

Christ Church Higher Bebington



Sunday 10th December 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sidespeople today: Derek Fogg, June Fogg, John Theobald, Judith Renton.

Next Week: Jim Wallace, Janet Wallace, Gill Cook, John Champion.

This morning Rev Eunice Blackmore will preach at our 10am Parish Communion service. Weekly sermons are available on the church website: christchurchbeb.org.uk

<u>HYMNS</u>	
<i>Processional</i>	98
<i>Gradual</i>	307
<i>Offertory</i>	401
<i>Communion</i>	72&73
<i>Recessional</i>	196

Prayer of the week:

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

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.

Thoughts for the week

We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.

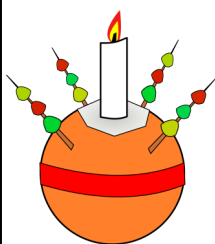
A W Tozer

The wisest prophets make sure of the event first.

Horace Walpole

... And yet John seems hard to know, hard to like even though we stand back in admiration of him. We react the same way to most absolute figures."

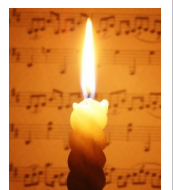
Eugene Kennedy, Joy of Being Human



Our Christingle service is **tonight at 4pm**. Please do tell family, friends and neighbours about our special seasonal services and events.

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17th at 6.30pm.

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.



The first reading is from Isaiah 40:1-11
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.
A voice of one calling:
"In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands for ever."
You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"
See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



The Vicarage Christmas gathering is **tonight** 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!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” –

“a voice of one calling in the desert,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his

message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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 11th 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.

Tuesday 12th December Film Morning will be showing

'Paddington 1' at 10.30am.

£3.50 admission to include unlimited light refreshments.



Choir practice on **Tuesday 12th December 7-8pm** in church.



Connect Coffee **Wednesday 13th December 9.30-11.45am**

All are very welcome.

There will be a reunion of Holy Land Pilgrims **the morning of Wednesday 13th December.** We will be joining Rev Mike for communion in church at 10.30am followed by coffee in the Community Centre about 11.30am. Alan Jackson will be showing us some Pilgrimage photos on the big screen. Coffee Connect will close at 11.45am but we will be able to carry on meeting until about 1pm. (You are welcome to bring a packed lunch). Any queries please see Jill Wright.

Christmas Day Lunch Planning meeting on **Wednesday 13th December** at 7pm in Storeton Room. Do come along if you are able to help in any way or speak to Mike.



Reading Group
in Storeton Room
Thursday 14th December
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Advent Course on **Thursday 14th**
December 2.00pm
in Troughton Room

Thirsty Thursday in the Traveller's Rest from **9pm** on **14th**. All are very welcome.

Ladies 'Bring and Share' Christmas party **15th December from 7pm**. Being held at Tracy O'Connell's house 3 Rotherwood Close. Please contact Tracy or Vicki for further details.

"Unusual Christmas Presents! " Women's Refuge, Forum Housing, and 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.



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

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

Forthcoming funerals :

Thursday 14 th	10.00am	Phyllis Owens	Christ Church
Monday 18 th	2.00pm	Marjorie Byrne	Christ Church

Anniversaries: Richard Powell, Eunice Annie Gateland, Stanley Bacon Rivers, Derek Harris Griffiths, Ruth Hayward, Roger Hawney, Audrey Cundall, John Tindsley, Doreen Sloman, Dorothy Buckley, Clarence Wood, Roy Gummerson, Albert Pleavin, Arthur Brian Collins, John Rowan.

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.

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