

Crosstalk

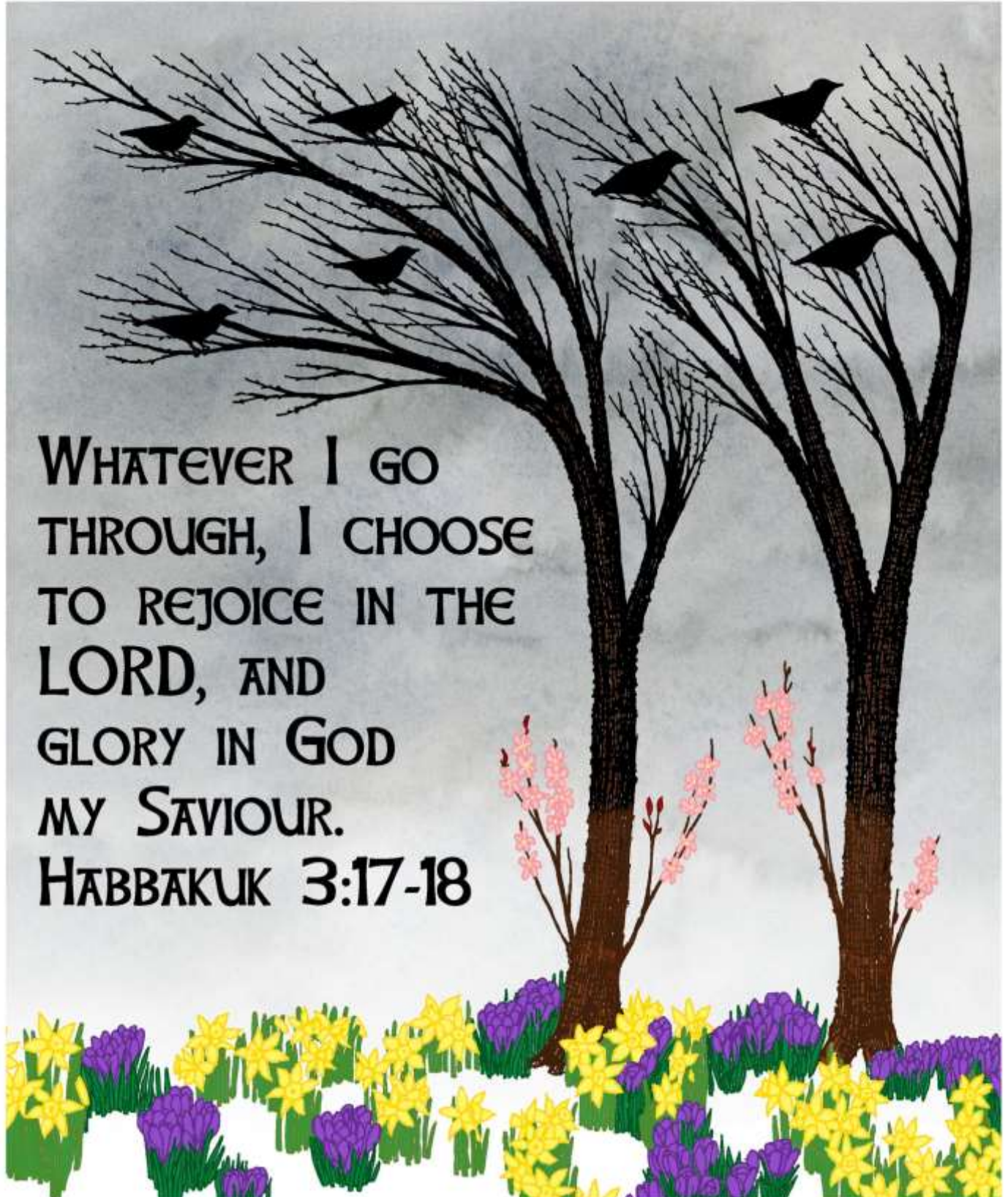
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

