

# Crosstalk 60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad  
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December 23 & January 24



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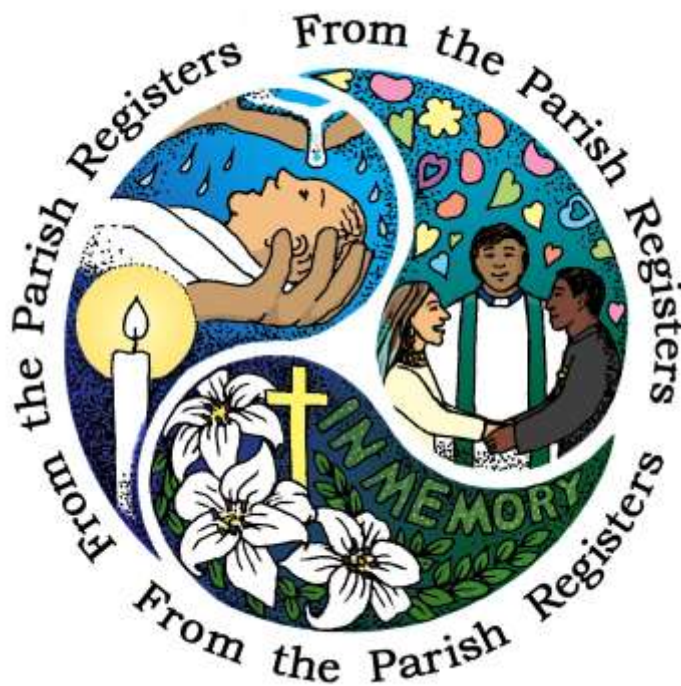
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\* "Your magazine needs you" \*  
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\* (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting \*  
\* articles etc.,) \*  
\* to office@thurstaston.org.uk \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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### **Baptisms**

**26th November - Bobby Owen Evans**

### **Weddings**

### **Funerals**

**9th November - Malcolm Kinnear**

## From Your Rector

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

*When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)*

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:



*If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator;  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist;  
If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist;  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer;  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
so God sent us a Saviour.*

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas

Revd Jane



## A message from Ailsa



What a wonderful time of year to be licensed, well for me it is anyway! I do enjoy Christmas, with all its build up and faff....I know it is not everyone's cup of tea - but I will be looking forward to meeting some of you on the 18th December and sharing a brew and, I am promised cake - although, I do accept it might be a tad early for Christmas Cake!

Over 100 of the soldiers and officers I work with will spend Christmas away from their loved ones on an operational tour of duty in Poland. It will be a tough time both for them and their families as well as having to endure sub zero temperatures - so do keep them in your prayers - I hope to visit them, so I will let you know how they are all getting on.

Meanwhile back in camp, at Swanton Morley, just before Christmas leave, the annual "Carol Off" will take place at the local parish church All Saints, and will involve all ranks competing as to who can sing the loudest - great fun; chaos will reign but it is always a good start to Christmas.

Following the service in the morning, all ranks will share Christmas lunch together and it is a joyful time together before all depart to various places to start their own Christmas's.

Please spare a thought for those with nowhere to spend Christmas and who will remain on camp alone. That's a toughie so please pray for them and all who serve - they really do need your prayers and are grateful for them.

I will spend time, hopefully, with my family in a very traditional way - always on call however, we never know how it will turn out.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very blessed Christmas, however you will be spending it.

Revd Ailsa



Can you please return any children's society boxes to Jean Heath for counting. They can be returned to St Chad's or St Bartholomew's or to Jean, 'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road, CH61 2XF.

If anyone would like them collecting, then please phone Jean on 648 6015 to arrange a convenient time.



