

Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 28th April 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

Sidespeople: Rhona Snelson & Bev Price
Next week: Fiona Murphy & Gary Shaw



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

This morning Revd. Eunice Blackmore will lead and Pam Hollinshead, Lay Reader, will preach at our 10am Service of the Word. This will include an interview with Colette Millington, from our Ministry Team.

The service will be followed by Communion at 11.30am.

Please also join us this evening at 6.30pm for Sung Evensong

HYMNS

242 Immortal, invisible God
only wise

My Jesus, my Saviour

I am the vine

30 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:

“The essence of ‘vine work’ is the powerful, Spirit-backed speaking of the message of the Bible by one person to another. The call to discipleship is thus a call to confess our allegiance to Jesus in the face of a hostile world; to serve him and his mission, whatever the cost.
- Tony Payne and Colin Marshall

“Surely, we believe in God, but more importantly, God believes in us.”
- Jeff Lowe John 15:15

“The branch has but one object for which it exists, one purpose to which it is entirely given up. That is, to bear the fruit the vine wishes to bring forth.
- Andrew Murray

Today is Revd. Mike's final service as Priest-in-Charge at St Paul's, Tranmere. Mike has held the reins there for almost four years and is now stepping back in order to try to secure a full-time priest for the parish. Please pray for all concerned as they begin this process.



Praise and Play -
Sunday 5th May
at 4.00pm

Topic: “God's creation”
All things bright and beautiful”.

The first reading is from Acts 8: 26-40 (NIVUK)

Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. ³¹ 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ 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?' ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.**

Singing cafe



**Concert on Tuesday 7th May
at 10.30am in the Kings Hall**

Roadshow with performances by
the very talented musicians
from the various Singing Cafés.

Free entry, donations for
refreshments and plenty of raffle prizes
to be won.

We would be grateful for any donations for
raffle prizes. Please leave these at the
Parish Office. Thank you.

**Experience Volunteers
Bring and Share Lunch**

All Experience volunteers
are invited to a bring and
share lunch on **Wednesday
8th May at 12.15pm.**

This will be an opportunity
for feedback and discussion
re ideas for future
Experiences and to see
photos of Experience
Easter. Please sign the
sheet at back of church.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15: 1:8
Glory to you, O Lord. (NIVUK)

The vine and the branches

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 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.

5 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. 6 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. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 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.**

Regular Activities at Christ Church

Monday 29th April



9.00am

Start the week with prayer



9.30am

Toddler Group

1.30pm

Sit Fit—chair-based exercises

Tuesday 30th April

1.00pm

Digital Skills - Improvers

Wednesday 1st May



9.30am

Baby Group



10.30am

Connect Café

10.30am

Holy Communion

1.30pm

Garden Gang

1.30pm

Knit & Natter



Thursday 2nd May

12.30pm

Befrienders' Lunch

12.30pm

Prayers for Peace

1.30pm

W.I.

2.00pm

Choir Practice



Friday 3rd May

11.00am

Digital Skills - Beginners



Church Walk - Friday 3rd May — 10.00am

Lizzie Roach will be leading a circular walk along Thurstaston Beach and back along the Wirral Way. Distance is 3-4 miles with refreshments afterwards at Flissys Cafe. As usual we will meet outside the Community Centre at 10.00 am and share lifts to Thurstaston Country Park. All are welcome



The next Bereavement Journey course will start on
Thursday 30th May - 2.00-4.00pm, and run for 7 weeks.

Please contact Revd. Eunice for more details.



Christ Church 'on the Move'

Beth Meriam, Julie & Graham Money, Jill Loach and several others are taking on the CHRISTIAN AID Sponsored Challenge "70K in MAY" to walk, run, cycle, row, dance, push a pram, or somehow move the distance (70 kilometres) in that month! **Why not join us** to get fit and at the same time help fight poverty in Africa? Please add your name to the sheet at the back of church or see Jill Loach for ideas! (70% of people in Berundi, East Africa live in poverty with malnutrition and this is one way we can help them).

There is a sponsorship form for the whole 70K Team which can be signed if you would like to support us.

If you have not yet completed an Electoral Roll form, please do so. These are available at the back of church and can be returned to the Parish Office.

This year's APCM will be held on Sunday 19th May
following the 10.00am service.



Bishop Julie will be with us on **Sunday 2nd June** for our **Confirmation service.**

We are holding confirmation classes in May, starting on **Wednesday 8th May** at the Vicarage from 6.00pm-7.30pm and running weekly until 29th. We would be thrilled if you would like to join us! Please let either Revd. Mike or Revd. Eunice know.

Funeral last week: Monday 22nd April - Jeane Bamforth

Forthcoming Funeral:

Thursday 2nd May 11.00am Howard Rogers Christ Church

Anniversaries: E. Ashton Hebron, Robert Gillis, Clive Palmer, Cyril Adams, James Curtis, Cath Reece, Eric Thomason, Anthony Fawcett, Sheila Holcroft, Elsie Roche, Beryl Preston, Doris May Thwaites, Stephen Michael Berry, Audrey Smith.

Prayer List: Finley Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Rob Bell, Ian Buckley, Eloise Cook, Julie Crosbie, Philip Dolman, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Deborah Ferguson, Geoff Hall, David Hamilton, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty, Arthur & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Finley Kay, Jim & Maureen Lloyd, Will McElroy, Geoff Newns, Grahame Owen, Dave Price, Rita Quine, Sam Roach, 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.

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