February 2023



WHATEVER I GO
THROUGH, I CHOOSE
TO REJOICE IN THE
LORD, AND
GLORY IN GOD
MY SAVIOUR.
HABBAKUK 3:17-18

"Cross Talk Subscription for 2023 is £6"

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**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

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

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 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

Weddings

Funerals

23rd December - Bernard Worrall

16th January - Jane Fergusson

20th January - Judith Cook

What the temptations mean for us

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22nd February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and You will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

Revd Jane

MONDAYS IN LENT 2023

7.30-9.00pm Everyone Welcome

St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

Issues Facing the Church (and the World) Today



- 27th February Revd Peter Mackriell
Head of Diocesan Counselling Services
"Be transformed..." Mental health matters; exploring together how to stay connected with self, with others and with God.
- 6th March Rt Revd Julie Conalty
Diocesan Lead Bishop for Safeguarding
"Good Samaritans and Good Shepherds"
- 13th March Revd Mike Loach
Chair of Diocesan Environment Forum
"Can human beings be taught to share"
- 20th March The Ven Michael Gilbertson
Archdeacon of Chester
"Good News for the poor"
- 27th March Ms Julie Okundaye
Chair of Diocesan Race and Ethnicity Forum
"Allyship" –the quality or practice of helping or supporting other people who are part of a group that is treated badly or unfairly
- 3rd April Padre Ailsa Whorton
Chaplain to "1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards"
"What's it like to have a son as a trained killer?"
How I've learned to work alongside those in the British Army

Each Session will be "standalone"

so you can come to whichever sessions you are able.

It would be lovely to welcome you to all of the sessions.

A warm welcome for all at the Warm Hub

Everyone is welcome to come
and be in a warm, safe space
at St. Chad's Church, Roslin
Road, Irby CH61 3UH
0151 648 8169

Free of
charge



Tuesdays 9.00am - 12.30pm



Refreshments, free WIFI, disabled access



and a chance to chat with friends.



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

Ruth's Reflections

A very belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a good Christmas. My Christmas Day was lovely, although very busy. I had eight for dinner and I am just not used to cooking for that many now. It was the first the first time I had used my new cooker for such a big occasion! Still all went well, everyone said it was delicious and I didn't give anyone food poisoning.

I was very tired afterwards and was glad that I had nothing more to do until New Years Eve when I went to my daughter and son in laws for a New Year Dinner.

I went to the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve as I knew I wouldn't have time on Christmas Day and as I have said before Christmas is not Christmas without going to Church. I have to say though I was very disappointed that there were so few people there, before covid the church was always full.

Talking about covid I had it a couple of weeks before Christmas, I was quite ill for several days so I was really glad I had had all the vaccinations. Everything tasted horrible and still does to some extent, even tea which is quite sad as I do like my tea!

My painful shoulder is improving and I am able to do most things now although with some pain. I have started ringing again, but restricting the amount I do until I am sure it won't make it worse. If anyone went to the Covenant service at the Methodist Church on 1st January you would have seen a few of us ringing the handbells.

I hope to get out with my camera soon, now that I can actually hold it without pain. I haven't taken any photos for about four months.

My garden is looking a bit sorry for itself after all the bad weather, but some of the bulbs are starting to come through and several primulas are in flower. I am looking forward to spring and getting the garden into shape.

I hope this year is a good one for everyone. Take care and stay safe.

Ruth.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 24th **April 2023 in St Chad's, starting at 7.30 pm.**

During the two meetings, we will hear reports on the activities and finances of the church during 2022. We will also appoint members of the congregations as churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod representatives.

The first meeting is the Meeting of Parishioners and is very brief. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Meeting of Parishioners

The only business during the Meeting of Parishioners is to elect or re-elect churchwardens. Churchwardens are appointed for one year, working closely with the Rector and the PCC particularly in relation to the buildings and the church grounds. There is a time limit of six consecutive years on an appointment as churchwarden.

The appointment of churchwardens is especially important this year. Mrs Whitehead has now been in that role for six years so cannot be reappointed. Churchwardens are essential members of the parish team and are one of the links between the congregations and the Rector. They are supported and assisted by the Rector, PCC members and others. Although one churchwarden can cope with all the requirements, it is much better if two churchwardens are appointed to share them.

