

# Christ Church Higher Bebington



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

**Sidespeople today:** Tracy O'Connell, Matthew O'Connell, John Rogers, Rose Rogers.

**Next Week:** Derek Fogg, June Fogg, John Theobald, Judith Renton.

This morning Pam Hollinshead will preach at our 10am Parish Communion service.  
Weekly sermons are available on the church website: [christchurchbeb.org.uk](http://christchurchbeb.org.uk)

HYMNS

<i>Processional</i>	358
<i>Gradual</i>	470
<i>Offertory</i>	209
<i>Communion</i>	5 & 486
<i>Recessional</i>	336

## Prayer of the week:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## Thoughts for the week

What does it mean to know God as our Father?  
To know God as the Father is to know that He is  
the source, the unique initiator, and that  
everything originates from Him and proceeds out  
of Him.

*(Eph. 4:6; Matt. 15:13; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6)*  
*Watchman Nee*

Where there is faith, there is love;  
Where there is love, there is peace;  
Where there is peace, there is God;  
And where there is God; there is no need.

*Leo Tolstoy*

Love has a name. JESUS  
Love has a place. Our hearts.  
Love has a story.  
And it's not finished yet.

*unknown*

Traditionally, advent has been a time for reflection, prayer and study. Please have a look at the new resources available on the bookcase at the back of church. Also, Advent extra booklets are now available at the back of church priced £2.

**Advent Carol Service** by  
Candlelight with a vigil of hope  
for Manchester at  
**Chester Cathedral**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6.30pm**

Sam and Eunice thank everyone for making their birthdays so special. Donations totalling £358.50 will be passed onto Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

**Church Christmas Cards** are here and waiting for volunteers to kindly distribute around the Parish. It would be great if we could get them all out by next Sunday!  
Many thanks.

The first reading is from Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no-one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No-one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins for ever.

Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Coffee Club  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon

Choir practice on  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 7-8pm**  
in church.



Connect Coffee **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 9.30-11.45am**  
All are very welcome.

Knit & Natter  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**December 1.30pm**



**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
**12.30pm**  
Befrienders Lunch in  
Troughton Room



Reading Group in Storeton Room  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm - 3.30pm**



**The Lewis Club** reading group will next meet at **7.30pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** at the Vicarage when we will continue to look at C S Lewis' Screwtape Letters. All are very welcome.

Mothers Union are collecting cash donations to buy Christmas presents for women in the Women's Refuge.

If you would like to donate please see Margaret, Ann, Heather or Liz.



Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 13:24-37

**Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus said: "In those days, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

"Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Advent Course - So what are you waiting for? 3 weekly sessions on time and waiting for God **Thursdays 2.00 – 3.30 pm** in Troughton room.

Please see Eunice for more details; sign up sheet at the back of church.

**Oasis members please note** – we will not be having a meeting in December. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.**

All house **group members** please note:- there will be an **end of term social** for all house group members, their partners and family members, **on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, at the home of Roy and Barbara Mayers. Quarry Lodge, Village Road.** Christmas snacks, drinks, and great company! Any queries please see Jill Wright.



**Sheep in shops** - we still have some sheep waiting to be shepherded to local shops. Please speak with Mike or Victoria if you are able to help with this important outreach.

**Christmas Day Lunch** - numbers are picking up and we will probably need some more volunteers to prepare, cook and deliver vegetables on Christmas morning. Raffle prizes would also be gratefully received. Many thanks.

"Unusual Christmas presents" women's Refuge, Forum Housing, and now Wirral Change who support the Syrian refugees here in Wirral all express a need for nappies! If we could collect packets, size 2 upwards we can make a delivery by Christmas. Please put them in the box in the foyer if you can help. Many thanks.

Our Christingle service is on  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.**  
Please do tell family, friends and  
neighbours about our special  
seasonal services and events.

The Vicarage Christmas party is on  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** following the Christingle  
service (around 5.15pm) Please do  
come along for a glass of something  
warming, festive nibbles and maybe  
even a dance in the basement!

**Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.** Our traditional service of  
lessons and carols is on Please let Philip, Eunice or June Fogg know if you'd like  
to get involved with the choir or music group and speak with Mike  
if you'd like to read.

We have had some problems with our standing order forms this year.  
A revised version is available at the back of church.

**Called to Serve** is a great opportunity to come and find out more about how you  
might serve God and the church. People at all different ages and stages offer  
themselves for Church Army, Ordained, Pastoral Worker, and Reader. It is an  
opportunity to listen to what you think God might be asking you to do. The event is  
free and held at our Diocesan Retreat and Conference Centre, Foxhill, just outside  
Frodsham, on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 9.00am -3.00pm**

It includes lunch, but booking is essential via Peter Bacon at Church House  
([peter.bacon@chester.anglican.org](mailto:peter.bacon@chester.anglican.org) or 01928 718834 ext 237)

**Funerals last week:**

Irene Ada Lloyd, Lily Edith Rock and Marion Peters.

Anniversaries: Ethel Jean Duncan, Eileen Kay, Rita Fawcett, John Hilton Bamforth,  
Dorothy Dalziel, Thomas Harford, Christine Langley, Linda Evans,  
Eric Dodson, Tony Mazzone.

If you have a concern or a thanksgiving for which you would appreciate prayer please come forward to the  
Lady Chapel after the service where a member of the pastoral team will pray confidentially with you.

**Prayer List:** Sharon Beecham, Ann Bisbrown-Lee, George Bond, Helen Byrne,  
Yvonne Cranny, Elsa Dowling, Nora Duncan, Denise Foster, Mary Garland,  
Paul Goulden, Simon Hayes, Pam Hollinshead, Lyndsey Howard, Richard Kelly, Wendy Martin,  
Brenda McGrattan, Lorraine Petropoulou, Rita Quine, Jeffry Robinson, Sheila Rogers,  
Joanne Russell, John Russell, Julie Scarsbrook, Ina Shorrocks, Janet Shorrocks, Sam Smith,  
Ann Tait, Keira Taylor, Judy Tomlin, Jackie Turner, Keelin Turner, Kathleen Whittaker,  
Whittaker Family, Cliff White, Cara Elise.

Vicar: Rev. Mike Loach 0151 609 0943 [mgloach@gmail.com](mailto:mgloach@gmail.com)  
Curate: Rev Eunice Blackmore 0151 648 5343 [euniceblackmore@talktalk.net](mailto:euniceblackmore@talktalk.net)  
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