

Christ Church

Higher Bebington

Sunday 1st February 2026
Candlemas



Welcomers: Ny Gibson & Jackie Jones

Next week: Roy & Barbara Mayers & Diane Shaw

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

193 Hail to the Lord's anointed

118 Faithful vigil ended

Christ be our light

296 Let all the world

Prayer for the week

**Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen**

Thoughts for the week:

“Candlemas is the day we realise that eternity can come into time and touch us in the form of a tiny child, that God appears at last in His Temple, not as a transcendent overlord, but as a vulnerable pilgrim, coming in His Love to walk the road of life alongside us.”
- *Malcolm Guite*

“Waiting on God requires the willingness to bear uncertainty, to carry within oneself the unanswered question, lifting the heart to God about it whenever it intrudes upon one's thoughts.”
- *Elisabeth Elliot*



Jean Lippiatt will kindly be selling home-made pies and cakes in the Kings Hall following our 10.00am service this morning.
Please bring suitable containers to take your purchases home.



Don't Eat Sunday Lunch
Alone -
Today at 12.30pm
Broadway Steak & Wine



Today at 4.00pm:
A fun event with Bible stories
and playful activities for children, their
siblings and parents/carers.
Theme: "Creation".

The first reading is Hebrews 2: 14-18 (The Message)

15 Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death.

16-18 It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself - all the pain, all the testing - and would be able to help where help was needed

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

Regular Activities at Christ Church

Monday 2nd February



9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom



9.30am Toddler Group

1.30pm Sit Fit - chair-based exercises

Tuesday 3rd February



Wednesday 4th February



10.30am Singing Café



9.30am Baby Group

10.00am Connect Café with Cake Sale

Thursday 5th February



10.30am Holy Communion

1.30pm Knit & Natter and Sewing Group



10.30am Line Dancing

12.30pm Prayers for Peace

12.30pm Befrienders' Lunch

1.30pm W.I.

2.00pm Choir Practice

2.00pm Bereavement Journey



7.30pm Dru Yoga

Friday 6th February



10.00am Church Walk

10.30am Tai Chi



The students at the Co-op Academy will be selling cakes during Connect Coffee on **Wednesday 4th February, 10.00am-11.45am**. Cake donations welcome. Do come and buy a cake if you can!

Experience Easter: Our storytelling event for local primary school children from Monday 16th - Friday 20th March.

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 4th February at 12.30pm** in the Community Centre. Do come along if you would like to be involved. Help is needed before and during the week so whatever you can offer is welcome.

If you would like a chat to find out more, please speak to Libby or Eunice.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2: 22-40

Glory to you, O Lord.

(NIVUK)

Jesus presented in the temple

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), **24** and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'.

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. **30** For my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

33 The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. **38** Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. **40** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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



This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary year of
Mothers' Union. On **Wednesday 18th February**

(Ash Wednesday) from 11.30am - 3.30pm in the Community

Centre, our MU branch will be serving a lunch of soup and scones (savoury & sweet). Please join us to help us mark the wonderful worldwide work of the MU.

Please note Connect Coffee will be running as normal that day.



There will be a walk on **Friday 6th February** from Thornton Hough back to church. We will meet at the Community Centre at **10.00 am** and go on the 487 bus to Thornton Hall, walk back to Brimstage, where we will stop for refreshments. We will then continue via country lanes to Lever Causeway and onto church - a distance of 4.3 miles. All are welcome - if you wish to join us, please let Lizzie Roach know (frenchiekev@gmail.com).



Pancake Family Fun Event
Tuesday 17th February, 3-5pm
Families are invited to drop in for pancakes, games and crafts to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

Rose Queen Quiz Night
Saturday 21st February, 6.30pm. Tickets £6, plus voluntary donation for pudding. BYO drink. Raffle & prizes too.



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:

Monday 9th February 12.30pm Heather Thomason Christ Church

Anniversaries: Constance Pamela (Pam) Smyth, Wilfrid Roy Bishop, John Russell, May Holden, George Hirst, Dorothy Peers, John Albert Royden, Muriel Morris, Bill Banks, Liz Griffiths, John Selwyn Williams, Helen Jane Warwick, Alfred Taylor, Louisa Murray, Prem Neermul, Peter Barry Green, Peter Anthony McNicholl, Sylvia Turner, Simon Thelwall, Irene Clegg, Maurice Entwistle, Kay Sloman, Edith Jones, Tom Reece, Mary Haslam, Clifford Alex McMillan, William Valentine Roberts, Irene May Jones.

Prayer List: Finlay Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Thelma Brooks, Barbara Champion, Seth Cheesbrough, Eloise Cook, Debbie Edwards, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Gaynor Galway, 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, 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, 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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