

Christ Church Higher Bebington



Sunday 2nd May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Christ Church! We are all one in the Spirit!

This morning, Rev Mike Loach will lead and Reader in Training, Helen Byrne will preach at our 10am live-streamed Parish Communion service.

HYMNS

God is Love

Be still and know that I am God

And can it be

Prayer for the week

**Risen Christ, your wounds declare
your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage to
risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen**

Thoughts for the week:

This earth is our God given home, and the creator cares about his house-guests' behaviour.

Dave Bookless

Through your radical surrender to God you will be freed from sin and become a deliverer of other people, a breath of fresh air for those you meet, a servant of all, a source of life, expectation and hope.

Anon

If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress.

Barack Obama



Christian Aid Week. 10th to 16th May. This year, we have set up our own e-envelope page, where we can donate as a church to Christian Aid. Our target this year is £500. Please use this link to take you to that page, and pass the link on to people you know. <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/christ-church-higher-bebington?channel=copy> Alternatively, use the Christ Church giving page or Christian Aid paper envelopes. Many thanks.

A Summer Community event is being planned for **Saturday 10th July**, in place of the traditional Summer Fair. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks.

The first reading is from Acts 8: 26-end. (NIVUK)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means 'queen of the Ethiopians'). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

There will be no Morning Prayer on
Monday 3rd May 9am.

Tuesday 4th May 9pm
Celtic Prayer via Zoom.
Details from Helen Byrne.

Wednesday 5th May 10.30am Holy Communion in church.



Church Walking Group. Please meet Jill Wright and Penny Golby, in the church car park, on **Thursday 6th May at 10.30am** for our second walk. We will be heading towards Brackenwood, through Hancock's wood, returning at lunch time. Penny will lead a shorter version. Please sign list at back of church. Details from **Jill Wright Tel 792 3668 or mob:- 07748480821**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

(15: 1-8) (NIVUK)


The vine and the branches

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.


Praise to you, O Christ.

 Thursdays at 8.15pm to discuss. Please contact Rev. Eunice for the Zoom details. Session 4: Holy Saturday Where is God when heaven is silent? will be on **Thursday 6th May**.

Rev Mike and others will be fasting for the day on **Friday 7th May** to raise funds for the Yemen Emergency Fund Appeal and to show solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters who are observing Ramadan. Should you wish to support Mike, there is a sponsorship form at the back of church. or donations can be left at the Parish Office.

Every Friday evening, at 7pm, weekly quiz via Zoom open to the whole family. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Tracy: traocon@googlemail.com

QUIZ

 **Eco Pledge:** Amazon’s own Climate Pledge Friendly scheme awards itself a pat on the back for items such as single use batteries and disposable wipes, because the criteria includes ‘efficient’ use of packaging. If you want to avoid shopping with Amazon, look at <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/ethical-campaigns/boycott-amazon/shopping-without-amazon>

Friendship Weekend 28th-31st May 2021. Due to a cancellation there are now 2 places available on this weekend which would suit a couple or 2 singles. Cost is £185 per head for the hotel and £44 per head for the coach. **Anyone interested please contact Jill Wright [Tel:- 792 3668](tel:7923668) /[mobile:- 07748480821](tel:07748480821) or email:- jill.wright3@homecall.co.uk**

Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative will run from Ascension to Pentecost (13th - 23rd May) with opportunities to pray together both here and at St. Paul's. A full list of times is available on the church website and at the back of church. Prayer resources for personal use will also be available.



Knit & Natter will be meeting in the Kings Hall from **Wednesday 19th May at 1.30pm**. Social distancing rules will apply. All are very welcome.

Choir rehearsals will take place on **Thursdays at 2pm** in church starting on **20th May**. All are very welcome.



The Book Club will meet again on **Wednesday 26th May at 8.00pm**. The book for this month will be 'Orthodoxy' by GK Chesterton. To find out more, speak to Rev Mike.

Forthcoming funerals:

Tuesday 4 th May	1.00pm	George Edward Bond	Christ Church
Thursday 6 th May	11.30am	David Thomas Spencer	Christ Church
Wednesday 12 th May	11.00am	Joan Collins	Landican Centre
Tuesday 18 th May	12 noon	Joseph Patrick Molloy	Christ Church

Funerals last week: Glenda Laurie, Geoffrey Heaps, Nora Duncan.

Anniversaries: Sheila Holcroft, Elsie Roche, Beryl Preston, Doris May Thwaites, Stephen Michael Berry, Audrey Smith, Cuthbert Cave, Doris Bolton, Albert Edwin Grey, Sidney Davies.

Prayer List: Shirley Anderson, Cliff Barr, Sharon Beecham, Ann Bisbrown-Lee, Yvonne Cranny, Mavis Duggan, Mary Garland, Cara Elise Hartt, Simon Hayes, Pam Hollinshead, Linda Hopkins, Lyndsey Howard, Charlotte Jones, Ted Jones, Richard Kelly, Paul Lewis, Jim Lloyd, Holly Martin, Wendy Martin, Brenda McGrattan, Will McElroy (age 6), Helen Nealy, Rita Quine, Diane Randles, Mike Robinson, Howard Rogers, Joanne Russell, John Russell, Harry Scarsbrook, Janet Shorrocks, Audrey Smith, Barbara Smith, Ann Tait, Keira Taylor, Roisin Terris, Jackie Turner, Keelin Turner, Malcolm Wheatley, Ron White, Theresa Whitfield, Whittaker Family, Lyndsey Wild, Mark and Roy.

Vicar: Rev. Mike Loach 0151 609 0943 mgloach@gmail.com
Associate Minister: Rev. Eunice Blackmore 0151 648 5343 euniceblackmore@talktalk.net
Curate: Rev George Roach 0151 645 4258 roachglr@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Victoria Gleave 0151 608 4429
parishoffice@christchurchhigherbebington.org.uk
Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9.00am to 12.30pm
Website: www.christchurchbeb.org.uk