

Christ Church Higher Bebington



Sunday 3rd February 2019

5th Sunday before Lent/Presentation of Christ

Sidespeople today: Fiona Murphy, Joan Rippon, Heather Whitehead, Liz Bird.

Next Week: Barbara Mayers, David Evans, Diane Shaw, Terry Cunningham.

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

HYMNS

<i>Processional</i>	448
<i>Gradual</i>	428
<i>Offertory</i>	329
<i>Communion 1</i>	<i>Philip</i>
<i>Communion 2</i>	<i>to play</i>
<i>Recessional</i>	142

Boulders will meet in the Kings Hall during the **10am service today.**

Noisy Church **today** at **4.00pm** for pre-school aged children and their families.



Work to remove the Leylandii trees from the churchyard has now been completed and landscaping of the new space has begun. Any donations for new trees would be warmly received!

Prayer for the week:

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Thoughts for the week:

Spiritual identity means we are not what we do or what people say about us. And we are not what we have. We are the beloved daughters and sons of God.

Henri Nouwen

“Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.”

Brennan Manning

We have one function in life: to be the manifestors of His life to the world. Only when we are living His life are we truly living our own! This is the reason for our creation.

Malcolm Smith

The first reading is from Malachi 3:1-5 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?
 For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.
 Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.
 This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Monday 4th February 9am Start the Week with Morning Prayer.

The Arklight project has started! Numbers for the first few nights have been low but this is expected to increase. Thank you for so many offers of help. Eunice will be confirming with you which Mondays/Tuesdays your help is required. Please sign a Volunteer agreement form (copies at the back of church) if you are coming to help and give to Rev. Eunice or Sarah Loach.



Tuesday 5th January at 6.30pm.

Pause & Pray in church



Wednesday 6th February
10.00am-12.00noon
 Connect Café in the Kings Hall.
 All are very welcome.

Wednesday 6th February
at 1.30pm
 Knit & Natter in Kings Hall.
 All are very welcome.



Thursday 7th February 12.30pm Befrienders Lunch in Troughton Room



Friday 8th February at 2.00pm.
 Art Café in Kings Hall. All are welcome.



Beb Shed is open for new members every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am - 1pm.
 Anyone interested, please come along.



Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2: 22-40) NIV

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons.")

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Thanksgiving envelopes - for the next couple of weeks we will be thinking about the resources God has entrusted us with and how we might use them in responding to Jesus' command to "love God and love each other". As part of this, we will again be thinking about what it means to "Give in Grace" and we'd like everyone to collect an envelope from the Centre foyer containing further information on how we might understand this. Many thanks.

Diane Shaw would like to say a great big thank you for all the kind donations of children's toys and games for the Christian Aid Attic Sale. It was a tremendous response and very generous. Over £180 was raised on the toy stall, with an overall total of £755!



The next Men's Supper Club will be a fish & chip supper in the Troughton Room on **Wednesday 20th February** at **7.30pm**. Please let John Theobald know if you would like to come. (645 1083). All are welcome.

Ladies Night at the Acorn **Friday 22nd February 7.00pm**. All welcome!

June Fogg recently visited one of the local nursing homes to discover that some residents who do not have family living locally often run out of basic toiletries. Anyone willing to donate items, please leave them in the box marked Acorn House in the church foyer or pass them to June. Many thanks.

To all at Christ Church, thank you so much for your generous leaving gifts and all your good wishes on my retirement. Love and best wishes to you all, Judith Nederlof.

Without wishing to cause alarm, we are aware that there have been several local burglaries and car thefts recently. Even if you have a self locking door, it's worth locking it with a key from the inside overnight. It's also advisable to take your house and car keys upstairs at bedtime. Too many of us leave them near the front door where they are easily found by unwanted visitors. Better to be safe than sorry.

Funerals last week: Margaret **Shirley** Taylor, Olive Jones

Anniversaries: May Holden, George Hirst, Muriel Morris, Bill Banks, Helen Jane Warwick, Alfred Taylor, Louisa Murray, Prem Neermul, Peter Anthony McNicholl, Irene Clegg, Maurice Entwistle, Kay Sloman, Edith Jones, Tom Reece, Mary Haslam, Karen Anne Wilson, Joyce Roden, Yates Entwistle.

Prayer List: Sharon Beecham, Ann Bisbrown-Lee, George Bond, Roger Bunn, Yvonne Cranny, Elsa Dowling, Nora Duncan, Denise Foster, Cara Elise Hartt, Sylvia Haswell, Simon Hayes, Pam Hollinshead, Lyndsey Howard, Anne Jones, Ted Jones, Richard Kelly, Kathleen Mary Malcolm, Wendy Martin, Brenda McGrattan, Heather Millington, Caroline Murphy, Eunice Pass, Lorraine Petropoulou, Rita Quine, Sheila Rogers, Joanne Russell, John Russell, Lynn Scott, Ina Shorrocks, Janet Shorrocks, Sam Smith, Ann Tait, Keira Taylor, Roisin Terris, Jean Thelwell, Jackie Turner, Keelin Turner, Whittaker Family.

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