

# Connected

*Two Churches, one Lord*

## Christ Church and Emmanuel

Weston-super-Mare



### *This Week...*

- Details of Christmas Services
- Christmas Invitations
- Church in Tier 3
- Other Christmas Notices

### *Verse For The Week*

But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

*(Matthew 6 : 3,4 - NLT)*

### *Watch today's service*

at [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)

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

### Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)  
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)  
(8.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)

e: [office@ccwsm.org.uk](mailto:office@ccwsm.org.uk)  
w: [www.ccwsm.org.uk](http://www.ccwsm.org.uk)



It's beginning to look  
a bit like Christmas...

Now that the second lock-down has finished, at least some members of our two churches will be able to celebrate Christmas in church. For those who are not able to attend in person, services at Christ Church will be 'live-streamed', which means you will be able to watch them via the Christ Church website or on a smart TV. [Click on this link](#) to go to the Sunday Services page of the website where each of the live-streamed services will be shown. See page three for more details of all the services in December.

Because of Government guidelines, we will unfortunately need to restrict the number of people attending services. The Christmas 'special' services are always popular, so if you'd like to attend one of these at Christ Church, it will be essential to contact Phil in the Church Office to book seats. We would hate to have to turn anyone away if they don't have spaces booked!

In addition, Bev has written a helpful piece - please have a look at this on page four. It's called Church in Tier 3.

*(Many thanks to Martin for the picture of Bing Crosby wearing a face mask)*

## Sermon Snippets

*Matthew 6: 1-4*

### Worldwide Fame

What do you think it's like being world famous? How would you go about becoming known all over the world?

We will look this morning at a surprising 'celebrity' and how they became so famous. It may influence how you behave as we approach Christmas.

# Prayer Pointers

Lord, we pray that you will encourage and support all those suffering with Covid-19. May they and their families know your peace and constant presence.

We pray for all Carers in Care Homes and the community, and NHS staff in hospitals as they cope each day with more people who are ill or dying, and also as they try to continue seeing and helping those who have other health issues as the waiting lists get longer.

We pray for so many in the world who are struggling to live in war or natural disaster situations while Covid-19 is all around them. We pray for all those who have fled or are fleeing these situations and are now having to live in huge refugee camps with food shortages and no life outside their tents.

We pray for our archbishops and bishops, especially Bishop Peter having chemotherapy, that they will receive Your guiding light to help lead us all. We also pray that you will grant wisdom to Tom, retired clergy and readers at Christ Church and Emmanuel as they put together our services on-line and now in our buildings.

We pray for Boris Johnson, our Prime Minister, and his advisors as they endeavour to lead our country through this pandemic, trying to find the right solutions to prevent greater spreading of the virus. We pray that people will be careful and abide by regulations to prevent further unnecessary suffering.

## *ROC Christmas Celebration*

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) will be holding a Christmas Celebration Service in partnership with the Pier. This will be broadcast online for people in Weston to sign into. The dates have yet to be finalised.

Please pray for the event preparation, logistics and delivery, and let your neighbours and friends know about it. More details will follow soon.

Dave and Penny Hynds write: *"We will be putting together a montage for a few minutes showing the various initiatives that people have done – but we need your help. We ask that you send us several one-sentence stories of what you have done along with photos. Please check that anyone in the photo has consented to it being used in a short video within the service.*

*Please send stories to [Editor@goodnewspost.org](mailto:Editor@goodnewspost.org)"*

# Notices

## *Office Closed Monday 7th December*

The Church Office will be closed on Monday 7th December. However the lobby will be open for you to collect Christmas Invitations (see page 4) and Bible Notes (see Barry's notice below). The church will also be open for private prayer from 09.00 - 12.00 as usual. If you want to contact the office to book seats for Christ Church services, please either email the office or phone and leave a message.

## *Salvation Army Present Appeal*

The Salvation Army are very busy at this time of year, giving out food parcels and providing 'meals on wheels' amongst other initiatives.

This year they are also collecting toys to give to children as gifts in their Christmas Present Appeal 2020. More details can be found on the [Salvation Army website](#).

I have checked with the local church leader, Major Teresa Harris, who said that they are a participating church in this appeal. If you'd like more local information, Teresa can be contacted on (01934) 425134. You will probably need to leave a message.

## *Bible Notes*

The January 2021 Bible Notes have now arrived from all three publishers and may be collected from the table in the Christ Church foyer during normal office hours (8.30 - 12.30), or during services, up to Sunday December 20th. Any remaining in the box after that date will be delivered before January 1st, by whatever means is available.

