

Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Welcomers: Barbara & Roy Mayers and Diane Shaw

Next week: Terry Cunningham and Helen Young

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

Our 10.00am service this week is our Blue Christmas service, a reflective service led by Revd. Eunice Blackmore, which will include an opportunity to remember those we are missing.

HYMNS

358 O Come, O come
Emmanuel

248 In the bleak midwinter

444 Silent Night

O Holy Night

Prayer for the week

**Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of
your Son, so we wait for his coming
in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of
this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Prayer, as we light the fourth advent candle:

**Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.**

**Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.**



Please join us for our Christingle Service today at 4.00pm.

Thoughts for the week:

**"The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come."
- Alicia Bruxvoort**

**"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."
- Desmond Tutu**

**"Always, no matter the circumstances, we have the assurance of 'Immanuel',
which simply means 'God with us'."
- Philip Yancey**

**"All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence
of Christ."
- David Jeremiah**

For the 8.30am service, a variety of readings will be used for Blue Christmas.

The first reading is from Romans 1: 1-7 (NIV UK)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ

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



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas as we together celebrate the wonder of God coming to live among us.
With love and gratitude to my amazing Church family,

Eunice



Plans for the **Christmas Day Lunch** in the Community Centre are well underway. Victoria and Mark (Gleave) are grateful for all the offers of help that they have received.

Thank you to all who have donated a small gift. These will be wrapped and shared with our guests on the day.

Donations of soft drinks for the bar would also be gratefully received and can be left at the Parish Office before Tuesday afternoon. If anyone is able to provide transport for guests at the end of the meal (about 4.00pm), please contact Victoria or Mark. Many thanks.

DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday 24th at 4.00pm Children's Nativity Service (All Age)

Wednesday 24th at 11.00pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th at 10.00am Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 31st at 10.30am Connect Coffee with a Christmas reflection

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord. 1: 18-25 (CEV)

The Birth of Jesus

¹⁸ This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

²⁰ While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her.

²¹ Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

²³ "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

²⁴ After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do. ²⁵ But they did not sleep together before her baby was born. Then Joseph named him Jesus.

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



Our next walk will be on **Friday 2nd January.**

We will meet at the Community Centre at **10.00 am** to share lifts to Parkgate for a circular walk of 3 miles, followed by refreshments.

Suitable footwear advised as some paths may be wet.

All are welcome - if you wish to join us, please let Lizzie Roach know (frenchiekev@gmail.com).



Bishop Julie will be with us for our 10.00am service on

Sunday 18th January.

If you have never been confirmed and would like to consider it, please could you let Revd. Eunice know as soon as possible so this can be arranged.

We are delighted that Christina Parnaby has accepted the part-time role of **Children and Families Worker**, starting on 2 February 2026, and pray for her as she prepares to commence this new role.



We will be starting a Bereavement Journey course on **Thursday, 29th January, from 2.00-4.00 pm.** If you, or someone you know, would like to join, please contact Eunice for more information.

The Parish Office will close at lunchtime on Tuesday 23rd December and re-open on Friday 2nd January.

The Community Centre will be closed on Wednesday 24th December to allow for the preparation of our Christmas Day Lunch. It will re-open after Christmas on Wednesday 31st December for Connect Coffee at 10.00am.

In recent weeks we have received some complaints from residents in Linkside about inconsiderate parking - probably caused by "one-off" visitors to CCHB for concerts, funerals etc.

However, if you do park in Linkside, please be sure to park carefully and in such a way as to enable free passage of emergency vehicles.

Gracious God,

We bring before you the life of our church, Your church. We ask for your guidance as we look to the future, help us grow in faith, in fellowship and in service.

We praise you for all who have served this church over the years, who have nurtured and encouraged our faith, who have been part of our continuing life and witness. You have called us into the body of Christ.

Loving God, as we journey together through this period of interregnum, we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us.

At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit, to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer.

Guide with your heavenly wisdom the one whom You have chosen to be our leader in this parish, that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people: ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Anniversaries:

Jacqueline Rainford, John Rathbone, Florence Hooker, Reginald Hooker,
Marjorie Hughes, Betty May Worthington,
Horatio Herbert Edwards, Dora Brooke, Samuel Thornley Horrocks,
May Thomas, David Roberts, Neil Griffiths, Joan McCall,
Joan Yardley, Herbert Marshall Timperley, Ellen Rachael Timperley,
Kathryn Jayne Whittaker, Paul Kelly, Sam Hemmings.

Prayer List: Sharon Beecham, Thelma Brooks, Eloise Cook, Debbie Edwards, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Gaynor Galway, Geoff Hall, Bridget Hamilton, David Hamilton, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Steve Joyner, Finley Kay, Deborah Lawrence, Jim Lloyd, Holly Martin, Fiona Murphy, Lin Murphy, Geoff Newns, Grahame Owen, Andy Parnaby, Rita Quine, Anne Samuels, Yvonne & Terry Slerman, Audrey Smith, Barbara & Steve Smith, Theresa Smith, Autumn Philippa Tavui, Natasha Taylor, Roisin Terris, Heather Thomason, Amelia & Sue Trenbirth, Paddy Walsh, Gill & Terry Walters, Jane & Malcolm Wheatley, Linda & Ron White.

Associate Minister: Rev. Eunice Blackmore 0151 648 5343 euniceblackmore@talktalk.net

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