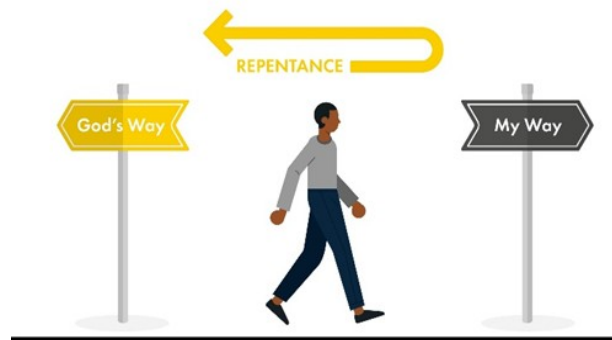


# Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Third Sunday of Lent



Sidespeople: Mike Thorne & Rhona Snelson

Next week: Jill & Graham Loach

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

This morning Revd. Eunice Blackmore will lead and Ian Millington, from our Ministry Team, will preach at our 10.00am Service of the Word.

This will be followed by a short Communion service at ~ 11.45am.

## HYMNS

- 26 Alleluia, sing to Jesus
- 428 Purify my heart
- 148 From heaven you came
- 457 Stand up, stand up  
for Jesus

## Prayer for the week

**Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we  
are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

## Thoughts for the week:

“God will never cease to help us until we cease to need.” - *C H Spurgeon*

“We may not demand of a sovereign Creator that He explain Himself to His creatures... God has good and sufficient reasons for His actions; we trust His sovereign wisdom and love.”  
- *Margaret Clarkson*

“Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love and the future to God’s providence.”  
- *St Augustine*



The first **Summer Fair Planning Meeting** will be held on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm** in the Troughton Room.

We need plenty of volunteers, so please come along to this meeting if you would like to be involved. If you can't attend, but would like to help on the day, please speak to Vicki.

The first reading is from 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 (The Living Bible)

<sup>1</sup>For we must never forget, dear brothers, what happened to our people in the wilderness long ago. God guided them by sending a cloud that moved along ahead of them; and he brought them all safely through the waters of the Red Sea. <sup>2</sup>This might be called their “baptism” - baptised both in sea and cloud!—as followers of Moses—their commitment to him as their leader. <sup>3</sup>And by a miracle God sent them food to eat <sup>4</sup>and water to drink there in the desert; they drank the water that Christ gave them. He was there with them as a mighty Rock of spiritual refreshment. <sup>5</sup>Yet after all this most of them did not obey God, and he destroyed them in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>From this lesson we are warned that we must not desire evil things as they did, <sup>7</sup>nor worship idols as they did. (The Scriptures tell us, “The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to dance” in worship of the golden calf.)

<sup>8</sup>Another lesson for us is what happened when some of them sinned with other men’s wives, and 23,000 fell dead in one day. <sup>9</sup>And don’t try the Lord’s patience—they did and died from snake bites. <sup>10</sup>And don’t murmur against God and his dealings with you as some of them did, for that is why God sent his Angel to destroy them.

<sup>11</sup>All these things happened to them as examples—as object lessons to us—to warn us against doing the same things; they were written down so that we could read about them and learn from them in these last days as the world nears its end.

<sup>12</sup>So be careful. If you are thinking, “Oh, I would never behave like that”—let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin.

<sup>13</sup>But remember this - the wrong desires that come into your life aren’t anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation’s power so that you can bear up patiently against it.

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

### **Cellar clearance – can you help please?**

There is still a range of items in the vicarage cellar needing to be removed.

We are looking for volunteers to assist after Church (around noon) **today**.

### **Experience Easter for schools - 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March**

We are looking forward to welcoming 300+ local schoolchildren into church to hear the Easter Story this week. Please join us in praying that everything runs to plan and that we will have a joyful and fun week.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13: 1-9

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

(NIVUK)

**Repent or perish**

<sup>1</sup> Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.’

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig-tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, “For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig-tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?”

<sup>8</sup> “Sir,” the man replied, “leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig round it and fertilise it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.””

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

**LIVING  
HOPE**

The reflections (with audio) are free on the Everyday Faith App.

During Lent we would love to encourage you to pray for our church and for the process of identifying a new incumbent.

It would be great if people got together for coffee and finished by praying together our “interregnum prayer”. Why not use it as an opportunity to get to know someone you don’t know so well in church...



## Regular Activities at Christ Church

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.00am**

Start the week with prayer



**9.30am**

Toddlers Group

**1.30pm**

Sit Fit - chair-based exercises

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30am**

Sewing Group



**10.30am**

Happy Reading Group



**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.30am**

Baby Group



**10.00am**

Connect Café



**10.30am**

Holy Communion

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30am**

Line Dancing



**1.30pm**

Sit-Fit—chair-based exercises

**2.00pm**

Choir Practice



**8.00pm**

Dru Yoga



**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30am**

Tai Chi

**12 noon**

Lunch Club



Our **Annual Parochial Council Meeting** (APCM) will be held on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am**. In preparation for this, if you usually contribute to the Annual Report, please ensure that you send your item to the Parish Office no later than Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

In addition, a completely new **Electoral Roll** needs to be compiled this year. Please ensure that you have completed and returned an Electoral Roll form to us by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Copies are at the back of church or from the Parish Office.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their '**Giving in Grace**' response forms. It would be most helpful if any more forms could be returned by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March.



### **Spring Afternoon Tea**

Please join us on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30pm** to support our Rose Queen's fundraising. Limited tickets – £8, available from the Parish Office - Booking essential.

Donations of cakes or scones would be very much appreciated. Please contact Vicki if you can help.

### **Experience Easter for Families –Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am-1.00pm**

Our Experience Easter stations will be open for anyone to look around. There will be crafts for children and 'become a Roman soldier for the day!' Refreshments served in church. Please invite your families.

### **Forthcoming Funerals:**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April                      William Arthur Jones                      11.30am                      Christ Church

### **Anniversaries:**

Reginald Duncan, Florence Tomkins, John Elwyn Legge,  
Jane Louise Heley, Maureen Hemmings, Myra Rowan, George Jones,  
Roy Faulkner, Brenda Blackburn, Paul Goulden, Sarah Sally Gouldson.

**Prayer List:** Finley Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Rob Bell, Ian Buckley, Eloise Cook, Sonia Croft, Julie Crosbie, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Stephen Evans Deborah Ferguson, Gerry Ffrench, Geoff Hall, Bridget Hamilton, Pam Hollinshead, Lisa Houghton, Kitty & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Finley Kay, Caroline Kirchin, Jim & Maureen Lloyd, Will McElroy, Lin Murphy, Geoff Newns, Trev Noble, Grahame Owen, Ben Parkinson, Dave Price, Joan Price, Rita Quine, Kate Sharp, Jan Shorrock, 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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