

# Connected

Sunday 5th September 2021  
14th Sunday after Trinity

## Sermon Snippets

*Genesis 12: 1-9*

### Blessed to be a Blessing..

The focus for our services on the first Sunday of the month has been a journey through the book of Genesis. Chapters 1-11 are filled with the stories of Creation, The Fall, Noah, Babel and lists of family trees. At the beginning of chapter 12 the focus narrows. The stories of creation and global humankind suddenly zoom in on a single man: 'Now the Lord said to Abram...'

God asks Abram to leave his home and we read that he does just that. But God also makes a promise to him. He promises a blessing. The blessing was that Abram, who was already 75 years old and had no children, would be the father of a huge family who would inherit the land God was leading him to, and also that this blessing would bless others.

Spoiler alert!... God keeps his promises! This blessing is pure grace – given to Abram for no reason that we are told in the passages that come before and as you read through your Bibles you will find that this blessing is fulfilled most fully in the coming of Jesus.

In the same way that God blessed Abram, by his grace, he blesses us. Being blessed by God does not mean being happy all the time, being rich or having lots of possessions. It doesn't mean having an easy life. When God blesses you he is making you into everything he ever meant you to be – it's all part of a much bigger plan and it might sometimes mean waiting and it might mean going through difficult times. And, just like Abram, he blesses us to be a blessing to others.

I wonder if we can think about the blessings, that the Creator of the universe has given to us. I wonder if we can change how we think about those things that might not seem like blessings right now. I wonder if we can focus in on how we react to and use those blessings, and how that might bless others and ultimately, show them Jesus. We are blessed to be a blessing.

## Re-Grouping!



Now that Lockdown restrictions have eased further we are very happy to say that the various groups and activities associated with Christ Church and Emmanuel will be restarting during the next few weeks.

On page 3 there is a list of the groups and the start dates that we are aware of so far. Some are starting this week, so do have a look at the 'What's On This Week' section on page 2.

In addition to the groups listed, there are a number of 'Life' Groups which will be meeting at various times throughout the week. These are wonderful opportunities to meet together to learn more about how we can apply God's word in our lives and to support each other with prayer and mutual encouragement. If you'd like to join a Life group, please either speak to Bev, or contact Phil in the Church Office.

Please do pray for these groups - for God's love to be lived out in all that they do, for opportunities to reach out to people around them, and for joy and fellowship to be experienced.

## Verse For The Week

"I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing."

*Genesis 12: 2)*

## Prayer Pointers

### Monday

As we give thanks for what we gained from our Sunday services, remember all who were unable to join us in church: the ill, the aged, those caring for others, those who must work. Pray that they may all feel the unseen fellowship of our worshipping community.

### Tuesday

Pray for children as the new school year gets underway. Pray that the year ahead will be uninterrupted by lockdowns, so that they may have stability in their education.

### Wednesday

Give thanks that we are now singing hymns of praise in church once more. Thank the Lord for all the great hymn writers of the past whose words and music so move and inspire us.

### Thursday

Pray for those who have few friends and for whom loneliness is a daily burden. Pray, as we have been asked, for five people you know who have yet to discover the friendship of Jesus, that he will reveal himself to them.

### Friday

Pray for our churches, that the Lord will help us to move forward from the restrictions of the last eighteen months. Give thanks that God has sustained our church community throughout the pandemic.

### Saturday

As summer draws to a close, in your prayers recall all the blessings of the summer months: for holidays and sun, for beautiful things seen, for sport and leisure, for happy times spent with friends and loved ones; praise the Lord.

## What's On This Week

### Sun 05 Sep

Prayer for our environment starting at 6pm at Christ Church.

### Tue 07 Sep

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel Church.

### Wed 08 Sep

Book Club at 7pm at Christ Church.

### Thu 09 Sep

Welcome Group at 2.30pm at Emmanuel Church.  
Craft & Chat at 2.30pm in the Spire Centre.

### A Message from Pat

*"Words seem inadequate for expressing my love and gratitude for all the help I've received over the last few weeks. I've been uplifted beyond measure by messages in various forms, visits, flowers, cards, practical help and prayers. A lot of hard work behind the scenes culminated in a memorial service which brought tears and laughter, and which I felt gave John the send-off he deserved. I treasure my church family, and thank you all from the bottom of my heart."*

*pat*

### Office Closed

Phil is on leave for the week starting on Monday 06 September. Jane has kindly offered to come in periodically and check for any urgent emails and phone messages. In addition, Dawn has kindly offered to produce next week's edition of Connected. If you have anything that you would like to include, please email this to Dawn directly.

## *Watch this Sunday'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.

# Coffee time after the Service...

## Groups Restarting

- Tue 7th Sept**     **The Beacon.** An opportunity at Emmanuel Church for the homeless and vulnerable in our town to have a chat and lunch.
- Thu 9th Sept**     **Welcome Group.** An open social group at Emmanuel Church for anyone who would like to attend. Includes coffee, board games and occasional talks.
- Thu 9th Sept**     **Craft & Chat.** A relaxed afternoon in the Spire Centre. Bring your craft projects for a time of crafting, tea and chat!
- Mon 13th Sept**    **Ladies Together.** Enjoy and develop friendship, and find encouragement in our Christian faith. We meet in Christ Church.
- Tue 14th Sept**    **Parish Prayers.** A time to pray at Emmanuel Church for the needs of our two parishes.
- Thu 14 October** **JaM Club.** A fun time in Christ Church for children of primary school ages, with games, Bible stories and much more.

Other groups will be starting in the very near future, but dates haven't been finalised as yet:

### **Men's Group**

A group that meets in the Spire Centre for tea, cake and chat with a short look at the Bible.

### **Seedlings Midweek Group**

This new group will replace the Baby & Toddler Group. Still for the same age group, there will be Bible stories, songs and lots of craft and games.

### **Meeting Point**

Tea and toast, games, and Bible study looking into challenging topics and questions young people aged 11+ might have about faith. We will meet in the Spire Centre.

### **Repair Cafe**

Bring your small electrical items, clothing, toys, jewellery, bicycles, etc, for repair. We have skilled volunteers willing to advise and assist with repairs. Enjoy a cuppa too. To be held in Christ Church.

## What's going on here?



Last Saturday, 8 of us attended a day-long training which included First Aid and how to use a defibrillator. It was a very informative day and although we had to take a test at the end, we all hope to attain our certificates!!

*Hilary*

I am grateful to David & Stella for sending in the following notice seen at the entrance to a church somewhere in France:  
*(the notice has been translated into English)*

As you enter our Church it might be possible you will hear the "Call of God".

It is extremely unlikely however He will call your mobile. Therefore we thank you for turning off your telephones.

If you should you wish to talk to Him, find a quiet place to sit and speak with Him. If on the other hand you should wish to see Him text to:- Jeremiah 33:3 – Whilst Driving!

## Contact Details

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