If you have any interest at all in becoming a churchwarden, please speak to the Rector or Mrs Whitehead as soon as possible.

The Rector must receive nominations for churchwardens on the proper forms before the meeting begins. The forms will be available in the churches and on the Church website (link shown below) for downloading. Nominations for churchwardens may not be made after the meeting has begun. Anyone who lives in the parish can vote in the Meeting of Parishioners.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard, the buildings and their contents. With the minister, it steers the life of the church in its mission, witness and service in the parish.

PCC members are elected for three years, with four members retiring each year. We are hoping for new members who can bring new ideas and fresh thoughts to our discussions and decisions. Four members have reached the ends of their terms of office and may be re-elected and there are three other vacancies.

We also need people to represent us at meetings of the Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod members are elected for three years and are automatically members of the PCC. There will be at least two vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives.

Anyone who has any interest in becoming more involved in helping with church activities should speak as soon as possible to the Rector, the Honorary Secretary or to any PCC member. Everyone can offer something – **do not be put off just because you think you don't know enough about it.**

During the meeting, we shall also receive written reports on what the PCC discussed and decided in 2022, the church accounts and the organisations associated with the church. These will be available on the Parish website for downloading before the meetings.

Notices with more details of the meetings will be displayed on the church website, in both churches and by email, with nomination forms for PCC members, deanery synod representatives and churchwardens.

Finally, if there are any matters that you wish to bring forward for discussion, please inform the Rector or the PCC Secretary before the meeting.

G.J Barley (Hon. Secretary)

The link for the nomination for the nomination forms (copy and paste into browser) is:

<https://thurstaston.org.uk/pcc-information/apcm-annual-parochial-church-meeting/nomination-forms-and-electoral-roll-application-form.php>

Your P.C.C. needs you

As we approach our Annual Parish Meeting, I would urge you to consider putting your name forward for election to the Parochial Church Council.

Often the object of jokes and comedy sketches, depicting hostility and even outright warfare between vicars and, on the one hand, traditionalists and, on the other, progressives in their congregations, the PCC actually performs a vital function in any parish. Members discuss (always, in my experience, in a respectful and civilised manner, even when there are differences of opinion) all matters to do with the running of the parish and its two churches, as well as initiatives put forward by the diocese or national church.

We are a democratic body; it certainly isn't the case that the Rector makes the decisions and tells us what to do. And we are also the Trustees of the Parish, which is registered as a charity.

At the present time we need fresh blood, particularly from those below the age of fifty (and for those **who are worried, I promise that it isn't particularly onerous**). **We also need people with a range of interests and skills and who have had different life experiences.** But above all, we need people who **are committed to finding ways of enabling our parish to build God's kingdom here in Irby and Thurstaston.**

Could you be one of those people? If so, don't hesitate to have a chat with any current member of the P.C.C. I hope you'll be prepared to bring new life and fresh ideas to the council.

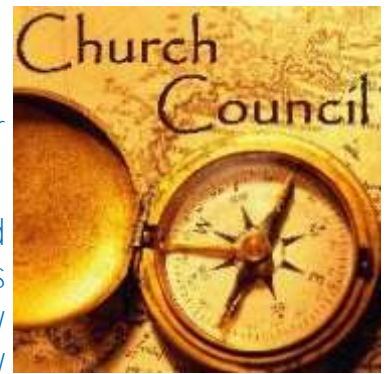
Chris Smale

As we come into another year for the church, please have a think if you could join the PCC. I have been on the committee for a long time and will be re-standing this year.

Yes there are boring bits about finances and pipes, but also important decisions to be made that cannot happen without members. Being part of all sorts of topics discussed, things like our mission to serve the community, growing people in their faith and supporting each other are the rewarding bits. All opinions are valued and varied ones very much needed.

If you could spare an evening every few months, to help the church grow and to give your ideas and opinions, you would be welcomed and a valued new voice.

