

# Christ Church

# Higher Bebington

**Sunday 4<sup>TH</sup> January 2026**  
**Epiphany**



**Welcomers: Ny & Dave Gibson and Geraldine Taylor**

**Next week: Mike Thorne, Rhona Snelson, Margaret Williamson & Jean Coventry**

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

This morning we welcome Revd. Debbi Stott who will preside and preach at our 10.00am Parish Communion Service.

## HYMNS

- 41 As with gladness men of old
- 71 Brightest and best of the suns of the morning
- 537 We three kings of Orient are
- 98 Come, thou long expected Jesus

## 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:

“Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night.” *- Pope Francis*

“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.” *- Marcel Proust*

“In the darkness, something is happening at last.”

*- C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

“We can only do the best we can with what we have, and the rest is God’s business.” *- Desmond Tutu*



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



**Today 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 Ephesians 4: 1-13 (NIV UK)

### Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

<sup>8</sup> This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,  
he took many captives  
and gave gifts to his people.”

<sup>9</sup> (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?)

<sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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



The next **Mothers' Union** meeting is on  
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00am** when we have  
a Coffee Morning, MU Updates and distribution  
of our 2026 programme.

2026 celebrates this worldwide organisation's 150th year.

Look out for branch and other activities to mark the occasion. 'Join Us , Join In'..



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



Bishop Julie will be with us for our 10.00am service on  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.** 2: 1-12 (NIV UK)

### The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> “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.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January**



**9.00am** Morning Prayer on Zoom



**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**1.30pm** Sit Fit - chair-based exercises

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**



**10.30am** Singing Café



**10.00am** Connect Café



**10.30am** Holy Communion

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January**



**1.30pm** Knit & Natter and the Sewing Group



**11.00am** Mothers' Union



**12.30pm** Befrienders' Lunch



**1.30pm** W.I.



**2.00pm** Choir Practice

**7.30pm** Dru Yoga



**10.30am** Tai Chi

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January**



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



### **Grand Attic Sale and Coffee Morning**

**- Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 10am to 12 noon.**

Please save the date. More details next week of requests for help, pre-loved items and raffle prizes.

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.

### **Funeral last week:** Ann Gainer

### **Anniversaries:**

Mary Turner, Olwen Bowles, Margaret Hauffe, George Martin, 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.

**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](mailto:euniceblackmore@talktalk.net)

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