# Crosstalk THE CHURCH THE CHURCH TO STATE THE CHU

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad www.thurstaston.org.uk

> THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester

August & September 2023



St Bartholomew and St Chad takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofongland.org/caf

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

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## **Baptisms 23rd July - Jacob Parsons**

## Weddings 1st July - James McKay and Claire Grant 8th July - Stephen Price and Rebecca Hitchen 27th July - Joshua Hall and Sarah Robson

#### **Funerals**

#### From Your Rector

August sees many of us taking holidays to get some wellearned rest from working. But what is the biblical relationship between rest and work? The Bible shows us that **we are to work from rest, not rest from work**. How is this working out in our current experience?

When God created human beings on the 6th day, the next full day was a day of rest before the work began: 'Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.' (Genesis 2:3). Sunday is a day of rest at the beginning of the week.

Jesus lived out this rhythm of rest and work in His own ministry: 'Very early in the morning, Jesus got up and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed' He then told His disciples: 'Let us go somewhere else so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.' (Mark 1:35-38).

Here is a rhythm for our own lives: 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit' (John 15:5). Our work/fruitfulness arises out of the time we abide/rest in Jesus. He will then show us what aspects of our lives need pruning: 'while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.' (2).

Let's use this month to reflect on how this pattern is working in our lives:

Are we spending enough time 'abiding' in Jesus?

Are we putting our energies into the right balance of rest and work?

Are there unproductive areas of our lives and churches that need pruning?

Remember God created us as *human beings* not just *human doings*!!

Revd Jane



# Discipleship Explored Wednesday Evenings 8.00-9.30pm St Chad's Extension

6th Sept Confident in Christ

13th Sept Living in Christ 20th Sept One in Christ

27th Sept Obedient in Christ

11th Oct Righteous in Christ 18th Oct Transformed in Christ

25th Oct Rejoicing in Christ 1st Nov Content in Christ

You will need a copy of the course booklet, so please let Revd Jane know if you are planning to come. If you can afford £3.00 to pay for your booklet that would be great, but don't let that stop you from coming, we'd be delighted to give you a booklet anyway.

*Discipleship Explored* has been designed to help followers of Jesus discover the joy, unity, righteousness and love which are theirs in Christ.

This eight-session journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians aims to help believers young and old to discover the greatest love anyone could ever know, and how to live as disciples of Christ Jesus today.

It is for anyone who wants to make the most of their Christian life, but especially for people who have recently decided to follow Christ.

It features documentary-style films and inspiring real-life stories from around the world, Bible studies and weekly reading plans.



## Summer Saturdays St Chad's Garden\* 10am – 12 noon.

Relax in the garden and meet friends

Peaceful woodland walk

Refreshments

Safe Space for children\* with activities and garden toys









5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> Sept.

St Chads, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UB

\*Access from gate nearest to Roslin Road. In the extension if wet.

St Chad's back garden has been restored over the last couple of years from an overgrown area with broken planters to a relaxing area with picnic tables and benches, a woodland path through the trees, large raised bed and a large open grassed space.

Please come along and enjoy this space to relax in, experience nature, meet friends over a cuppa and there's activities and plenty of space for children to let off steam.

There will be drinks and biscuits provided, if you would like to bring along a cake to share that would be lovely, there will be facility to make donations to cover costs, but not mandatory.

Please note that Parents/carer's are responsible for their children.

# 2pm to 4pm





register your bear make your parachute (string and carrier bag provided) watch your bear parachute off the church spire!

It sounds mad but it's very funny and no bears are hurt in the process, however, bear in mind that occasionally one may get temporarily stuck in tree, so choose your bear accordingly to avoid too many tears.

## It is a great family fun afternoon, there will be

- a children's raffle,
- tea and cake
- a lucky dip.

If you can help with

- setting up,
- being on a stall,
- donating or baking cakes,
- or have any donations for the children's raffle, please get in touch.

Thanks,

Julie DeBoorder Email: Jules2121jule@gmail.com

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Lane, Thurstaston, CH61 0HW

## MEN IN SHEDS







Several of the congregation visited Men in Sheds to find out all about it, armed with homemade cake to share with a cuppa.



We had a fascinating insight into how it all started with a grant for one shed which has blossomed to 2 filled with all sorts of equipment and tools.

They will have a go at anything and will make to order a selection of planters, bird tables and boxes, clocks etc and restore any broken wooden objects, currently they are working on their church candle holders.