Julie DeBoorder



Treasurer Needed

The PCC currently pays a bookkeeper to undertake day to day transactions, banking of money and paying of bills etc. The PCC finance sub committee makes decisions based on the information in the parish accounts, but they would very much value having someone to act as treasurer (who does not need to be a member of the PCC) to assist with producing financial reports for the PCC and the annual meeting, as well as interpreting the more complicated aspects of banking decisions eg parish share.

Please speak to Revd Jane or the PCC secretary (Graham Barley) or a member of the finance committee (Chris Smale, Malcolm Studholme, Pat Neil) if you think you could help.



This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help three ways during this Fortnight.

First, why not join an online *Big Fairtrade Get Together*? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future. Secondly, *let your friends know* of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night. Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

For more information, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

Sometimes it is wise to retreat

Lent is supposed to prepare us for Easter, but making time for spiritual reflection in our busy lives can be hard. One solution is to take a short retreat, at one of the many retreat houses or centres around the country.

It has been said that *"Retreats are for ordinary people at any time in their life. There are no expectations of you when you're there and you don't need to be a churchgoer."* Just step back, relax in quiet and calm, and allow yourself some time to reflect and grow in your relationship with God.

Jesus Himself started the idea, when He invited his disciples to *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while"* (Mark 6: 31). His disciples needed to be alone with Him then, and they still need to be alone with Him today.

Lent Encounter Days



'Journey to the cross'

Monday 27th February ~ Jesus is condemned

Tuesday 7th March ~ Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Wednesday 15th March ~ Jesus falls and Simon carries his cross

Wednesday 22nd March ~ Jesus is stripped and nailed to the cross

Friday 31st March ~ Jesus dies and is laid in the tomb

Each day starts with tea and coffee at 9.30am, finishing at 3.30pm.

£25.00 per person - includes lunch and refreshments.



Foxhill

House and Woodlands

Foxhill House and Woodlands, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6XB

Telephone: 01928 733 777

www.foxhillchester.co.uk

Email: foxhill@chester.anglican.org

Reflecting Faith: what animals can remind us about our faith

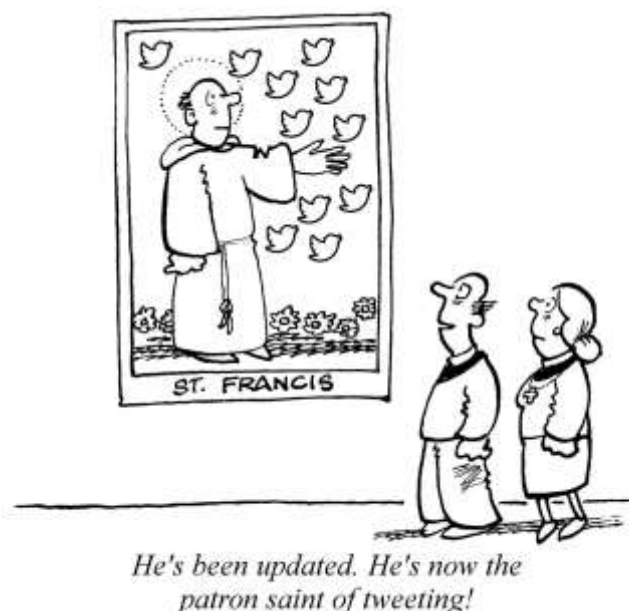
There are various rather peculiar 'creatures' that are used in decorations in and on church buildings.

Around the outside of many larger churches and cathedrals you may well have found some downright scary beasts! They are usually used as downspouts off the roof or at the head of vast columns. Often, they were intended to scare away anything or anyone who was evil from entering the church building, and therefore kept all those on the inside safe.

When we go to worship – especially somewhere we haven't been before – we want to be assured that what will be said during the service will be 'of God'. We want to be able to relax and just be ourselves and secure in God's presence. And that was the thinking behind those beasts.

