Christ Church Higher Bebington



Sunday 15th November 2026
2nd Sunday before Advent

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

Welcome to Christ Church! We are all one in the Spirit!
This morning our Holy Communion service is at 8.30am.
This morning we welcome Revd. Chris McCarthy who will preside and preach at our 10.00am Parish Communion Service.

Hymns

426	**Praise to the Holiest in the height**
464	**Take my life and let it be**
372	**O Jesus I have promised**
10	**All for Jesus! All for Jesus!**

Prayer for the week

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory that we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
one God, now and forever,
Amen

Thoughts for the week

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."
- Leo Buscaglia

"Don't let your God given talents go to waste. Live out your purpose!
- Marcus Lamb

"God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission; I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work."
- John Henry Newman

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Our Mothers' Union branch will be holding a retiring collection after today's service to buy Christmas presents for residents at the local Women's Refuge (Women and Children's Aid).

The first reading is from 1Thessalonians 5: 1-11 (NIV UK)

The day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2] for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

[4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5] You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6] So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7] For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9] For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10] He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25: 14-30 (NIV UK)

Glory to you, O Lord.

The parable of the bags of gold

[14] 'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. [15] To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. [17] So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. [18] But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

[19] 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

[21] 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

[22] 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

[23] 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

[24] 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

[26] 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

[28] '"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29] For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

Regular activities at Christ Church w/c 16th November

Monday	**9.00am**	**Morning Prayer on Zoom**
	9.30am	**Toddler Group**
	1.30pm	**Sit Fit**
Tuesday	**10.30am**	**Singing Cafe**
	12.30pm	**4Cs Carers' Group**
Wednesday	**9.30am**	**Baby Group**
	10.00am	**Connect Cafe**
	10.30am	**Holy Communion**
	1.00pm	**Knit & Natter**
	2.00pm	**Sewing Group**
Thursday	**10.30am**	**Line Dancing**
	1.30pm	**Sit Fit**
	7.30pm	**Dru Yoga**
Friday	**10.30am**	**Tai Chi**
	7.00pm	**Boulders & Rocks**



Experience Christmas starts on Monday when we will welcome local school children, children from Toddlers, Brownies, a local Nursery and Childminders into church to hear the Nativity story.
A big thank you to the team of volunteers who are working hard to plan and prepare for this very busy time.



The next **Old Testament Bible Study** is on **Monday 16th November 7.00pm-8.30pm** in the Troughton Room.
The group is led by Pam Hollinshead and Andy Parnaby.
All are welcome.

4Cs Carers' Group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November when 'Home Instead', (Home healthcare service), will be giving an update on coping and living with dementia. All are welcome.



A Choir for Christmas will meet again on **Tuesday 24th November** at 7:30pm to continue practising for the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm.

Fiona Murphy is running an **Advent Study Group** starting on **Thursday 26th November** for 4 weeks at the Centre from 1.45pm-3.00pm.
If you are interested in joining this, please sign the sheet at the back of church.
The study is based on Rachel Billups book, 'An Unlikely Advent' Readings also to study:- Luke 1 v 5-25; Luke 3 v 1-3, 7-18; and Genesis 16 v 1-6; Genesis 18 v 1-15.



The **Rose Queen Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair is on Saturday 28th November, 10.00am-12 noon.**
We are looking for volunteers to help at this event.
If you are interested, please speak to Tracy Evans or the Parish Office. We would be grateful for raffle and tombola prizes: new gifts, chocolates, biscuits, bottles.
Please drop these off at the Parish Office. Thank you.



Confirmation can be an important part of a lifetime journey of faith as a follower of Jesus Christ. If you would like to consider this, please talk with Rev Eunice who will arrange relevant classes in preparation.

We continue to pray as we seek to discern who our next incumbent will be:-

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

Our Treasurer, Charles Van Ingen, writes: "Would those giving by weekly envelope, please collect a new box of envelopes from the back of church.
Also, we are still receiving a lot of loose cash on the plates each week. If this is you, would you be able to switch to a standing order, ideally Gift Aided?
You will find Pledge forms at the back of church giving more information."

Anniversaries:

Stephen Egan, Alice Edwards, George Evans, Annie Bowness, Lilly Stephens, Roy Duncan, Bert Bushell, Joyce Daniels, Dorothy Rhodes, David McFarlane, Frank Evans, Irene Lloyd, Beryl Crockett, Edward C. Jones, Thomas Alfred Brocklebank, Minnie (Jo) Clinch, Pam Woods, Lily Rock, Debra Reyner, Dorothy Bywater, Marjorie Dillon, James Anthony Evans, Raymond Richards, Alex Powell, Norman Nevitt, Alfred Dickman, Elizabeth (Bessie) Hamer.

Prayer List: Finlay Armstrong, Sharon Beecham,Thelma Brooks, Brian, Barbara & John Champion, Seth Cheesbrough, Eloise Cook, Gill Colley, Steve Dennett, Debbie Edwards, John Henry & Edna Edwards, Elijah, Gaynor Galway, Bridget Hamilton, Pam Hollinshead, Kitty & Louise Jones, Ted Jones, Steve Joyner, Finley Kay, Andrew Lucas, Jim Lloyd, Holly Martin, George Nelson, 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, Paddy Walsh, Gill & Terry Walters, Jane & Malcolm Wheatley, Linda & Ron White, Derek Withers.

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