The comradeship offers a great deal to those that go, for some a lifeline.

They work with other Men in Sheds groups and swap tools etc when one of them has more than they need and help each other out. If you have any spare tools no longer needed and can donate them, even if they are in need of some TLC please get in touch with Terry on Tel 07834 274320.



We also got to have a guide walk around the grounds of the church, which included a lovely woodland trail and finished of with sharing our homemade cake with some of the men and then inside for a cuppa and questions with Terry.

If you or someone you know would like to join the Men in Sheds in Bebington you would be welcome to give Terry a call.

Julie DeBoorder (mission and outreach committee)





## **Ruth's Reflections**

First I must apologise for missing last month, I have no excuse except I missed the date to send it in!

Anyway, last time I said I was about to go to Italy on holiday. We stayed in a town called Baveno on the shore of Lake Maggiore. A lovely place nestled between the Lake and the Mountains. The Hotel was lovely, the food good and the company excellent. We went out on organised trips

every day but one, visiting islands, other lakes and fabulous villas and palaces. We even went to Switzerland, hoping to see the Matterhorn, we didn't, it was concealed in thick cloud., but the scenery on the way was stunning, with quite a lot if snow on the mountains. The weather wasn't good, a lot of rain, but it didn't stop us having a great time.



We came back to glorious weather here and were able to enjoy it. Just after getting back I went with the WI to a garden in Parkgate. It was beautiful, the weather superb and the cakes wonderful. Following that, again with the WI we went to Plas Cadnant, a hidden garden on Anglesey. A truly lovely place and well worth visiting. Again the weather was good - who needs Italy - the gardens beautiful, a lovely cafe and as usual excellent company, meant a really wonderful day out.

Unfortunately I have been ill recently with a nasty chest infection, coughing non stop and feeling dreadful, which has curtailed my activities. this has made me realize how important it is to get out and be with other people. and how lonely you can feel when you can't get out. I have been getting out again now, managed to get to Church again now I have stopped coughing, also started ringing again, I did miss it!

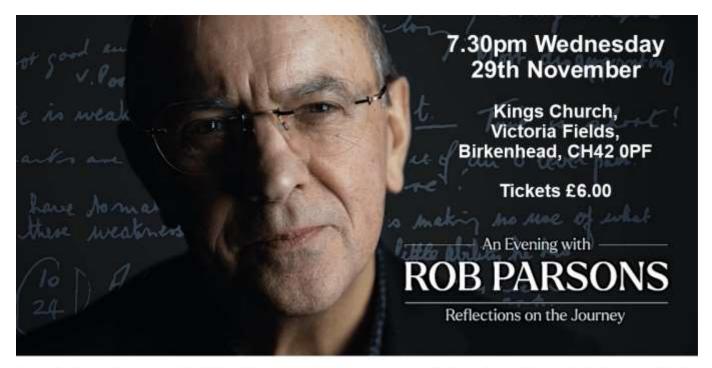
Photography meetings have stopped for the summer although we have fortnightly Zoom meetings which are good. They also have outings but I have not been able to go, partly due to illness and partly due to the dates clashing with other things. Typically, nothing on for days then everything happens on the same day!

My conversations with God continue, very comforting when I am feeling down or unwell, and they definitely have results.

I hope everyone is keeping well and enjoying the summer weather, although I have to admit it is windy and raining today!

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.



Revd Jane is going to this. You can buy your own ticket from the link below - which also details how to request a complimentary ticket if you cannot afford the £6.00:- https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/tourevents/an-evening-with-rob-parsons/ If you don't do online and would like Revd Jane to buy you a ticket please ask.

If you do buy your own ticket,

please let Revd Jane know and we can then plan to car share.

From the boy described as 'making no use of what little ability he has,' to an international best-selling author and speaker, Rob Parsons has a lifetime's experience of overcoming obstacles.

He recalls the time when his father told him, 'People like us don't become lawyers,' and the teacher who said even his best wasn't good enough.

Yet with the help of the people who believed he could be more, he learnt how to grow through the challenges of life.

Join Rob on a journey through the decades as he reflects on a life mixed with laughter and tears, and draws on vivid stories from childhood, right through to the present day.

He'll tap into a wealth of experience to help us make the best of our circumstances, gifts, opportunities – and perhaps most of all – our relationships.

