

All Due uotsetst

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





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.churchofengland.org/safe	Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility
<pre>************************************</pre>	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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Good idea!

Have you ever been just sitting there, and all of a sudden, you feel like doing something really nice for someone else? That could well be God, prompting you through the Holy Spirit.





Baptisms 23rd April: James Cryer

Weddings

Funerals 17th April: Robert Price

From Your Rector

On 6^{th} May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, The Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

For God's presence to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about 'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England - the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'

For God's wisdom as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.' (1 Kings 3:9).

For God's love to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

For God's purpose to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: 'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'

A Prayer for the new King:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





In Salvador Dali's picture of Jesus' ascension all you can see are His feet! As we celebrate the event this month, it prompts the question 'where did Jesus go?' Peter says Jesus 'has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). However, the New Testament tells us three things about what Jesus is doing at the Father's side.

Sitting: At Pentecost Peter says Jesus is '*exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear...'* '*The Lord said to my Lord:* "*Sit at my right hand'''* (Acts 2: 33-4). Peter is affirming Jesus' position of authority and power at the heart of the universe. By pouring out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the life of heaven i.e. eternal life, forgiveness, healing, release and God's provision for our lives.

Standing: When Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was being stoned to death by the Jewish authorities he cried out: '*I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*' (Acts 7:56). Our experience of heaven is only ever partial, as we live with the reality of suffering and setbacks. However, Jesus is still on the throne! He has a bigger plan and purpose for our lives than we might imagine (including the difficulties), and we are called to trust Him daily.

Praying: 'Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.' (Romans 8:34, cf Hebrews 7:25). Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance that Jesus is already praying for us! He knows our needs even better than we do ourselves, so when we feel condemned or defeated in our Christian lives, we have somebody on our side!

The Ascension reminds us that the risen Jesus lives in the immediate presence of God and both transcends and embraces our present experience. This truth lies at the heart of the *up* language used to describe the event.

'Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the one who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find Him.' (Tom Wright).

POTTING SHED EVENING

Have fun painting your choice of item at the Potting Shed, 12 -14 Market Street, Hoylake



Wednesday 10 May 7pm - 10pm Price is based on Item chosen at £15 - £30



Please contact Jayne Oliver to book your place. Jayne.oliver59@talktalk.net

Helping in the terrible aftermath of Cyclone Freddy

Cyclone Freddy, which recently hit Malawi, Madagascar, and Mozambique is still causing widespread devastation. The Zambezia province in Mozambique remains pretty much underwater. The tropical storm has left thousands homeless and in need of aid.

"We have experienced a situation that has never happened before in the country." These words from Cedric Willie, Acting Executive Director, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian -Blantyre Synod Health & Development Commission, only begin to describe the ongoing situation in Malawi. The region was deluged by six months of rainfall - in just six days.

The cyclone displaced close to 160,000 people. Torrential rain, flooding, and mudslides have caused over 320 known deaths. Hospitals have been overwhelmed with the injured. Families have been torn apart, left homeless, and children orphaned.

The Christian aid agency, Barnabas Fund, has been working in the area since the storm struck. If you would like to help, please go to: https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/latest-needs/ cyclone-freddy-appeal

Helping the Afghan refugees

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) reports that many churches have responded with "love and compassion" to the various needs of 9,000 Afghan refugees who have been living in temporary 'bridging hotels' for the past 18 months.

As the government now takes steps to move the Afghans into settled accommodation, CUF wants the government to "ensure that Afghan refugees are given sufficient time and support ... and that they are not forced to move without appropriate consideration and support."

Last year CUF, in partnership with the Benefact Trust, awarded £126,000 to 37 church projects, which together helped 2,621 Ukrainian and Afghan refugees last year. Many churches did more than provide the emergency basics; they also showed real friendship and helped families to begin to integrate into their local communities.

As one vicar explained: "The wonderful thing about faith-based social action is that it is there for the longer term."

