

## **Readings for this Sunday 10 January 2021**

### **The Baptism of Christ**

Acts 19. 1-7  
Mark 1. 4-11



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

### **Parish Register**

#### **Funerals**

11 January – Julian James Triggs  
St Hildeburghs at 1.30pm Landican Crematorium at 2.30pm

11 January – Ronald Green  
Landican Crematorium at 11am

14 January – Lorna Frances Brunskill  
St Hildeburgh's at 1pm Rake Lane cemetery at 2pm

## **Weekly Beacon**



**News from St Hildeburgh's  
The Parish Church of Hoylake  
Sunday 10 January 2021  
The Baptism of Christ**

### **The Collect**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Note from the Vicar**

With Covid 19 cases rocketing and hospitals on high alert I don't think anyone was surprised when the whole country was put into lockdown. The important thing now is for us all is to act safely, follow the rules and don't do anything that risks spreading the virus.

The wardens and I will continue to provide a Covid safe place for private individual worship but it relies on you all to maintain two metres distance from each other, wear a mask and keep sanitising your hands. Please don't be tempted to go over to speak to your friends and keep your mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times.

The Bishop has given Churches the option to close if felt necessary or equally to stay open and provide a place to come and worship. As the infection rate has risen to a very concerning level, I have taken the step of speaking to the Archdeacon, the Church Wardens and the Standing Committee because I feel we have no option but to suspend the church services for now. The church will remain open for private prayer. The situation will be reviewed weekly and I would value your support in this.

If you are in a vulnerable category please stay at home and keep safe. If you need any assistance please let me know.

The promise of the vaccine is so close and we thank God for all who are working so hard to make it happen.

I reflect on the words from **Lamentations 3:22-23** "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*"

## **Light a Virtual Candle**



You can light a virtual candle by going to the Church of England's website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org). Enter the words 'light a candle' in the search box in the top righthand corner of the screen. Click on the search icon and then click on the heading '**Light a Candle**' then follow the links to light your virtual candle.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Due to the pandemic situation, services in church have been suspended for the time being so there will be no service in church on Sunday 10 January 2021 and thereafter until further notice.

The church remains open for private individual prayer as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays and Sundays from 10am to 12 noon

The church is closed on Fridays and Saturdays.

Services are available to view on line on our website  
[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh>

**If you are coming for individual private prayer please use the sanitiser and remember that face coverings must be worn in church at all times.**

Please check our website [www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) for up to date information as the situation changes

## **Wirral Foodbank**

Thank you for your donations of food which have now been delivered to the Foodbank. The work of the Foodbank continues and your donations are needed more than ever.

### ***Urgently Needed Items:***

Tinned meat  
tinned vegetables  
tinned fruit  
custard  
tinned fish



Please leave your donations in the porch at The Vicarage, 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake CH47 1HL.

Thank You!

## **Voyagers at Home**

This week in Voyagers we thought about celebrating Epiphany and the journey of the magi.



The wise men teach us that the most important thing is to listen to God and follow his leading wherever it takes us.

We thought about the gifts they brought to Jesus and the gifts that we can bring today, of kindness, patience, love, thankfulness and sharing.

We made our own - very sparkly -version of the wise men.



*Love and prayers,  
Christine*

## **Morrisons Stores, Wirral**

Morrisons Stores Wirral have started taking orders for their doorstep deliveries for the vulnerable (high risk) and elderly at their new purpose-built call centres.

To see the list of essential items go to  
[www.morrisons.co.uk/doorstepdeliveries/vulnerable](http://www.morrisons.co.uk/doorstepdeliveries/vulnerable)

Make your choice from the essential items on the list then phone **0345 611 6111** and select option 5.

## **Wirral Foodbank Vouchers**

If you need **Foodbank** Vouchers, please contact Citizens Advice **Wirral** on 0808 278 7848 or **Wirral** Council 0151 666 5050 (selecting option 1)

## **Citizens Advice Wirral**

**Citizens Advice Wirral** are pleased to continue to deliver information and advice to Wirral residents.

Our **Ask Us Wirral information and advice** service is being delivered by phone or email and includes specialist benefits, debt and housing advice.