There are, however, plenty more welcome creatures often found inside the building. Jesus is often spoken about as 'The Lamb of God'. Indeed, we use that phrase within most Communion services during the Gloria as well as just before we go to receive the bread and wine: *'Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.'* So, we can see a lamb as representing innocence, purity, vulnerability and sacrifice itself.

This month: Have a look to see if there are any other 'creatures' on show in a church near you. What do they 'say'?



Spiritual Disciplines: - Study

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster lists the following spiritual disciplines:

Inward Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study

Outward Disciplines: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service

Corporate Disciplines: Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration

Over the coming year we will be looking at some of these. Effective discipline is not drudgery, but delightful! Richard Foster insists that we can 'celebrate' these disciplines which can help us grow.

'The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.' (Richard Foster)

Spiritual disciplines are practices designed to develop and grow our lives as disciples of Jesus. This month we are looking at the place of *study* as a spiritual practice.

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' (2 Timothy 3:16,17). **The study of God's Word is vital if we are to grow in understanding God's will for our lives. The discipline of study can take different forms:** reading the Bible as a book or on a digital device and listening to an audio Bible. We can hear the Bible taught in church on Sundays or online any time.

One helpful way of studying Scripture is *Lectio Divina*. It consists of five steps:

- Select a Scripture passage to read.
- Read the passage, preferably out loud, two or three times. Use the first time to get a feel for the passage. On the second time, note any words or phrase that draw your attention.
- Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. How is God speaking to you through these? Take time and allow God to speak personally about your life now.
- Respond to what God has been saying to you. What is your response? What is your prayer?
- **Rest in God's presence and allow His love to embrace you by His Spirit.**

Why not try this for yourself to hear God speak?

'We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords.' (words used when the late Queen received a Bible at her Coronation).

GOD IN THE SCIENCES: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.



If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo’s development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.

So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

GOD IN THE ARTS : Forty Days and Forty Nights

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is held in a private collection.



Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Photograph Credit:

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>

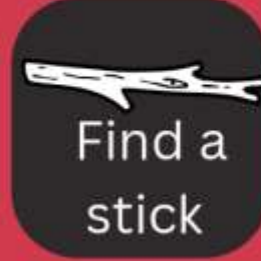
February



MONDAY	CANDLEMAS FEBRUARY 2ND	6	13	20 Love your Pet Day 	Polar Bear Day 27
TUESDAY	7 Send a Friend a Card Day 	14 Valentines Day 	21 Shrove Tuesday 	28	
WEDNESDAY	1	8 Kite Flying Day 	15	22 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins 	
THURSDAY	2 Groundhog Day 	9 Pizza Day 	16	23	FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 27 February - 12 March
FRIDAY	3 Time to Talk Day 	10 Umbrella Day 	17	24	
SATURDAY	4 World Cancer Day 	11	18 Random Act of Kindness Day	25	
SUNDAY	5 Full Moon 	12 Autism Sunday 	19	26	



www.muddychurch.co.uk or www.ko-fi.com/muddychurch/shop



February

Remembering Ukraine – one year on

24th February is the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which has seen nearly eight million people displaced and thousands killed. This winter is the worst in living memory for most Ukrainians, with



medicine, food, water, and heating in short supply. If you would like to mark the first year by helping the people Ukraine, here are some charities from which you might choose:

The Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC) is an umbrella group of UK charities.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Sadly, with war back in Europe, it is now back at work on the Continent.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022>

Barnabas Fund distributes food through local churches to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions.

<https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/>

Samaritans Purse has been airlifting medical supplies into the country, distributed more than 45 million kilos of food, and built water systems providing more than 30 million litres of water.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/>



