

Christ Church Higher Bebington

Sunday 3rd May 2026
5th Sunday of Easter



Welcomers: Grace Fagan & Heather Whitehead
Next week: Fiona Murphy & Jackie Jones

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

8.30am - Holy Communion Service

This morning Revd. Andrew Haslam will preside and preach
at our 10.00am Parish Communion Service.

HYMNS

- 366 O God our help in ages
past
- 128 Fight the good fight
- 148 From heaven you
came
- 56 Be thou my vision

Prayer for the week

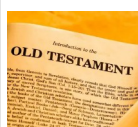
Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for
the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Thoughts for the week:

"Stephen was the first Christian martyr. "Martyr" is from the same Greek word as "witness" A witness is "a person who declares as true what he has heard, seen or knows". We are to be witnesses to Christ.

Bishop Stewart Cross at the Ordination of Deacons in Blackburn Cathedral in 1983 - "Whatever else you become in the church - remember that you're always deacons" ["Deacon" means "one who serves"].

"The church owed Paul to the prayer of Stephen" [St. Augustine]



Pam Hollinshead is considering starting a fortnightly (10.30am-12 noon) exploratory study group into the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis. If this is something you would like to be part of, please contact Pam.



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

Theme: "Abraham and God's promise"

Pam Hollinshead and 'The Green
Team' will be leading a work party
on **Saturday 9th May,**
10.00am-12 noon
in the gardens.
Please join us if you can.



The first reading is from Acts 7: 55-60 (NIV UK)

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

Regular Activities at Christ Church

Tuesday 5th May

10.30am 'Singing Café'



Wednesday 6th May

9.30am Baby Group



10.00am Connect Café



10.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 7th May

1.00pm Knit & Natter and the Sewing Group

10.30am Line Dancing



12.30pm Prayers for Peace

12.30pm Befrienders' Group



1.30pm W.I.

2.00pm Choir Practice



7.30pm Dru Yoga



Friday 8th May

10.30am Tai Chi



Community Screening - Wednesday 6th May

6.30pm, Heswall Hall - Free admission. 'The People's Emergency Briefing' - What's happening with Climate and Nature and what does it mean for us in the UK. Please speak to Pam Hollinshead or Jill Loach for information/transport.



There will be a circular walk next **Friday 8th May**, starting from Thurstaston Country Park to Heswall shore following the new King Charles III Coastal Path returning via the Wirral Way with a refreshment stop at Yot Café.

Distance is 4.2 miles.

We will meet at the Community Centre at **10.00 am** to share lifts to Thurstaston. All are welcome - please let Lizzie Roach know as soon as possible if you would like to join us (frenchiekev@gmail.com)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 14: 1-14
Glory to you, O Lord. (NIV UK)

Jesus comforts his disciples

14 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Jesus the way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'⁸ Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' ⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?'
¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

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



Christian Aid Week is 10th-16th May:

Please support our events:

Christian Aid Sunday - 10th May – 10.00am Service

Wednesday 13th May - 'Hunger' Lunch' - 12 noon, following Connect Coffee.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning - Saturday 16th May - 10.00am-12 noon.

There will be Cake, Raffle, Bring and Buy sale and a home produce sale. Also Plants, cuttings and garden produce. If you can offer bottles or chocolates and sweets, or men's toiletries for the raffle, new and items in good condition (exc. books) for the bring and buy, please speak to Jill Loach, Helen Byrne, Sandra Evans or leave a message at the Office. Thank you.

If you would like to donate via the Christian Aid envelopes, there is a supply at the back of church. Please complete the Gift Aid slip to add 25% if you are a UK tax payer. If you would prefer to give online, please use the QR code at the back of church.



Our Rose Queen, Erin's, final fundraising event will be an **Afternoon Tea next Saturday 9th May, 1.30pm-3.00pm.**

A selection of sandwiches, homemade cakes, scones with jam and fresh cream, tea and coffee.

Tickets: £8 per person from the Parish Office - **(booking essential - please advise any dietary requirements when booking).**



The next Bereavement Journey will be an evening course, starting on **Thursday 4th June** from 7.00pm-9.00pm. If you, or someone you know, would like to join, please contact Eunice for information.



Summer Fair - Saturday 27th June, 2.00pm

We are still looking for volunteers for this event, especially to set up stalls on Friday 26th from 12.30pm and tidy away on Saturday from around 4.00pm. We would also be grateful for donations for the raffle, tombola and new or nearly new items for the 'fancy goods' stall.

There is a board in Reception showing where help is needed, or you can leave a message at the Parish Office. Thank you.

As our vacancy for a new incumbent is re-advertised, so our prayer is:-
God our Father, help us to put our trust in you to send your chosen person to lead us on to where you would have us to be. Amen

Funeral service last week:

Valerie Mary Dooley

Anniversaries:

Doris May Thwaites, Stephen Michael Berry, Audrey Smith, Cuthbert Cave, Doris Bolton, Albert Edwin Grey, Philip Caton, Sidney Davies, Ted Taylor.

Prayer List: Finlay Armstrong, Sharon Beecham, Thelma Brooks, Barbara & John Champion, Seth Cheesbrough, Eloise Cook, Steve Dennett, Debbie Edwards, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Gerry Ffrench, Gaynor Galway, Bridget Hamilton, David Hamilton, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Steve Joyner, Finley Kay, Deborah Lawrence, Jim Lloyd, Holly Martin, Jenny Nixon, Grahame Owen, Andy Parnaby, Rita Quine, Jeffrey Robinson, Anne Samuels, Yvonne & Terry Slerman, Audrey Smith, Barbara & Steve Smith, Theresa Smith, Autumn Philippa Tavui, Natasha Taylor, Roisin Terris, Amelia & Sue Trenbirth, Phoebe Walmsley, 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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Office hours: Every week day morning: 9.00am to 12.30pm

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