## *Christians Against Poverty Donations*

If you happen to be shopping online on Amazon, there is a list of charities that you can ask for a donation to be sent to. CAP is listed as one of those charities.

## *Poinsettias at Emmanuel*

At Emmanuel, we will be decorating the church windowsills with Poinsettias as usual. For those who would like to, please bring your plants to the service at 10.30 this Sunday (6th December) to have them placed around the church where they will stay until Christmas.

# Coffee (and mince pies!) after the Service...

## Christmas Services

Here's a list of all the services at our two churches from now until the start of January:

Date	Time	Christ Church		Emmanuel
		Services	Notes	Services
Sunday 06 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service	booking not required	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service	booking not required	Morning Service
Sunday 13 Dec	from 2pm*	'Walk-through' Nativity*	please reserve a time to arrive for this service	
Friday 18 Dec	7pm			Carol Service
Sunday 20 Dec	10.30am	ONLINE SERVICE	No service at Christ Church	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 Dec	5pm	Carol Service 1	seats need to be reserved for this service	
Sunday 20 Dec	7pm*	Carol Service 2*	seats need to be reserved for this service	
Thursday 24 Dec	4pm	Christingle Service	seats need to be reserved for this service	
Friday 25 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Communion	seats need to be reserved for this service	Christmas Communion
Sunday 27 Dec	10.30am	ONLINE SERVICE	No service at Christ Church	Morning Service
Sunday 03 Jan	10.30am	Morning Service	booking not required	Holy Communion

\* note - these two services will not be live-streamed

There are a few points to note:

- It will not be necessary to reserve seats for any of the services at Emmanuel.
- Please be aware of the services at Christ Church shown above for which seats need to be reserved. Phone or email Phil at the Church Office to do this to avoid disappointment.
- The services at Christ Church, with the exception of the Nativity on the 13th and the 7pm Carol Service on the 20th, will be available to view online. You can watch the services either on the Christ Church website or by accessing them via a Smart TV if you are used to using that. To view services on the website, either [click this link](#), or go to Sunday Services under the Church Life heading.

### *It Begins in Bethlehem - A Walk-through Nativity*

This year our Nativity Service will look very different. To make sure that it's a safe event for everyone, household groups will need to contact the office in advance to book a time to arrive (these slots will be at 5 minute intervals). Groups will need to wait in a socially distanced line to come in and then use the hand sanitiser. Masks must be worn.

You will be welcomed and (following our one way system) sent to 'Mary's house', where you can stand and hear her tell you the first part of the amazing Christmas Story...she will then send you on to hear from Joseph in his workshop, then Shepherds and Angel, Star Watcher and finally one of the Bethlehem Townsfolk will draw it all together and send you on your way with a copy of the story for each child. We can't dress you up this year but you are invited to come in your own Nativity Costume! Tea Towel head dresses are a must!

Nicky

# Another mince pie, anyone?

## Church in Tier 3

It's been quite a shock to suddenly find ourselves in Tier 3. What does that mean for us when we go to church from December 6th?

We are happy to say that we can still go to church and things will be much the same as they were when we went to Sunday Prayers in the Autumn: masks, hand gel, one-way system and social distancing.

However, we need to be extra careful of a couple of things – we can no longer attend with, or sit next to, anyone who is from a different household unless they are in our own support bubble.

Also, we still can't sing in church unless we are in a choir. It will be very tempting to join in when we hear our favourite carols, but please do your best to restrain your enthusiasm and next year we will give it some proper welly!

Bev

## Invitations to Christmas Services

Invitations to our Christmas services are now ready for collection from the Christ Church lobby. Instead of asking people to deliver to every property in our two parishes, we are suggesting that people take a few to give out personally to friends and neighbours.

However if you still feel you would like to deliver to your entire road, please let Phil in the office know so that enough cards can be printed and also that we can avoid delivery duplication!



The Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker invite you to a:

## Virtual Parliamentary Carol Service

on Tuesday 15th December from 5.00–5.45pm

Christians in Parliament so appreciate and need our prayers, and this is a great way of supporting them. It is easy to register and there is an opportunity to click on the button to be kept up to date each term for particular issues they would like prayer for.

[If you would like to join us, please register here.](#)

Meg

## Advent Window of Light

Remember the piece about this two or three weeks ago? Well, Nicky has been blessing her street with a new window. Here's a photo of it:



It's not too late to have a go yourselves and bless your street with the message of Christmas Hope.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1: 5)*