In An Evening with Rob Parsons, we invite you to pull up a chair and settle in for a poignant night of storytelling that will reawaken your purpose and stay with you long after you head home.

#### You'll hear about:

- Escaping from imposter syndrome
- Finding hope beyond shattered dreams
- Avoiding the labels others put on you
- Enduring the hard times you just can't fix
- Why tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday

#### Is it for you?

Whether you're sixteen and leaving school or sixty-five and heading for retirement, this event is for everyone! From relationships to work, study to homelife, and finances to mental wellbeing, Rob has learnt many lessons from life that will help you whatever stage you're at.



## Harvest Appeal 2023

#### **Dear Supporters**

Each year we receive many generous harvest gifts from churches, schools and organisations in the local community. Donations are distributed to vulnerable people living here at Forum, or are used for group activities. Last year, around 300 vulnerable people benefited from your generosity.

### An 'Ideas' Shopping List:

Tinned beans / Spaghetti / Soups / Tinned fish or meat / Instant noodles / Packets of savoury pasta or rice /

Tea bags / Sugar / Hot chocolate /
Long-life milk / Coffee / Squash or
Juice / Tinned fruit / Cartons of
Custard / Jelly / Cereals / Biscuits /
Cereal bars / Crisps / Nuts /
Chocolate / Sweets
(We also accept donations of
personal hygiene items).

If you are able to help us this year, please send an email saying

'We Support Forum's Resident Harvest Share 2023'

with your name and contact details to admining@forumhousing.co.uk

Or for more information please call 0151 649 9718.

Where possible, we will try to organise a representative to talk about the work that we do here at Forum if required.

As always, we so grateful for your continued support, especially during this difficult time

**Thank You** 

## Reflecting Faith: - The Pulpit pt. 2

②When you last heard a sermon given from a pulpit, what was your reaction? Whilst pulpits can of themselves be beautiful and stately, intricately carved and decorated, they can also be places of separateness. Rather than ending up helping the congregation to hear and see the preacher better, they can sometimes become a block to doing just that.

And it is not just pulpits. There are other things that can diminish our paying attention to the sermon.

For one thing, in some churches the individual appearance of the minister may be distracting. This is one reason why robes and vestments are worn to keep 'personality' out of worship; to enable people to concentrate on God, not the person up front.

Then again, there is the increased use of electronic devices in worship. Seeing the preacher preach from an 'electronic' tablet can take some getting used to.

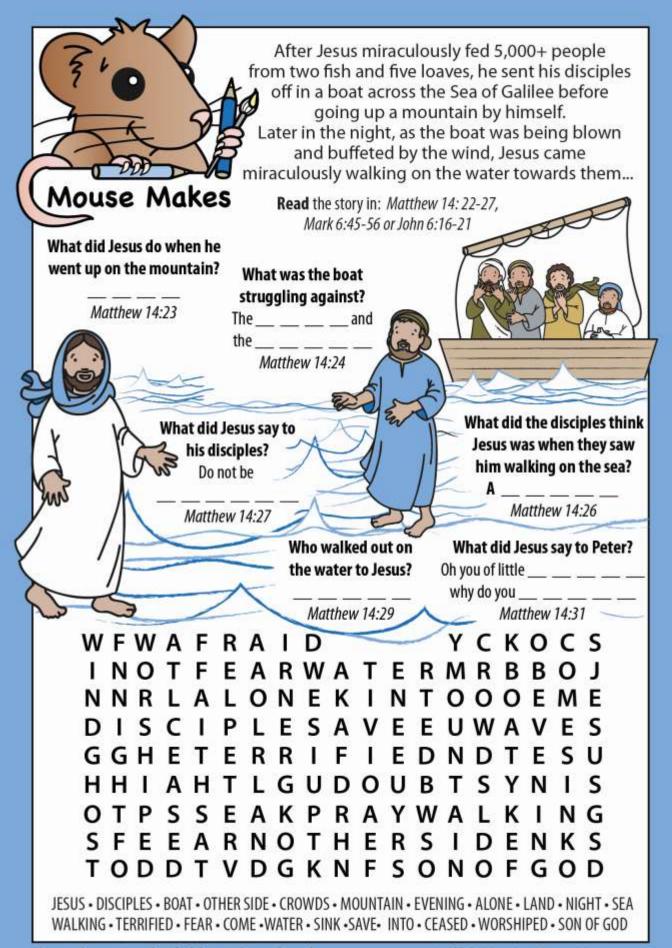
Or what about flower arrangements at the pulpit? Some may be so spectacular that people hardly see or hear the preacher, in the midst of all those blooms.

