

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 8th December 2019

10.30am - Morning Service

4pm - Reflective Communion

5.30pm - Rose Garden Church

Thought for the week

God himself came to us in Jesus Christ. Many people spend their time denying His incarnation. They search the sky and miss Him right here on earth, where He is to be found in our daily lives. Michael Quoist, With Open Heart

For your prayers

Jesus came for all but his heart was especially touched for the poor, fatherless and those suffering injustice. Pray for the homeless and those who struggle with life through many difficulties and injustice. May they receive a warm welcome from us wherever we meet them.

Pray for The Salmon family to continue to progress into what the Lord has planned for them – good things. Pray for Margaret to be increasingly mobile and Millie to know the Lord's strength and enabling. Pray for Brenda to be fully restored. Pray for the anxious to be able to be still and know and feel how good and loving the Lord is and to be lifted by praise.

Pray for the children preparing for the Nativity service and for many to come from Totstop. May God be glorified.

Joshua 2 NIV

Rahab and the Spies

2 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” **3** So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.” **5** At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” **6** (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) **7** So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof **9** and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in

fear because of you. **10** We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **11** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12 “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign **13** that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.”

15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. **16** She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us **18** unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your

brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. ²⁰But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

²¹“Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.”

So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet

cord in the window.

²²When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. ²³Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. ²⁴They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

A message from Jill and Sid Freeman

By the grace of God, on 20th December we will have been married for 50 years. We will be renewing our wedding vows during the morning service, on Sunday 22nd December and would be delighted if you could be there to celebrate with us. There will be tea, coffee & cake after the service, in the middle hall.

Volunteer needed

Can you fry eggs and make toast? If so, would you be willing to join the Tuesday Breakfast team, from 08.00–10.00, once a fortnight? Rob is standing down, with great sadness, due to other responsibilities. Please talk to Jill F if you feel this is something you could do.

Quinta 2020

The church weekend away has been booked for Friday 4th-Sunday 6th

September 2020. You should have received a pack with all the information you need. Spare packs are available in the middle hall.

Postage Stamps

Please cut the stamps off your Christmas post and bring the to me, to benefit the work of BMS. Chris T.

Mince Pies

We will be collecting mince pies for our Christmas services from next week. If you would like to donate, please leave these in the middle hall and they will be collected. Thank you.

Stonebow Carol Singing

We will be carol singing at Stonebow on Wednesday 18th December 3.15pm.

Singers are required, practices will be Friday 13th at 2pm and Monday 16th 3pm. Please see Jerry Tiffin for more details.

Churches Together in Hereford

Instead of Carol Singing in Hereford this year Churches together are organising a surprise event. There are no details about what is planned (that would ruin the surprise!) But they are asking for as many people as possible to be in High Town at 1.30 on Tuesday 10th December.

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.

Monday

12pm-2pm	Private Hire - Middle Hall
6.30pm	Prayer and fellowship - all are welcome

Tuesday

9am	Tuesday Breakfast Club
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Wednesday

10am-11.45am	TotStop
10.15am-12pm	Wednesday Club - Rev Steve Ansell 'Carol Service'
5.30pm-9pm	Youth Group - <i>5.30pm food, 6-8pm Pulse, 7-9pm Ignite</i>

Thursday

12pm-2pm	Silver Diners
7.30pm	Musicians' practice

Friday

2pm	Practice for Stonebow Carols Service - Sanctuary
5pm	Nativity Rehearsals - Sanctuary

Saturday

8.30am-5.30pm	Private Booking - Large Hall
11.30pm-4am	Lean on Me

Sunday

Midnight	Night Shift
10.30am	All Age Nativity
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.