Christians helping to clean up after the earthquake in Turkey

More than 50,000 people were killed, and tens of thousands injured, when the massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria struck on 6th February, causing thousands of homes and buildings to collapse across a vast area.

Only a week later, on 13th February, the Christian aid agency Samaritan's Purse opened an Emergency Field Hospital in Turkey, accepting dozens of patients within hours of opening.

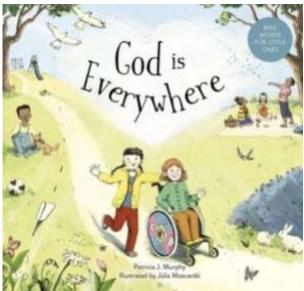
That mobile hospital soon included two emergency operating rooms, four intensive care unit beds, a pharmacy, and 52 beds. It has a staff of about 100, including doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel.

Samaritan's Purse has also distributed thousands of tents, as well as mattresses, food boxes, solar lanterns, and hygiene kits (including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, and more) in partnership with First Hope Association.

Through these local Christian partners, teams are also in the process of installing 120 mobile hygiene containers, each complete with three showers, three toilets, and sinks. Arriving on large trucks and lifted onto level ground by cranes, these facilities will be maintained for up to a year through our partnerships in Turkey.

If you would like to help the on-going relief effort, please go to: https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk





God is Everywhere By Patricia J Murphy, Lion Books, £7.99

This heart-warming picture book introduces young children to the reassuring messages found in Bible verses. Each of three Bible verses are woven into a lyrical narrative, with key repetitive phrases, and then applied to young children's daily lives.

The Bible verses are based on:

You are a Child of God Memory verse: "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3 verse 1)

Never Fear, God is Near! Memory verse: Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1 verse 9) Love God, Love All. Memory verse: Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind... Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22 verses 37, 39)

Beautiful story-telling illustrations showing activities of young children's everyday lives at home, at school, and out and about.

If a vicar asks you for money...

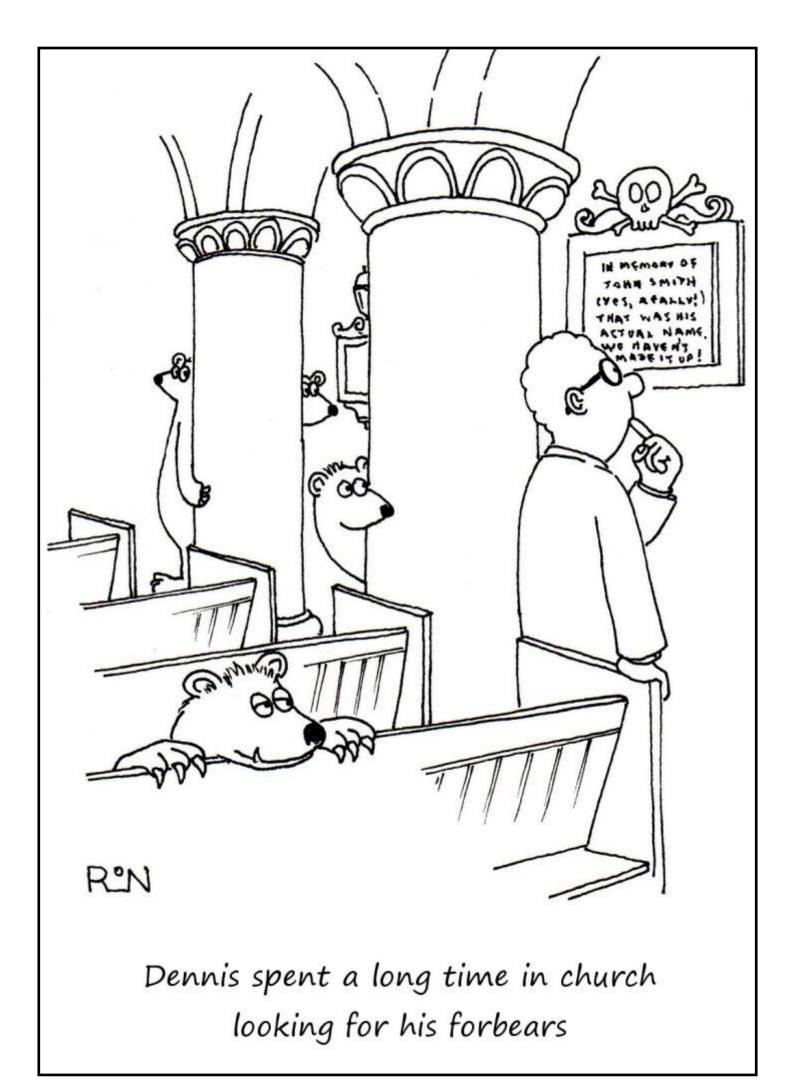
If you are contacted by a clergyman asking you for money, beware! It is a scammer.

Scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

The scammers use either emails or texts, and their message is along the lines: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly." They then say: "I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email." Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.

The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials. At least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost ± 1000 in a scam.

As diocesan spokesman said: "It seems this is a national trend." The police are looking into it, and meanwhile, advising people that: "Clergy will *never* ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam."



Ruth's Reflections

I am sitting here listening to the rain pounding on the conservatory roof! I had hoped to get out in the garden today, but obviously I can't!

I hope you all had a good Easter. I did, I enjoyed the Easter Sunday Service but sad that we could not ring the Bells for it. I saw some of my family over the Bank Holiday, but my elder daughter was on duty on Easter Sunday and Monday and I still haven't managed to see her since. I really don't know where the time goes!

On Easter Monday I went out with other Ringers on a ringing tour. we had an enjoyable time visiting 6 different towers. I managed to ring at 4 of them, but my shoulder prevented me ringing at the other two.

Since Easter I have been out with the W.I. to a Nursery and Gardens near Warrington, called Bluebell Cottage Gardens, which are lovely. The gardens, even this early in the year, were



beautiful, and they had a very peaceful and restful atmosphere. I shall definitely go back later in the year to see them in all their glory. There is also a small Tearoom there, selling delicious homemade cakes.

I haven't done much Photography, I still find it difficult to hold my camera for long, but it is getting easier.

My next project is to decorate my bedroom. I shall have to do a bit at a time, to protect my shoulder, but I need to get it done so I can have a carpet fitted.

Our holiday in Italy is getting nearer and I have started sorting out what to take. I am hopeless at packing a case, having caravanned most if the time I am more used to just moving clothes from one cupboard to another!

I think that is all for now, so take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

Reflecting Faith: - the Lectern

Have you ever considered the furniture that we have in our churches?

Close your eyes and think what your own sitting room looks like and the furniture you have chosen to go in there. Most of us will have chairs, a sofa, one or more tables of different sizes, a fireplace and a television. Which way are the chairs facing? What's the focal point?

Churches are no different in that they have most fixtures and fittings in common, and in set places.

In an Anglican church the focal item is the altar at the centre, with the lectern – from where the Bible is read out loud during services - on the right side as you look at it, and a pulpit on the left-hand side.

In a Methodist church the pulpit is often behind, but built higher than the altar, and probably with a mobile lectern to be placed as chosen.

This demonstrates a key difference between the two denominations. The former holds the bread and wine in greater importance whilst the latter gives that status to the preaching and the Word of God.

Such variations reveal the way in which we 'reflect our faith' through our buildings.

The word 'lectern' derives from 'to collect, gather', and again, 'to speak', so together it means 'to gather words, to pick out words.'

The words in church which we read from the lectern have been certainly carefully chosen and



then written down. There have been centuries, indeed millennia, of time, thought, prayer and energy going into preparing the Bibles that we read today!

