

Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 5th January 2025
Christmas 2/Epiphany



Sidespeople: Fiona Murphy & Diane Shaw
Next week: Barbara Mayers & Diane Shaw

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

This morning Revd. Mike Loach will lead and Helen Byrne, Lay Reader, will preach at our 10.00am Parish Communion Service (without screens).

HYMNS

- 483 The King is amongst us
- 5 Abba, Father, let me be
- 537 We three Kings
- 41 As with gladness men of old

Prayer for the week

**Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Thoughts for the week:

The magi, as you know, were wise men, wonderfully wise men, who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. *O. Henry*

3 wise women would have asked directions; arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and there would have been peace on earth! *Anon*

It is always the right time to do the right thing. *Martin Luther King*



Today at 4.00pm

A fun event with Bible stories and activities for children their siblings and parents/carers.

Topic: "Moses and the burning bush".

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our Community Christmas Day lunch and for the many generous donations. There were a lot of people involved in the preparations and on the day to make sure everybody who came to join us had a delicious meal and a wonderful time.

We were also able to deliver to people who couldn't get to us.
With thanks also for your prayers. Love and best wishes, Sarah x

The first reading is from Isaiah 60:1-16 (NIVUK)

The glory of Zion

‘Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ‘Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

(NIVUK)

The Magi visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. ‘When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Regular Activities at Christ Church

	Monday 6th January	9.00am	Start the week with prayer	
		9.30am	Toddler Group	
		1.30pm	Sit Fit - chair-based exercises	
Tuesday 7th January	10.30am	Singing Café		
  	Wednesday 8th January	9.30am	Baby Group	
	10.00am	Connect Café		
	10.30am	Holy Communion		
	1.30pm	Oasis Wellbeing Support Group		
	Thursday 9th January	10.30am	Line Dancing	
 	11.00am	Mothers' Union		
	1.30pm	Sit Fit - chair-based exercises		
	2.00pm	Choir Practice		
	8.00pm	Dru Yoga		
Friday 10th January	10.30am	Tai Chi		

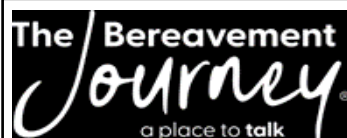


Christmas Decorations

We will be taking down our Christmas decorations on

Monday 6th January. Please come along **at 10.30am** if you are free.

All offers of help will be gratefully accepted!



Bereavement Journey

The next Bereavement Journey will start on

Thursday 16th January, 2.00-4.00pm.

If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from this course, please ask them to contact Eunice via the Parish Office.

The next monthly **New Testament study** will be on **Monday 20th January at 7.00pm** in the Troughton Room when Revd. Mike will be leading the session on 'Philemon, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus'. All are welcome.

Vacancy – Centre Supervisor

With Revd. Mike and Sarah leaving us in February, the position of Centre Supervisor will be vacant from the beginning of February. This is a part-time (10 hours per week) paid (circa £600 per month) role requiring good inter-personal skills, a Level 2 Hygiene Certificate (training would be available) and flexible working; living near the Centre would be advantageous.

For a copy of the job description and/or an informal chat about the role, please contact Sarah, Jane Dalziel or Charles Van Ingen. A copy of the job description will be found on the Centre noticeboard. If you are interested in applying for the role, please e-mail Charles Van Ingen on c.vaningen@ntlworld.com.

Interviews will be arranged during January.

Christian Aid Attic Sale & Coffee Morning
- Saturday 25th January, 10.00am-12 noon

We would be grateful for goods for this event. Please save any bric-a-brac, unwanted gifts, books, preloved (in good condition) clothes, accessories or anything saleable, as well as items for raffle prizes.

Thank you. Jill Loach



Rose Queen Family Quiz Night

- Saturday 25th January, starts at 6.30pm

Tickets: Adults £5; Children £2, which includes a pudding.

Church Chats: Working Conversations Group and Christ Church are continuing to offer "Church Chats", a free talking therapy service. You can have up to six sessions of face-to-face talking therapy. A solution-focused approach is used to help you move from where you are to where you would like to be, whatever your hope. If interested, please contact Laura Gregory:m:07842 312542/laura@workingconversationsgroup.org

Forthcoming Funerals:

Awen Burton	Monday 6 th January	11.00am	Landican
Joan McNally	Wednesday 8 th January	12.30pm	Christ Church
Gwendoline Prince	Friday 10 th January	12 noon	Christ Church
Linda Kerr	Monday 13 th January	10.30am	Christ Church

Anniversaries: Henry Roy Wilkinson, Marguerite Hamilton, Mavis Hughes, Marion Mathi Bird, John Woods Wharton, Isobel Cave, Vivian Lucas, Mary Gallagher, Thomas Kendrick, Patrick Collins, Ray Jones, Fred Diggles, Audrey Diggles, Caroline Huntington, Shelagh Lesley Williams, Carol Allen, John Peters, Alex Griffiths, Margaret Philpotts.

Prayer List: Finley Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Rob Bell, Ian Buckley, Eloise Cook, Sonia Croft, Julie Crosbie, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Deborah Ferguson, Gerry Ffrench, Geoff Hall, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty, Arthur & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Finley Kay, Caroline Kirchin, Jim & Maureen Lloyd, Will McElroy, Lin Murphy, Geoff Newns, Trev Noble, David Owen, Grahame Owen, Ben Parkinson, Dave Price, Joan Price, Joyce Preston, Rita Quine, John Russell, Kate Sharp, Jan Shorrocks, Yvonne Slerman, Audrey Smith, Barbara & Steve Smith, Theresa Smith, Roisin Terris, Amelia & Sue Trenbirth, Paddy Walsh, Gill & Terry Walters, Jane & Malcolm Wheatley, Linda & Ron White.

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