## Jigsaw Library

Over the last 10 months or so that Warm Hub has been operating, we have been gifted many jigsaws. While we always have a jigsaw in progress at Warm Hub, there are many waiting for us to use in the future. Rather than these jigsaws just piling up, with the winter nights ahead we would like to make these jigsaws available for individuals to borrow and then return to us. We can't vouch that all the jigsaws are complete as they are donated to us but if you would like to borrow one then we can make them available on a Tuesday morning when the Warm Hub is open – 9.30 to 12.30 at St Chad's



Susan Smale and Cheryl Goddard

## Can you get benefits?

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has launched a campaign to help people gain access to the various benefits that are going unclaimed by eligible households.

CAP estimates that in the past year, almost £90 million in benefits has gone unclaimed, because of the complexity of the application systems.

Pension credit is the most under-claimed benefit, and yet it acts as a passport benefit to other support, including housing benefit and local assistance. Carers' allowance is also underclaimed.

About 800 churches have now signed up to work with CAP, to encourage people to check if they could be liable to claim benefits. CAP, in partnership with the debt charity Turn2Us, has created an online calculator to help people discover what they may be eligible for. Go to: <https://capuk.org/money-and-debt-advice/benefits-calculator>

A warm welcome  
for all  
at the  
**Warm Hub**



**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.**

**Guest speaker  
on 4th Tuesday of the month  
Talks start at 10.30a.m.  
(No speaker December)**

**Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

**Warm Hub Guest Speaker**

**Steve Jeffrey**

**A Life at sea!**

**everyone welcome for what promises to be a  
really interesting and entertaining session!**



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



**The Warm Hub now belongs to  
a growing national network  
of Places of Welcome**



Visit [www.placesofwelcome.org.uk](http://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk) for more information

## Christmas 2023

The night before Christmas when all are abed,  
As reindeer and sleigh bells are heard overhead,  
Children still sleeping will early arise,  
With shouts of delights as they open each prize.

A doll for Amanda, a toy soldier for Jo?  
Ah, these are toys of long ago!  
Now it's computers, a party dress,  
Gifts so expensive they're meant to impress.

But the real joy of Christmas forever will stay,  
As church bells and carols proclaim that glad day,  
As wise man and shepherds recount what they saw,  
Of Mary, her Baby – and a bed full of straw.

*By Megan Carter*



## Christmas Prayer 2023

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred – and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always. In Jesus' saving and powerful name. Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



## Ruth's Reflections

Doesn't time fly! It doesn't seem like a month since i last wrote to you all. The weather hasn't improved, I am fed up with the rain, as I am sure everyone else is. On the odd occasion when it has been nice I have gone out with my camera. I took quite a lot off photos, some of which I am quite pleased with. Apart from these outings, I have only managed to get in the garden a couple of times to tidy up and cut back a few things. I am very glad I only have a small garden to look after now. In spite of this it is looking quite bedraggled, the high winds today aren't helping either!

I have been out quite a bit to various things, but trips out have mainly stopped for the winter, the exception being a trip in a couple of weeks time. This is to Halifax, to the Piece Hall, interesting in itself but also where there will be a Christmas Market. It should be a good but very long day, with a very early start! I shall take my camera and will hopefully get some good pictures.



Talking of Christmas I must start my Christmas shopping and start on the card writing. I have made a Christmas cake, it just needs icing. I will also make a Stollen. a German recipe that I was given many years ago and it is delicious.

I have several occasions coming up, with the W.I. the Photographic Society and another group of friends, so quite a lot to look forward to in the run up to Christmas.

I am looking forward to Christmas Day, especially as I will be able to get to Church before going to my daughters for my dinner. I won't be going to the Midnight service, I don't do late nights now although I really enjoyed the Midnight service when I was younger.. As I have said before, Church, to me, is the most important part of Christmas.

My eldest daughter and I went to see Jesus Christ, Superstar at the Empire in Liverpool. It was excellent and I really enjoyed it.

