

Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 18th February 2024
1st Sunday of Lent



Sidespeople: Ny & Dave Gibson
Next week: Mike Thorne & Judith Renton

Welcome to Christ Church! We are all one in the Spirit!
This morning Revd. Eunice Blackmore will lead and Pam Hollinshead, from our Ministry team, will preach at our 10am Parish Communion service.

HYMNS

- 361 O for a heart to praise my God
- 120 Father hear the prayer we offer
- 145 Forty days and forty nights
- 532 We have a gospel to proclaim

Prayer for the week

**Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers
of darkness, and grew closer to
you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow
in wisdom and prayer that we may
witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Thoughts for the week:

"It is very true," said Edmund. "But even a traitor may mend. I have known one that did." And he looked very thoughtful."
- C. S. Lewis

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."
- Henri Nouwen

"Fasting is a practice that frees us from the chains of this world, allowing us to hunger more freely for God."
- Allene van Oirschot

Jean Lippiatt will kindly be selling home-made pies and cakes in the King's Hall after this morning's service. Please bring appropriate containers to take home your purchases.



A big thank you to all those who worked so hard in our gardens yesterday morning. We will be in the garden again every Wednesday from 1.30pm-3.00pm - see you there! Thank you.

The first reading is from 1 Peter 3: 18-22 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1: 9-15
Glory to you, O Lord (NIVUK)

The baptism and testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Jesus announces the good news

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Winter Warmer Event: A big thank you to everyone who helped set up, attended and supported this event on Friday evening.

Experience Easter Planning Meeting: - The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th March** at 12.30pm in the Troughton Room.

Regular Activities at Christ Church

Monday 19th February	9.00am	Start the week with prayer	
	1.30pm	Sit Fit - chair based exercises	
	5.00pm	Music Group	
Tuesday 20th February	10.30am	Singing Café	
	12.30am	4Cs Carers' Group	 4Cs
			
Wednesday 21st February	10.00am	Connect Café	
	10.30am	Holy Communion	
	1.30pm	Knit & Natter	
	1.30pm	Garden Gang	
	12.30pm	Prayers for Peace	
Thursday 22nd February	1.30pm	Sit Fit - chair based exercises	
	2.00pm	Choir practice	
	2.00pm	Bereavement Journey course	
Friday 23rd February	12 noon	Lunch Club	
	2.00pm	Bridge Group	

4Cs Carers Group - Tuesday 20th February - 12.30pm

The speaker is Julia Metcalf, a Police Officer with the Community Support team, who will talk on the subject of Scam Awareness. She will bring us up to date regarding the dreadful tricks that scammers might use to steal our savings. Our group will enjoy meeting Julia and we would like to invite other members of our church community to join us.



Co-op Charity Cake sale - Wednesday 28th February - 10.00am-12 noon
Co-op Academy students are holding a cake sale as part of our regular Connect Coffee morning. They would love to have lots of customers!
Please do support them if you can.



Kids Crafty Church - Wednesday 28th February
3.30pm-5.00pm Suitable for ages 4-10, accompanied by an adult. £2 per family.

Rose Queen Fashion Show and Pop Up Shop

Friday 1st March, at 7.00pm (doors open at 6.30pm).

Shop your favourite High Street brands at 50% off or more. This is a Rose Queen fundraiser.

Tickets (£5) now available from the Parish Office.



Opportunities to further explore our faith:

We are now able to offer several groups that meet regularly for fellowship and discussion around matters of faith. All are very welcoming and friendly and are open to everyone...

2nd & 4th Mondays of the month:

3pm - 4.30pm: Led by Pam & Rev Mike in the Troughton Room

7pm – 9.00pm: Led by Helen & Diane at 3 Rotherwood Close (though the next meeting is on 19th February!)

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month:

8pm - 9pm: Led by Ian, Colette & Rev Eunice on Zoom

In the coming weeks, the **Monday groups** will start watching "The Chosen", a drama series about the life of Jesus, and the **Thursday group** will be using the "Watch & Pray" Lenten booklets.

In addition, starting on **Monday 18th March** at 7pm, Rev Mike will be leading a monthly **Bible study group** attempting to read the books of the New Testament in a year! The first session will be on the Gospel of Mark and all are asked to have read this in advance. If you'd like to join in with this, please sign the sheet at the back of church.



In the 6 weeks of Lent, Wirral Foodbank will provide emergency food parcels for local people and families facing hardship. They would be very grateful if you could donate an item or two from their shopping list:- chocolate, tinned meat, tinned fruit, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, tinned rice pudding and tinned spaghetti. Any donations can be left at the parish office.

Funerals last week:

13th February: John Albert Royden; 15th February: Margaret Philpotts

Anniversaries:

Jean Crawford, Joan Harris, Hilary Jones,
Norma Richley, Peter Salmon, John Theobald,
Malcolm Brown, Isobel Audrey Williams.

Prayer List: Finley Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Rob Bell, Ian Buckley, Eloise Cook, Julie Crosbie, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Linda Evans, Deborah Ferguson, Geoff Hall, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty, Arthur & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Jim & Maureen Lloyd, Will McElroy, Geoff Newns, Grahame Owen, Dave Price, Rita Quine, Sam Roach, Howard Rogers, Jenny Russell, John Russell, Janet Shorrock, Yvonne Slerman, Audrey Smith, Barbara & Steve Smith, Theresa Smith, Roisin Terris, Amelia Trenbirth, Gill & Terry Walters, Jane & Malcolm Wheatley, Linda & Ron White.

Vicar: Rev. Mike Loach 0151 609 0943 [mgloach@gmail.com](mailto:mглоach@gmail.com)

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