sermon Snippets

CHRIST CHURCH

ISAIAH 43: 18-19 (ICB)

CHANGE CAN BE DIFFICULT!

THIS PASSAGE IN ISAIAH REMINDS US THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE LEARNT FROM THE PAST, GOD IS ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING NEW... BUT DO WE SEE IT? ARE WE LOOKING FORWARD? ARE WE READY TO SEE THE NEW THINGS GOD IS DOING WITH US?



Emmanuel

John 3: 1-17 + Psalm 121



Nicodemus, steeped in the Hebrew scriptures, meets Jesus.

How does he respond to Jesus' teaching, and what does it mean to us today?

Notices

Church Office Closed

Please note that the Church Office is now closed. It will re-open at 9:30am on Wednesday 4th March.

Tom Unavailable

Please note that Tom will be unavailable from Monday 9th March til Wednesday 11th March inclusive.

Verse For The Fortnight

“ Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43: 18-19

Prayer Pointers

MONDAY: During this season of Lent, nature gives us a picture of renewal, with plants bursting into life and breathtaking colours through countless varieties of flowers. The miracle of seemingly dead seeds having to fall into soil to bring new life. We pray that, inspired by Christ's words, we will have the willingness to die to self and to daily have openness to Christ's resurrection life producing an abundant harvest.

TUESDAY: Lord, we pray for all those who give up family life and their natural homeland to serve you. May we remember them weekly, informed by our church notices.

WEDNESDAY: We pray for our much-valued Life Groups - our leaders and our members - trusting that they are growing in real fellowship and gaining a deeper understanding of God's Bible truths.

THURSDAY: Father God, alongside our personal spiritual growth we give thanks for new families drawn into our congregation. We pray that they may feel your love through our practical expressions of that love and rapidly have opportunity to add their own gifts to our church ministry in our two parishes.

FRIDAY: Lord, we thank you for regular Christian fellowship - our men's and ladies' breakfasts, meals, and a variety of other activities. We pray that you will continually inspire us to work hard to always be totally inclusive, especially towards those who are not part of families and therefore living on their own.

SATURDAY: Lord, we thank you for opportunities to witness to your love and comfort through the funeral services offered in our churches and the fellowship afterwards. We pray that the Easter message of resurrection life may ring true, bringing ongoing comfort, especially this coming Easter and every year.

Recent Prayers From The Monthly Diocesan Prayer Calendar:

Loving God, renew churches in Locking Deanery with a vision of your kingdom, where all things are made anew. Through your Holy Spirit, give vision to their planning, wisdom to their actions, and power to their witness. Help your church serve the community - growing in leadership, numbers, and spiritual commitment. Amen

Loving God, during this season of Lent, we pray for those leading Lent groups across our Diocese, helping people to deepen their faith in you. We give thanks for their ministry and ask your blessing on it. Amen

What's On...

Saturday 21st February

Ambassadors' Breakfast at 9:30am at The Beefeater
(for those who have signed up)

Monday 23rd February

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 24th February

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 25th February

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Alpha Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre

(for those who have signed up)

Thursday 26th February

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 28th February

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

(for those who have signed up)

Sunday 1st March

Evening Prayer Service at 6pm at Christ Church

(Lenten Healing & Wholeness Service)

Monday 2nd March

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 3rd March

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 4th March

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Alpha Course at 7pm in The Spire Centre

(for those who have signed up)

Thursday 5th March

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

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 7th March

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

Sunday 8th March

Families Together at 12noon in The Spire Centre

Deaf Church at 3pm at Emmanuel

Coffee Mornings at Emmanuel

The first Coffee Morning
at Emmanuel will be on:

Saturday 7th March
from 10:30am-12noon



NB/ there will be no Coffee
Morning in April but they will resume on the
first Saturday of the month from May onwards.

Coffee after the Service...

Funerals

The following funerals will be taking place
at Christ Church this week:

Barry Lester
Monday 23rd February
at 3pm

Barry Sutton-Jones
Friday 27th February
at 10:30am



Helen Morrissey - Arrow Course

A number of you will have recently heard from one of our mission contacts at Christ Church, Helen Morrissey, who works with international students at Exeter University. Currently there are about 6,000 international students.

She is starting a Christian leadership course - "Arrow" - which has an excellent reputation. Our previous curate, Bekah, has been doing the course and has really valued it. The course costs around £3,000 and we are launching an appeal to see if we can help cover some of those costs.

If you'd like to give, please click on the following link:
<https://givealittle.co/c/HelenMorrisseyArrow>,
or use the QR code (shown below or in church), or put your gift in an envelope in the collection plate marked 'Helen Morrissey'.

Thank you so much. *Tom*



12noon-1:30pm
Sunday 8th March

Please let Nicky know if you are planning to attend
(family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

More coffee anyone...?



Church Directories

Work on the new Church Directories is underway. Please see last week's Connected for more information with regard to these.

The current draft copy of Christ Church's Directory will be out at the back of church again this weekend - please do check this and follow the instructions provided with regard to approving/amending your individual entries.

If you are not currently in the Christ Church Directory but would like to be, please see Emma in the Church Office or one of the Wardens who can supply you with a consent form to fill in.

Men's Breakfast - Christ Church

Saturday 28th February from 8:30am-10am



Last chance to sign-up this weekend... please add your name to the sheet if you would like to attend. Or contact Paul Sodzi.

Mothering Sunday At Emmanuel

Mothering Sunday is on 15th March. We will be making posies at 10am in Emmanuel hall on Saturday 14th March. Everyone is invited to come and help and bring flowers and greenery.



BRIDGWATER CONVENTION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

13TH & 14TH MARCH 2026

Friday 7pm-9pm
Saturday 9:30am-4pm
Ticket price: £20

For more info and/or to book tickets:
www.bridgwaterconvention.com

Theme:
A Biblical Pattern For
Christians Working
Together

See last week's Connected for further details regarding the event.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

We Look Forward to Welcoming You

Nigeria 2026

10.30 am

St Peter's Church, Baytree Road,

BS22 8HG

2.00 pm

St John's Church,
Lower Church Road,

BS23 2AG



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

Brenda Hobden's Funeral

Many of you will have known Brenda Hobden. We are sad to inform you that Brenda passed away recently.

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

If you would like to attend, the funeral is due to be held at Weston Crematorium on Wednesday 4th March at 12:30pm.



Contact Details

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