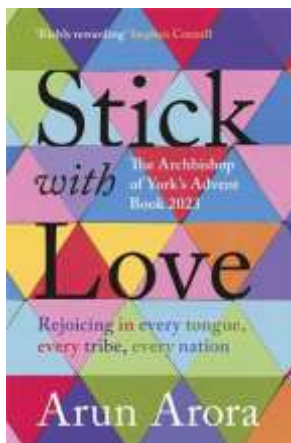
Just a quick update on my Parking fine. I had to pay it, the council wouldn't accept my explanation, virtually called me a liar and said I had committed an illegal act by not displaying a correct ticket. All I can say is that was the ticket that came out of the machine!!

Well I don't think I have anything else to write about so I will say Goodbye for now.  
Take care and stay safe, everyone.

Ruth.

## ADVENT BOOK REVIEWS

### Stick with Love – Rejoicing in Every Tongue, Every Tribe, Every Nation The Archbishop of York’s Advent Book 2023 - By Arun Arora, SPCK, £10.99



Martin Luther King famously declared that ‘I have decided to stick with love... Hate is too great a burden to bear’. In these helpful daily readings, Arun Arora considers the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.

Themes of racial justice, hospitality and welcome are explored alongside the stories of saints from across the globe. Beginning with reflections from Isaiah and Revelation, the meditations lead us on to consider the missionaries, martyrs and mystics who light our Advent way.

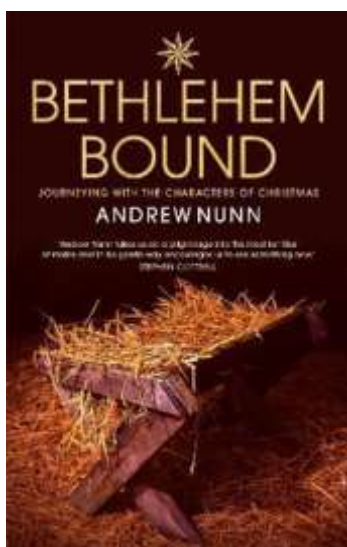
### Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies – 25 Daily Reflections from the Book of Ruth By Robin Ham, 10Publishing, £4.99

*We’re all familiar with the Christmas story, but do you know the ‘story behind the story’?* Tucked away in the Bible, hundreds of years before Mary, Joseph, and the birth of Jesus, is the story of a girl called Ruth. It’s a story that rings true to our world – a story of sadness and tears, even of death, but also a story of where hope can be found in the darkest places. A story that points us forward to the promise of a king.

*This book takes the reader on an Advent journey through 25 daily reflections. Each day has a short devotion, a suggested prayer, and links to a response song. Come along to Bethlehem, and discover the hope that shines brightly, even on the darkest of nights.*



### Bethlehem Bound – Journeying with the Characters of Christmas By Andrew Nunn, Canterbury Press, £12.99

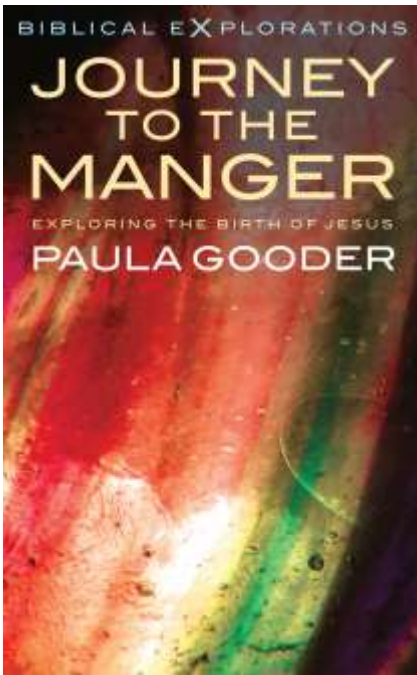


It was not only Mary and Joseph who journeyed to Bethlehem – all the characters and creatures we meet in the nativity stories found their way to the manger, summoned by stars, angels or political circumstance.

Each time we celebrate Christmas, we travel there too, and open ourselves to the season; beginning with the great Advent antiphons that herald the feast and ending with the Presentation in the Temple. Each day this book travels with a different character from Scripture and the Christian tradition – Jesse, Anna, Gabriel, the donkey, the innkeeper and his wife, the shepherds, the martyrs we commemorate at Christmas and many more.