To access Ask Us Wirral phone **0300 33 00 111** Please note the phone lines are likely to be busy and you may need to leave a message and our team can get back to you. If you can't get through on our local number, you can try national Citizens Advice number **03444 111 444**

You can also fill out our **webform**  
[www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/](http://www.askuswirral.org.uk/enquiry-webform/)

For **Information** about sick pay, your rights if you are off sick, self-isolating or home working and other useful information about what Coronavirus what it means to you go to  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/)

If you have now become unemployed or are self-employed but your income has dropped, please call our Help to Claim team on **0800 144 8 444**

## **FLOWER OF THE WEEK: BERGENIA**

### **35th in a series**

***Text and photograph by Peter Surridge.***

BERGENIAS are as tough as the mountains of eastern Asia where they originated. They are grow-anywhere perennials with large, roundish, leathery leaves that give rise to the nickname elephant's ears. Their other nickname, pig-squeak, arises from the sound it is possible to produce by rubbing two leaves together.

Bergenias flower in winter or early spring. Sometimes they start to bloom before Christmas, stop suddenly when new year frosts bite and produce their finest display when the temperature starts to rise again. They are evergreen and will tolerate poor soil, neglect and, once established, drought too. Their only possible drawback is that the leaves are sometimes burned and tattered by cold winds. One of their most useful qualities is that they spread quite quickly, though not invasively, to make good ground cover under trees and shrubs. Then, when the trees' leaves have fallen and winter progresses, they start to generate a warm glow, as clusters of mauve, pink or white flowers begin to emerge at the tops of erect stems generally 20cm-30cm (8in-12in) tall.

The most common species are *Bergenia cordifolia*, taller than most with pink flowers, and *Bergenia purpurascens* with purple autumn leaves followed by mauve blooms. There are many hybrids such as Baby Doll, free-flowering with elegant, drooping blooms; Ballawley, with red leaves in winter followed by rose-pink flowers (but not the hardiest variety); Silberlicht, with white flowers and pink-tinged leaves; Sunningdale, a free-flowering mauve variety; and *Bergenia x schmidtii*, which has large, pink flower-heads and is the earliest to bloom but not the easiest to obtain.



**Left:**  
*Winter warmer – the rich pink of Bergenia cordifolia.*

***Right:***  
***Grow anywhere – a bergenia border in Hoylake sand.***



If you have a friend or neighbour whose bergenia you admire, November is the time of year to ask for root cuttings. The method is simple: cut away a length of rhizomatous root – there'll be plenty growing on the surface – slit it into 1cm (half-inch) slices or cubes, and bury these in moist peat or peat substitute in a shallow pot or a seed tray. Put this in a clear plastic bag in a greenhouse or a light room. Each slice will produce a new plant which can be planted in a nursery bed in April and moved into its final flowering position in September.

**Services are available to view on line at:**

[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net) and on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh>



*Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall*

## **Contact St Hildeburgh's**

### **Vicar**

**Rev'd PAUL ROSSITER**

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Tel: 0151 632 5339

## **Follow St Hildeburgh's**

### **Church Website**



[www.sthildeburgh.net](http://www.sthildeburgh.net)

[Facebook.com/sthildeburgh](https://Facebook.com/sthildeburgh)

Twitter: @sthildeburgh

## **Weekly Beacon**

If you wish to contribute an article or place a notice in the Weekly Beacon please  
e-mail [sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com](mailto:sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com)

All advertising and notices are accepted at the discretion of the Editor.

**Photograph policy.** We frequently take photographs at St Hildeburgh's for publicity purposes – such as printing in this "Weekly Beacon". If for any reason you would prefer us not to use photographs of any children who may accompany you to church, please mention this to our Vicar, Rev'd Paul Rossiter.