It is a privilege to be asked to read from the Bible during a service, as that will form the basis for the sermon, the hymns and indeed the whole theme for that day or even that week.

This month: Have a look at the lectern in your place of worship or the place where the Bible readings are read from. What material is it made from? What shape is it? Does it have any distinctive features? Then consider how that passage or those passages are continued and expanded through the different elements of the service.

Spiritual Disciplines: - Prayer

An important spiritual discipline is *prayer*, where we can both listen and talk to God. However, it's not always easy, and as Pentecost tells us, we have the Holy Spirit to help us to pray.

'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.' (Romans 8: 26,27)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness

We often don't know how to pray for a person or situation. The Holy Spirit is alongside to help: '*He bears the burden with us*'. He enables us to connect with God and assures us that He loves to hear our prayers: '*And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.*' (Romans 8:15).

The Spirit helps us in our ignorance When we don't know what to ask in prayer, the Spirit prays for us with a perfect understanding of God's will. The Spirit pleads on our behalf in *'wordless groans'*, which go beyond mere words. We are never alone when we pray, since the Spirit takes our words and brings them to the Father.

The Spirit helps us in our requests The Spirt intercedes for us according to the will of God. He translates the prayers we can't articulate or the requests we get wrong, so that they come to God in accordance with His will. In prayer we attune ourselves to the Spirit with our words or groans. Reading the Bible

alongside our prayer is helpful, so that we

can pray in agreement with God's Word.



When we pray, lets confidently ask: 'Come Holy Spirit.'

GOD IN THE SCIENCES: Can Science Prove God Exists?

To risk sounding like a smart aleck seven-year-old, technically speaking you can only prove things mathematically. If you need to know that one plus one equals two, don't go to a chemistry lab. The natural sciences only deal with things that can be observed and measured. Science has been so successful that it's tempting to get carried away, valuing science above any other kind of knowledge, but there are other ways of knowing that are equally important. For example, art conveys ideas, experiences or emotions that provoke us to think or do something in response.

In fact, to find answers to any of the really important questions about meaning and purpose that affect us throughout our lives, we always have to go beyond science. Some scientific data might help define the question, for example a farmer facing a drought would probably like to know some details about the current weather patterns and the availability of seeds for more hardy crops before she can start asking "What is the point of trying to grow anything at all?" But in the end, she is asking a deeper question – and so are the rest of us when we go through any significant experience in life.

So rather than asking "Can science prove God exists?", what about: "Are the findings of science compatible with the existence of a purposeful Creator?" For many scientists today, the answer to the second question is yes. They have investigated the Bible's descriptions of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and found that they make sense. They have discovered that they can interact with God – especially in prayer – and that this faith has changed their lives.

Professor Christine Done, an Astrophysicist at Durham University, writes, "for me the more we know about the vast, yet intricate and beautiful Universe we live in, the bigger and more awe-inspiring is the God who made it all." (*Thinking About: The Big Bang*, <u>https://www.cis.org.uk/resources/thinking/</u>)</u>

Some go even further, making statements like this: "the way the universe exhibits an ordered structure, which is open to science to investigate, points to a mind behind it." (Revd Dr Rodney Holder, Astrophysicist, in *Longing, Waiting, Believing* (BRF, 2014)

The question "Can Science Prove God Exists?" turns out to be a category error – trying to use science to answer a non-scientific question. On the other hand, many scientists think there is enough evidence from a wide range of sources to warrant belief in God.

GOD IN THE ARTS :

Each year as we look at Creation we see the cycle of the seasons. The earth comes alive in spring, blossoms and bears fruit in summer, gives up its goodness and glory in autumn, and seems to die in the sleep of cold winter. Each of those seasons has its moods and feelings, which we find mirrored in the turn of human life.

The joy of spring and summer go hand in hand with the sadness and resignation of autumn and



winter in all that life brings us. When we look at our Lady in the Gospels, and this month of May is Mary's month, we see that mixture of joy and sadness.

