

Connected

Sunday 9th May 2021
6th Sunday of Easter

After over a year of not meeting and Facebook Live sessions direct from 'Nicky's House' our group was finally able to meet up and play in the Church garden. It's not an ideal space with it's big slopes and bumps but we found the flat parts and played on those! We met the bears - Clever Trevor and Silly Billy, who wanted to build a house and read the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. We played with sand, water and toys, sang songs and then took home a craft pack. The Mums and children have missed the interaction that groups like ours provide. It was really good to be together! Weather depending, we will do it again next week!



Christ Church baby and toddler group meets outside!



Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

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

Prayer Pointers

Monday

On this Rogation Day we offer up, as is the tradition, prayers for God's blessing on the fruits of the Earth and all who labour in agriculture so that the crops this year will be bountiful; also, we offer prayer for the parish and all within the parish bounds who are in need at this time.

Tuesday

Last week many parts of the country held local elections: Pray for the new councillors, assuming office in this stressful period, that God may grant them wisdom and discernment.

Wednesday

Following such a difficult time for commerce over the last year, pray that the traders and businesses of our town will have a successful summer, and that people will feel safe to shop and holiday in Weston.

Thursday

Today is Ascension Day: Give praise for Jesus' glorious Ascension to sit at the right hand of the Father and be our Advocate in Heaven. Offer thanks for all the times in your life your prayers have been answered through Him.

Friday

Pray for charities, whose income has been so reduced during the pandemic, that they will be able to achieve their previous levels of fund-raising and volunteering.

Saturday

As we progress to the next phase out of lockdown on Monday of next week, pray that church life will soon be back to normal and our two churches will resume a full and active Christian witness in Weston.

Mission Partner News

If you would like a copy of the latest newsletter from the Morrisseys, which contains detailed prayer requests now that they have returned to the UK, please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

Notices

Annual Church Meetings

This is a reminder that the new dates for our Annual meetings are as follows:

- Christ Church - Monday 24 May at 7.30pm
- Emmanuel - Sunday 06 June after the service

The Electoral Roll at Christ Church has now closed. The deadline for Electoral Roll applications at Emmanuel is Sunday 16th May.

Do you enjoy researching?

Phil is looking for a willing volunteer to help with a series of pieces for *Connected*. If you like doing simple internet research and have a bit of spare time, could you please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office. Thank-you.

Good Homes Wanted

We are moving house and hoping to go to a retirement flat on the sea front. Consequently we have quite a bit of 'stuff' to get rid of. Here's a list of the sorts of things we are having to let go of:

- All the garden tools.
- DIY tools to include electrical planer, Stanley hand planer, electrical power saw, tiling kit, painting & decorating items, step ladders, assorted spanners, chisels, saws etc.
- Plastic plant pots of assorted sizes.
- Large dining table & 6 chairs.
- Denon compact sound system, cd player with two speakers.
- Assorted books.

Donations please with a percentage going to Christ Church. Please contact Tony on (01934) 622793.

Many thanks.

Tony & Shirley

Coffee after the Service...

He Makes Beautiful Things Out Of Us

Our God is a God of transformation. He takes us just as we are and makes us all that we can be. He's like a master craftsman that finds an old piece of driftwood, takes it home and whittles and shapes it into something beautiful. In His hands we are transformed, from the inside out. God is not just for eternal life, that eternity starts now as He reshapes us, changes us, and smooths edges off us. He enables us to put off the 'Old man' and put on the new. Those who are 'In Christ' are a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come (see 2 Cor 5:17). That newness takes time and effort to develop, both ours and God's. But gradually, we lay down, lose and reject our old ways of being, thinking and doing, and start gaining wisdom and understanding. As we do, we start adopting His ways of being, thinking and behaving, so that we become more like Jesus. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that 'A Christian's life should cause non-believers to question their disbelief that God exists'. The change that takes place in us should be evident to others. The Bible is full of people who were transformed; Peter from someone who denied Jesus to becoming the rock on which the church was established. Paul was transformed from a persecutor of Christians to passionate Advocate for the Lord. And God wants to transform us too. If we let Him, He will. Let's work with Him and be transformed!

Courtesy of the Christian Gift Company - www.thechristiangiftcompany.co.uk



Sermon Snippets

We hear today about the apostle Paul in a very different context from Israel. In Athens there wasn't one God worshipped - nor even several - the place was packed full with idols!

Although we don't have gold and ivory covered marble idols as these Athenians did, I wonder if our society isn't full of more subtle idols which take our attention away from God? Money? Fashion? Beauty? Entertainment? Not that all of these things are bad in themselves... until they take too much of our attention that we start treating them as the guide for how we live our lives.

Paul was distressed at what he saw. Are we concerned for others caught up in our society and distanced from God? Who do we pray for?

And also... how about you and me? Is our faith a bit like an RE lesson in our school timetable where we spend a few minutes doing "the God element" and then move on to another lesson forgetting much of what we've learnt? Or is our faith in a God who is over all of our life? Is He the same sort of God that Paul preached to the Athenians?

Verse For The Week

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."

Acts 17: 24

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