But the good news is that the dominance of the pulpit can give authority to what is said from it. And as the preacher climbs into it, they can feel a renewed assurance and confidence that they are about to speak God's words and He is with them.

#### This month

See if you can hear a sermon preached *not* from a pulpit. Does it feel more or less important, connected and/or personal? What other things distract you from hearing and taking on board what the preacher is saying?





Answer the questions then find them in the word search

Aug23 @ deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

In August the church calendar commemorates the Transfiguration. The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36). Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. It may have been Mount Tabor, or else one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon.

Suddenly, Jesus is transfigured. His face shone, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses appeared, and a bright cloud overshadowed the disciples. A voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Moses represented the Law, and Elijah the Prophets of the Old Covenant. But now the Law and the Prophets have found their fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah. The written Word and the spoken Word have handed over to the Living Word.

## Transfiguration

Jesus Mountain Tabor

Hermon

high Shine Face Written Living

Cloud Transformed White Dazzling Elijah

Moses Dwelling Mankind Law Prophets

Peter James John Fear glory STANMGIEOFTCE TPHP Ε Ε RGТ RAS E Ρ IAHURUG ΚD G KNAWG Е DAUWS GAKHDD

## **Spiritual Disciplines: - Rest**

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28).

Today, the spiritual discipline of *rest* is a challenging one. We are pressured to cram more and more activities into fewer hours. This has been described as *'hurry sickness'* and is an enemy of our spiritual life. August is a month for resting, and so is a good time to look at this discipline.

God instituted the discipline of rest in the creation of the world. He created everything in six days and rested on the seventh (Gen 2:3). He instituted the Sabbath, a weekly day of rest (Lev 23:3). However, it is helpful to draw a distinction between *busyness* and being *hurried*. Busyness is an outward condition, while hurry is about our inner state, resulting from too many competing priorities. Jesus was often busy but never hurried! What questions should we be asking about getting more rest?

## Balancing Rest and Work:

What is a helpful rhythm of work and rest in our lives? How can we take seriously the Sabbath principle of having one day a week to rest and not work? How might we use our time differently eg taking a long walk or having an unhurried conversation with a friend?

## Using Our Leisure Time Creatively:

When we actually take a break we often end up simply watching TV, surfing the net, shopping unnecessarily or eating when we are not hungry! Can we choose leisure activities that really refresh us? It's not a case of more leisure time, but using the time we have more creatively.

'The solution to an over busy life is not more time. It's to slow down and simplify our lives around what really matters.' (The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: John Mark Comer).



#### GOD IN THE SCIENCES: Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by



squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

## **GOD IN THE ARTS**: The Golden Fish by Paul Klee

A few years ago, I was sponsored by the Mothers' Union in my diocese to go 'swimming with sharks' at the Blue Planet Aquarium near Chester. The prospect seemed daunting, but it proved to be a magical, memorable experience. When I went down into the water, it was like entering a new world – somehow both alien and attractive at the same time. Manta rays swam lazily by, and small fish gathered at my feet, inquisitive and waiting to be massaged by falling stones from my hand. The magic of that waterworld is caught vividly in this month's painting, 'The Golden Fish' by Paul Klee.

Paul Klee was a Swiss painter who lived in Germany until he was expelled in 1933. He died seven years later, but in his lifetime produced some 9000 works of art, each one displaying inventiveness and versatility. 'The Golden Fish,' painted in 1925, portrays a unique creature gliding serenely through its underwater kingdom. The gold scales, the red fins and the powerful eye provide a sharp contrast to the deep blue sea where other smaller fish are swimming to the edges of the canvas.

Is the artist showing us that secret, mysterious world that lies beneath the surface of the water, or is it simply an aquarium in his own house? Whichever it is, he is introducing us to a world that we, who live on the solid land beneath our feet, take for granted. Seven-tenths of our world is water, and our planet is really one gigantic aquarium. We can travel to the coasts of our island and see the great sea stretching out before us. It may bring to mind sandcastles and summer holidays, or a boat trip when the choppy waves made us feel queasy, or the memory of pirate stories about galleons and treasure, or the squawk of seagulls over our heads. Here in this painting, Paul Klee is telling us something of the nobility and wonder of this primeval element.