Heart Bomb

Irby Heart Bomb

Hearts for everyone

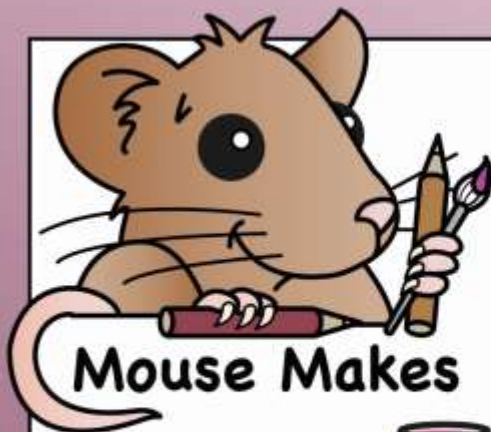
Put up hearts everywhere

Join in the joy

Everyone is Loved

February 11 – March 11





Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:27-28



- SUPPER
- LAMB • LORD
- DISCIPLES
- TOGETHER
- EVENING
- ROOM • JAR
- WATER • TWELVE
- JESUS • CHRIST
- NIGHT • TOOK
- THANKS
- BLESSING
- BROKE • GIVEN
- COVENANT
- DRINK • EAT
- FORGIVENESS
- SINS • HOLY
- COMMUNION
- EUCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

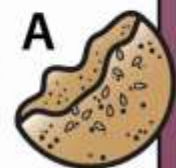
of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25



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

Find the words from the questions too!



In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

Forty
Days
Baby
Boy
Public

Appearance
Mary
Jewish
Mothers
Temple

Jesus
Purified
Present
Lord
Festival

Presentation
Light
World
Candlemas
Simeon

Nunc
Dimittis
Office
Evening
Prayer
West

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

Nigel Beeton writes: "100 years ago on 16th February 1923 the archaeologist Howard Carter broke the seal on the tomb of Tutankhamun. When he and the Earl of Carnarvon had peered through a small hole in November 1922 Carter had described seeing 'wonderful things', as indeed they turned out to be. Such treasures, laid up with the mummy of a dead pharaoh were intended to provide security in the afterlife, the tomb of Tut was unique in that it hadn't been plundered previously by thieves. But Jesus had advice on this very subject, which we can find in Matthew 6:19-21:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Wonderful Things

Mister Carter
And the Earl
Went off to Egypt, hot
Just as they'd planned
They dug the sand –
And look at what they got!
Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!

Mister Carter
And the Earl
They peered into the gloom
And what they spied
Deep inside
Was Tutankhamun's tomb:
Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!

Mister Carter
And the Earl
They shouted out for glee!
For twenty years
Through lots of tears
They'd hoped this sight to see:
Wonderful things, glorious things
Of silver and of gold
Marvellous things, beautiful things
And very, very old!

Our treasure, too
Is stored for us
In Heav'n, not underground!
And when we die
Both you and I
Will hear the angels' sound:
Wonderful things, glorious things
As promised by the Lord
Marvellous things, beautiful things
Our Father kept His Word!

By Nigel Beeton

Heaven's Grocery Store

Author Unknown
Submitted by Elizabeth Barton

As I was walking down life's
highway many years ago
I came upon a sign that read
Heavens Grocery Store.

When I got a little closer
the doors swung open wide
And when I came to myself
I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS.
They were standing everywhere
One handed me a basket and said
"My child, shop with care."

Everything a human needed
was in that grocery store
And what you could not carry
you could come back for more.

First I got some PATIENCE.
LOVE was in that same row.
Further down was UNDERSTANDING,
you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM
and FAITH a bag or two.
And CHARITY, of course,
I would need some of that, too.

I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST
It was all over the place.
And then some STRENGTH and COURAGE
to help me run this race.

My basket was getting full but I remembered I
needed GRACE,
And then I chose SALVATION for
SALVATION was for free
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.



Then I started to the counter
to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything
to do the MASTERS will.

As I went up the aisle I saw
PRAYER and put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside
I would run into sin.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful,
the last things on the shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near
so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel
"How much do I owe?"
He smiled and said
"Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I asked "Really now,
how much do I owe?"
"MY CHILD" HE SAID,
"GOD PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME
AGO."

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!

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For more information, contact the Chair:

Alan McMahan, Text:07889 404917

Or Email: almac48@virginmedia.com

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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.

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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:rector@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

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

February 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 5th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 12th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's
- Sun 19th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's



Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday

10.30am Communion at St Chad's

- Sun 26th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Chad's (with Junior Church)
- Sun 5th March 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's