

A very warm welcome to everyone visiting our church today.

It's great that you're here this morning. We hope that you enjoy today's service. We would love to get to know you better, so please join us after the service for tea and coffee if you are able.

Sunday 22nd December 2019

10.30am - Morning Service

3pm - Rose Garden Church

5.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 25th December 2019

10.30am - All Age Christmas Celebration

Sunday 29th December 2019

10.30am - Morning Service

For your prayers

Christmas is a time to catch up with family and friends and share news. Not all news is good. No matter what, God is with us and for us and may we share this Good News. Jesus came to share life with us so we are never alone. Let us pray this becomes reality for all those we love and see over Christmas. Pray for the Hubbard's daughter in law facing major surgery.

Thought for the week

God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.

Dag Hammarskjöld, Markings

Readings for 22nd December 2019

John 18:28-40 NIV

Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

³⁰"If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

³¹Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. ³²This took place to fulfil what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

³³Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

³⁵"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

³⁶Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

³⁷"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

³⁸"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

⁴⁰They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Matthew 2:1-2 NIV

The Magi Visit the Messiah

²After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and 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."

Reading 25th December 2019

Luke 2:8-20 NIV

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Readings Sunday 29th December

John 13:1-17 NIV

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

¹³ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a

towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied,

“not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

¹⁰ Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 1:14-18 NIV

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and ^[a] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

What's on 23/12/19 - 29/12/19

Wednesday

10.30am Christmas Day

Saturday

11.30pm-4am Lean on Me

Sunday

Midnight Night Shift

10.30am Morning Service

What's on 30/12/19 - 5/1/20

Tuesday

10am Tuesday Breakfast Club

Saturday

11.30pm-4am Lean on Me

Sunday

Midnight Night Shift

10.30am Morning Service

5.30pm Rose Garden Church

Minister: Revd. Steve Ansell // Email: steveansell@herefordbaptist.org.uk

Steve does not work on Tuesdays, please avoid contacting him on his day off.

Tel: 01432 352 209 // Email: office@herefordbaptist.org.uk // Please submit content for the newssheet to the office before Thursday.

A message from Jill and Sid Freeman

The flowers today are in memory of Jill Freeman's parents, Kath and Frank Cogswell. Today, 22 December would have been their wedding anniversary. It is also the anniversary of the day Jill's father died.

Christmas Cards

Instead of giving out many cards to those within our church family, this year we are encouraging members and regular attenders to just pin one card to this board and to put the money saved in the box below. All donations given will go to support the work of Dream Girls outreach in Klipheuwel, South Africa.

Baptist Singing Group

Thank you all so much for all your support over the years and your spiritual voices over the last twelve months. Our lovely residents so enjoy your visits. With love from Clarissa and all the staff and management at Charles Court. Thanks to all those who faithfully come to sing each month at Charles Court and Oaklands.

Stonebow Carol Singing

Thank you to everyone that came to sing carols at the Stonebow Unit on Wednesday and made it such a success. I was please that more patients and more staff attended

and that everyone joined in. Thanks also to the musicians that led us and took part to make this event really special.

Church Away Weekend 2020:

Great, booking are coming in quickly! Christmas is a busy period but please remember that bookings should be sent to the Church Office by Sunday 12 January. If you have not received an invitation ,or need another one, or need help responding please contact Sarah, Dorothy or Jan.