## Journey to the Manger – Exploring the Birth of Jesus

By Paula Gooder, Canterbury Press, £12.99



Journey to the Manger explores the New Testament's various accounts of the birth of Jesus: their origins in Old Testament prophecies, the genealogies, the angelic announcements, the journeys and arrivals, and the aftermath of Jesus' birth for the powerful and the poor alike.

Although many biblical scholars have puzzled over historical details in the accounts, Paula Gooder argues that in doing this, they risk missing the point. Engaging seriously with biblical and historical criticism, she uncovers key similarities running through the Gospel writers' accounts and focuses on their shared understanding of the significant events they describe.

Her detailed exploration of the texts will breathe new life into the familiar Christmas stories. All in all, an accessible and informed study of the best loved texts in Scripture.

## Sharing the Christmas Story

By Sally Welch, BRF, £8.99

In this year's BRF Advent book Sally Welch explores two questions: What is the Christmas story really about, and how do we share it? Through each week of Advent, a different aspect of the Christmas story is examined: light, promise, mystery, love, peace, and hope.

Within each week, the days are focused on the ways in which the Christmas story is shared: prophecies, journeys, new life, signs, poems, stories and conversations. Each day offers a Bible passage, followed by a reflection and prayer activity. Suggestions for group study and group study questions are also included.



## The Christmas Swallow

By Ben Harris, SPCK, £9.99

A classic retelling of the Christmas story from a bird's eye viewpoint. This picture book has a narrative that uses repetitive phrases to engage young readers, introducing biblical truths about the birth of Jesus, as rescuer and born from God. The excitement of the shepherds and the heart-warming visit of the wise men are brought to life with vibrantly coloured illustrations by Estelle Corke.

*This would be ideal for young children aged 3+ years.*

## The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent  
Night  
Loved  
Carol  
Austria  
  
First  
Sung  
Stille  
Nacht  
Heilige  
  
Christmas  
Eve  
Father  
Joseph  
Mohr  
  
Young  
Priest  
Organist  
Midnight  
Mass  
  
Melody  
Single  
Bing  
Version  
Third

M	O	H	R	L	A	A	M	A	S	S	T
R	T	N	E	L	I	S	T	I	L	L	E
Y	E	M	G	L	I	A	N	R	D	N	E
J	L	B	I	N	G	M	M	T	T	O	M
I	O	A	L	D	U	T	L	S	G	I	E
T	V	S	I	T	N	S	E	U	E	S	L
O	E	I	E	T	S	I	N	A	G	R	O
Y	D	N	H	P	R	R	G	A	E	E	D
O	A	G	I	P	H	H	I	H	C	V	Y
U	I	L	O	R	A	C	T	F	T	H	E
N	D	E	D	O	T	A	D	R	I	H	T
G	C	A	G	A	F	R	A	E	H	A	U



**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
I	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	U	R	L	O
F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
L	A	N	G	E	L	S	R	G	O	D	V
I	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	T	D	S	M
F	P	G	I	V	E	N	A	H	U	O	A
E	E	H	G	A	V	E	S	R	W	N	R
S	A	E	G	R	E	A	T	O	N	L	Y
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	N	J	O
N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

## **Nativity Quiz in 20 Questions (answers on page 27)**

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?  
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?  
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?  
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey  
c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled ..... to Jerusalem.  
a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean?  
a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?

## Reflected Faith – The Light of the World - by Revd Jo White

During the month of December, people are 'counting down' to Christmas Day in an ever-increasing variety of ways.

In my childhood we had a simple card with a traditional picture of a manger scene with doors marked with the countdown numbers and a picture of the different characters behind each. If my parents had extra money to spend, they would buy one with shiny snow made of sparkles!

These days you can pay hundreds to have a gift for each day from toys to jewellery. And don't fret, your pets can have their own also!