The opening pages of Scripture introduce us to the great waters of Creation, when the wind of God swept over the face of the deep, and separated the seas from the dry land. On the fifth day God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,' and God saw that it was good. Rupert Brooke in his poem, 'Heaven,' imagines that world of fishes and sea creatures pondering what is beyond this element of water, just as we on

land ponder the future of our world.

'Somewhere, beyond Space and Time, Is wetter water, slimier slime! And there (they trust) there swimmeth One Who swam ere rivers were begun, Immense, of fishy form and mind, Squamous, omnipotent and kind. And under that Almighty Fin The littlest fish may enter in... And in that Heaven of all their wish, There shall be no more land, say fish.'

Poet and painter invite us to ponder the majestic glory of this element of sea and ocean which is part of God's good creation. In 'The Golden Fish' we glimpse something of the wonder of life it contains and find ourselves echoing the psalmist in Psalm 104: 'Here is the immeasurable sea in which move creatures beyond number. Countless are the things thou hast made, O Lord. Thou hast made all by thy wisdom.'

## St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am (Term Time Only)

£1.50 per child - All Welcome





Parents/Carers will be responsible for their child(ren) during the sessions

For further information please contact Allison via the Parish Office 648 8169

## A.S.A.P.

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P. (As Soon As Possible)? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives. Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P, a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.

When there's work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here's what you can do to help: A.S.A.P. – Always Say a Prayer. When your worries mount up and you don't know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: A.S.A.P. – Always Say a Prayer.

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So – call Him! A.S.A.P.!

## warm welcomo for all

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## Warr All free of

New from September:

Guest speaker

on 4th Tuesday of the month Talks start at 10.30a.m.

See notice on St. Chad's door for up-to-date information

Open to everyone, so please drop in! St. Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH 0151 648 8169

Tuesdays 9.30a.m.—12.30p.m.

Refreshments, free WIFI, disabled access and a chance to chat with friends.







PLACES OF The Warm Hub now belongs to a growing national network of Places of Welcome.

Visit www.placesofwelcome.org.uk for more information

## **Need a Meeting Room?**

At St Chad's we have a large hall and some smaller rooms.

Booking Enquiries should be made by emailing hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk

For more information and prices please go to the website https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/hall-and-room-hire/







St Bartholomew's and St Chad's on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/

If you are already on Facebook it is easy to find and "like" the page. Just search for "stchadsstbarts" or "St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby" and you will find us.

If you "like" the page you will receive notifications when we add events and other informative posts.

From our page you can also share individual posts and events with others you may think would like to hear about us and our events.

Please do share this page with your friends.

You do not have to be on Facebook to view our posts.

We also have a Twitter Feed:-



@StBartsStChads

## Did you know.....

......back in the year 1976, a committee based at St Chad's Church was trying to raise funds for the RNLI.

They decided to hold an exhibition of paintings by local Irby residents. The exhibition was so successful that the artists decided to join together to form an "Irby Artists Association".

## ....and the rest, as they say, is history!

The Irby Artists are proud to have had such a long association with St Chad's.

We welcome new members and actively provide support to those wishing to try their hand at painting & drawing, with weekly Monday afternoon sessions, indoors during the winter, and outdoors in the summer months, and two exhibitions of members works per year.

For more information, contact the Chair:

Alan McMahon, Text:07889 404917

Or Email: almac48@virginmedia.com

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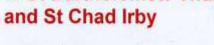
Due notes

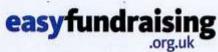
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The Parochial Church Council and/or Editor can take no responsibility for the quality of goods or services offered.

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hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk Leprosy Mission Representative

Vacant

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Mrs Chris Rostock 648 1112

**Baptisms and Weddings** 

To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816 or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner PLEASE NOTE: Rector's Rest Day - Tuesday

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

## **AUGUST and SEPTEMBER 2023 SERVICES**

Morning Prayer St Chad's Prayer Room 9.00am MOST Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (check with Revd Jane for cancellations due to other meetings or commitments)

## **EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads**

Sun 6th August Transfiguration Of our Lord	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 13th August	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am All Age service at St Chad's
Sun 20th August	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
Sun 27th August	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Chad's (Junior Church doesn't meet during school holidays but families are welcome at the service)
Sun 3rd September	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 10th September	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am All Age service at St Chad's
Sun 17th September	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
Sun 24th September	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion with Junior church at St Chad's
Sun 1st October	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's