

Christ Church

Higher Bebington

Sunday 28th December 2025

Christmas 1



God knows

Welcomers: Terry Cunningham and Helen Young

Next week: Ny & Dave Gibson and Geraldine Taylor

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

This morning Revd. Eunice Blackmore will lead and preach at our
10.00am Parish Communion Service.

HYMNS

525 Unto us a boy is born

52 Be still and know

481 The holly and the ivy

172 God is working his
purpose out

Prayer for the week

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Thank you all for your amazing support and encouragement over 2025.

So many of you have given so much – we've come through it together
– with God.

We're trusting God for 2026 and looking forward to his plans and purposes
for us as a church. Keep praying and focusing on Jesus!

Every blessing Eunice.

Thoughts for the week:

"No trouble can come so near that God is not nearer." - Anon

"If we could condense all the truths of Christmas into only three words, these
would be the words: 'God with us.' - John F. MacArthur

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will
not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the
heart of the sea." - Psalm 46:1–2



Sunday 4th January at 4.00pm: A fun event with Bible
stories and activities for children, their siblings and
parents/carers. Theme: "Epiphany"

The first reading is from Hebrews 2: 10-18 (NIV UK)

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says,

‘I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.’

¹³ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’

And again he says,

‘Here am I, and the children God has given me.’

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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



Don't Eat Sunday Lunch Alone
- **Sunday 4th January at 12.30pm**
Broadway Steak & Wine

The Parish Office is now closed until Friday 2nd January.
The Community Centre will re-open on **Wednesday 31st December for Connect Coffee at 10.00am**, with a Christmas reflection.



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).



The next **Befrienders' meeting** will be on **Thursday 8th January at 12.30pm** in the Troughton Room.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord. 2: 13-23 (NIV UK))

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ 'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.'

The return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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



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 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.

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.

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.

Forthcoming Funeral:

Friday 2nd January

12 noon

Ann Gainer

Christ Church

Anniversaries:

Samuel Edward Williams, John Foster Marsh, Colin Christian, Bill Jones, Philip Humphries, Heather Millington, Sheila Timmons, William Swaby, Jeff Rickards, Dorothy Lewis, John Wild, Keith Royden, Francis Duffy, Ian Lauder, Marguerite Burton, Denise Eyre-Walker, Alex Cameron, Amy Fazakerley, Reginald Turner, John Halliday, Ken Harrison, Hilda Collins, Annie Hindley.

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

Parish Secretary: Victoria Gleave 0151 608 4429

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