Churches don't normally count the days, but they do note the four Sundays before Christmas Day. They give each of those four 'advent' Sundays a theme and light a candle each time. One for the first week, two for the second and so on.

Unlike the secular world, the church counts up, and not down. It increases the light as we get nearer to Christmas Day and then adds an extra light on that day. So, a total of five candles.

Churches vary in their use of colour in the candles. Some will use all white, whilst many only use white for the Christ-light on Christmas Day and 'colours' on the four Sundays.

There again they vary; some use all purple – originally the most expensive colour – as we prepare for The King. In a more modern style, some use blue – perhaps recalling the most associated colour for Jesus' mother Mary. But perhaps reminding us of creation and that we are surrounded by God's love as the earth is surrounded by the blue sky.

And again, others will change the colours for each Sunday, often giving the third Sunday to be pink as we are over half-way through Advent and it is known as *Gaudete* – Joyful – Sunday. Or there are those who make the fourth Sunday pink, as that one is often dedicated to Mary and it's a 'girly' colour.

### *This month*

Have a look at the advent candles in your church, or perhaps in your own home, and think about what the colours mean to you. How do they reflect your faith? Whatever the colour – Have a Good Christmas!



## God in the Sciences: Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.



Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!



## God in the Arts: 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe

During this year we have been exploring how art can celebrate the wonder of this world. This month with our Lady and Jesus we stand above the world: high on the clouds with a glorious path of tall, elegant lilies that lead like a stairway to the earth beneath. This is 'The Virgin of the Lilies' by Carlos Schwabe. He was born in Germany and then lived in Switzerland and France, painting this canvas in 1899 when he was 33 years old.

It is like a scene caught when we look out of the window in an aeroplane. We can see the earth beneath and spot hills and valleys, roads and settlements, and a river weaving its way through the countryside. Mary and Jesus are haloed in a lunar-like radiance. The lilies are symbols of purity and obedience, the qualities that will take them to that scene at Bethlehem which we give thanks for at Christmas. The heavenly light shining out in the painting brings hope and joy to the world below, transforming lives with the wonder of the Saviour's birth.

Jesus holds three nails in his hand as a sign that His life will be tempered by rejection, suffering and death. But the lilies growing tall and straight in the skies are signs of new life and resurrection. The light come down to earth at Christmas can never be extinguished. That light and love are expressed in this vivid, moving painting of Carlos Schwabe as they are caught up in the carol of Christina Rossetti we sing at this time:

*Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.*



## **Spiritual Disciplines: : Celebration**

*'But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'* (Luke 2:10).

As we conclude our series on the spiritual disciplines, this month we look at *Celebration*, which is very appropriate for this Christmas season. We are called to rejoice in God's good gifts and celebrate His faithfulness.

Jesus modelled celebration in his first miracle at Cana, when He turned water into wine, enabling the party to continue (John 2:1-12). Celebration helps us with the other disciplines, as it enables us to keep going through times of joy and struggle: *'Without a joyful spirit of festivity the Disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees.'* (Richard Foster). We celebrate crucial moments in our lives with unreserved joy and thanksgiving and this shape our lives to be more like Jesus.

Richard Foster offers a few helpful pointers to celebration in his book *Celebration of Discipline*. They may come in handy as you celebrate Christmas this year!

*Singing and dancing:* how can we rediscover what children do brilliantly, in our families or church? Is there room for singing Christmas carols together at home this year?

*Laughter:* just as Jesus brought humour into His teaching, how can we laugh more? What does it mean to take ourselves less seriously and encourage more fun with our friends?

*Imagination and creativity:* how can we invest in our own creativity, as well as other people's? - e.g. in painting, poetry, reading and other leisure activities? God gave us these things to enjoy! As we celebrate our own creativity, we are sharing in God's goodness and joy.

*Family events:* we can use family celebrations and with Christmas approaching, there is the opportunity of putting God at the centre of our celebration.

*'So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God'* (1 Cor 10:31).