In the Annunciation and at Christmas we share in the wonder and happiness of motherhood and new birth. A Son is born, but that birth brings anxiety and strain. Those strange words of Simeon in the Temple, losing the child in Jerusalem, watching her son grow, only to be rejected and crucified – these experiences brought Mary heartache and sorrow. But her maternal love sustains her through it all, and Mary is with the disciples at the glorious moment of Pentecost.

This range of moods in creation and in the life of Mary is caught up in the painting, 'The Madonna of the Meadow' by Giovanni Bellini. He came from a family of Renaissance painters, and this work was created around 1500. It now hangs in the National Gallery in London. The background is full of the details of the world of nature and everyday life. We see some cows grazing and others resting. A farmer tends the livestock on one side of the painting, while a herdsman relaxes on the other. Mary in the centre is part of that creation with the blue of her robe like the sky above, while the russet shades beneath that blue mirror the earth on which she rests.

As we look more closely, we can see some disturbing signs of 'nature red in tooth and claw.' There is a bird to our left – perhaps a crane or egret – that is fighting with a snake. Above, on the top of a tall, thin, leafless tree there is another bird as black as death. We look at the babe sleeping in His mother's arms and sense His vulnerability for all her protective love. Some 30 years later Mary will cradle her Son in that same pose as His body is taken down from the cross: that heart-rending moment we know as the Pietà.

The Venetian landscape is like a peaceful May afternoon where spring is dissolving into high summer amid those contented signs of a clear sky and cows grazing. The serpent and the raven tell us that struggle and death can easily invade that scene. But they somehow pale into insignificance as we ponder that luminous affirmation of new life in the mother and child that dominate the canvas. They proclaim life; they proclaim life after death. The babe sleeping in Mary's arms will wake and grow through the seasons of life. Too soon we know His body will hang on a barren tree like the one where that bird of death perches. But that cycle of birth and spring leading to death and winter will be transformed as His risen body will walk into another landscape – the garden of Easter where the leaves never wither and the sky never darkens, for in that resurrection joy, all is life and light and life eternal. St. Chad's Tots and Tinies St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am (Term Time Only)



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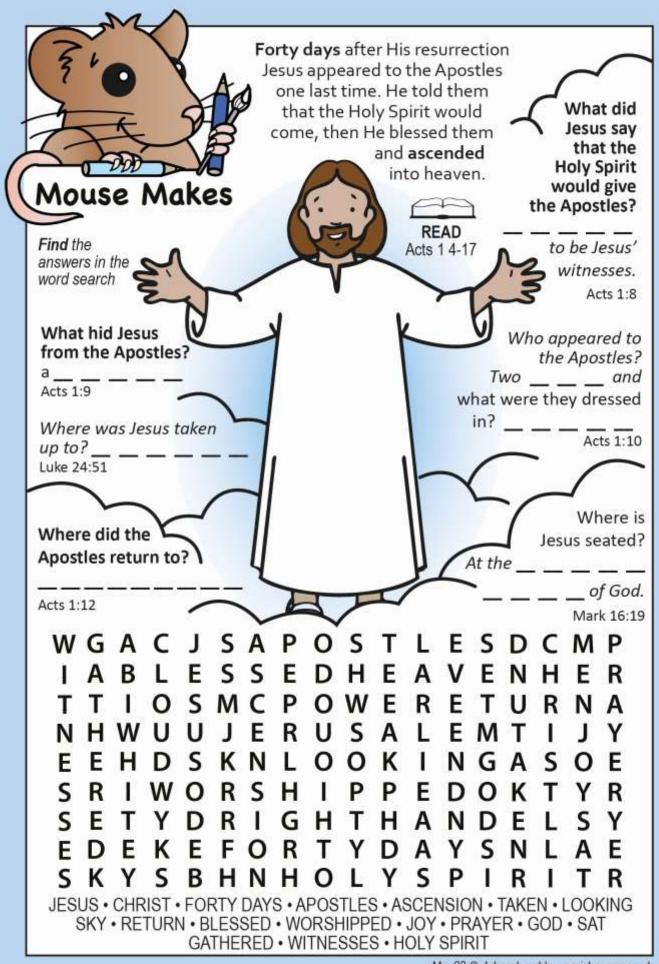




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and a chance to chat with friends.