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

## St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am  
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£1.50 for one Adult and one child - All Welcome

Additional children £1.00  
Additional Adults £0.50



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

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

# Need a Meeting Room?

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**hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk**

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



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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](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:almac48@virginmedia.com)*

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Every time you shop, you'll raise a donation for us and **it won't cost you a penny extra!**

## 1. Sign up to easyfundraising

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[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby) and follow the simple steps to sign up.

## 2. Hit the shops

When you shop online, visit easyfundraising first, click through to the retailer and shop as normal. Everything costs exactly the same

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If you would like to purchase advertising space  
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## Contacts

### Churchwardens

Vacant

[churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Associate Minister

Revd Ailsa Whorton CF

(Chaplain to the Forces, Army).

[revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk)

Ailsa works full time and will reply to emails when she is able around her work commitments

**678 4733** (Evenings only and messages will be passed on to Ailsa via her husband Derek)

### Reader Emeritus

Mr Alan Jones

**648 1400**

### Retired Clergy

Revd David Felix

07778 859 935

### PCC Secretary

Mr Graham Barley

**648 1867**

[pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk)

### PCC Treasurer

Vacant

[pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Williams

**07956621731**

[safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Verger

Mr Jon Oliver

**648 1754**

### Organist

Mr Craig Vickers

**648 7405**

### Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

**648 8169**

### Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs Elaine Jones

**648 1400**

### Flower Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs Dawn Rudd

**648 0209**

### Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Vacant

### Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs Leslie Worrall

**648 5590**

### Bellringing - Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson

**648 6691**

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16)

Mrs Julie Deboorder

**648 6331**

### Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or

Freephone

**0800 1 69 59 01**

## CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

### Christian Aid Representative

Vacant

### Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath

**648 6015**

### Leprosy Mission Representative

Julie DeBoorder

**648 6331**

### Adoption Society Representative

Mrs Chris Rostock

**648 1112**

### St Chad's Hall Booking

[hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:revdturner@thurstaston.org.uk)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)

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

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)

## JANUARY 2024 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 7th January**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 14th January**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am All Age service at St Chad's
- Sun 21st January**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 28th January**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Communion with Junior church at St Chad's
- Sun 4th February**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

### Nativity Quiz (p14) Answers:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Nazareth  | 11. d) westward                   |
| 2. Gabriel   | 12. A star                        |
| 3. Carpenter   | 13. The Bible doesn't say         |
| 4. Caesar Augustus   | 14. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh  |
| 5. To register for the census  | 15. The shepherds                 |
| 6. We are not told in the Bible  | 16. Bethlehem                     |
| 7. There was no room at the inn  | 17. Matthew and Luke              |
| 8. c) In a manger  | 18. a) God with us                |
| 9. d) None   | 19. 8, according to the law       |
| 10. 'Glory to God in the highest,<br>and on earth peace, good will to all<br>people' | 20. False; we don't know the date |

**December 2023 Services**  
**(January 2024 Service on page 27)**

**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 3rd December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's**

**Sun 10th December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's**

**Sunday 17th Dec**

**9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**

BCP is the Book of Common Prayer which was published in 1662. This service uses old fashioned language and is a quiet service with no music.

**10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's**

This service is in modern language and will include some Advent hymns.

**6.30pm Carol Service with Christingles at St Chad's**

We will listen to the Christmas Nativity story and sing carols. A Christingle is a decorated orange used to explore the story of God's love for the world at Christmas.



**Sunday 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**

**9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**

BCP is the Book of Common Prayer which was published in 1662. This service uses old fashioned language and is a quiet service with no music.

**10.30am All-Age Nativity at St Chads**

We will sing some carols and retell the story of Jesus birth. You are invited to come dressed as a character from the story.



**11.15pm First Communion of Christmas at St Bartholomew's**

This will be the first communion of Christmas and will include singing some carols.



**Monday 25th Dec - Christmas Day**

**10.00am All-Age Communion at St Barts**

This service is suitable for everyone and will include singing some carols.



**Sun 31st December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's**