May23 C deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Facts about King Charles

He was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948 at Buckingham Palace. He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old. He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree. He can speak Welsh.

He is a qualified pilot and diver.

He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author and played the cello at Cambridge.

As Prince of Wales, he founded about 20 charities which raise about £140million each year for good causes.

Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history.

He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral. As King, he is also now head of the Commonwealth.

Answers	R	Т	Т	С	R	I	Η	U	R	Η	Η	Т	Ε	Т
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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

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.

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

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Richard Farrell Precommends Open House West Wirtal

We moved in today! What a delight it was to have Alan at Open House help us through the process. He managed to sell our house within the week -twice after our first buyers pulled out. When we needed advice, he was extremely helpful, very calm, and guided us through the issues that occurred with ease. Available evenings and weekends he was always happy to answer our questions. I would thoroughly recommend Open House West Wirral if you are wanting to sell your property...don't look anywhere else!

OO Open House West Wirtal and Jenny Booth

Contact Details:

Alan.booth@localagent.co.uk

Mobile: 07712 642 890

Office: 0151 648 1397

www: https://www.onlineestateagents.org.uk/



Open House West Wirnal and Vicid Roberts

I can't tell you how impressed my boyfriend and I were to buy our house through Alan at Open House in February. They offered such a personal and efficient service at what was such a busy time in our lives, having just had our baby daughter in December! They were understanding, flexible with viewings & their communication was excellent. We are enjoying our new house so much & Alan even gave have us a lovely bottle of champagne as a moving in present. Thanks again X"

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list: easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby



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St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

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Contacts

Churchwardens Mrs Liz Whitehead	606 9083	Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs Elaine Jones	648 1400				
Vacant churchwarden@thu	urstaston.org.uk	Flower Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Dawn Rudd	648 0209				
Reader Emeritus Mr Alan Jones	648 1400	Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's) Vacant)				
Retired Clergy							
Revd David Felix	07778 859 935	Cleaning Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Leslie Worrall	648 5590				
Revd David Trollope	342 2648	Bellringers Tower Captain					
Revd Margaret Fletcher	648 1025	Dr Peter Robson	648 6691				
PCC Secretary		CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEO	PLE				
	648 1867 urstaston.org.uk	Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (Mrs Julie Deboorder	11-16) 648 6331				
PCC Treasurer pcc-treasurer@thu	urstaston.org.uk	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk or					
Parish Safeguarding Officer Mr Chris Williams	07956621731	Freephone 0800 1	69 59 01				
safeguarding@thu	urstaston.org.uk	CHARITY REPRESENTATIV	ES				
Verger Mr Jon Oliver	648 1754	Christian Aid Representative Vacant					
Organist Mr Craig Vickers	648 7405	Children's Society Representative Mrs Jean Heath	648 6015				
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office	648 8169	Leprosy Mission Representative	040 0010				
St Chad's Hall Booking hallbookings@thurstas	ston.org.uk	Adoption Society Representative Mrs Chris Rostock 648 1112					
Evening Mothers' Union (EM Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary							

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 TurnerPLEASE NOTE: Rector's Rest Day - TuesdayThe Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UBTelephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.ukCHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UHTelephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.ukOPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

MAY 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 7th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 14th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
	10.30am All Age service at St Chad's
Sun 21st May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
	10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
Sun 28th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
-	10.30am Communion with Junior church at St Chad's
Sun 4th June	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
	10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

