

Crosstalk

60p



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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

March 2020



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Diary Dates

Worship in the Wilderness
Throughout March and April
8pm St Chads—see page 5

6th March
World day of Prayer—P14
1.45pm Heswall Methodist Church &
7.30pm Emmanuel Church, Pensby

14th March
New Testament Live - P9
10am -4pm St Lukes Methodist Church

18th March
EMU -8pm St Chads
Little Eye Photography—P 16

22nd March
Evensong for Mothering Sunday
5pm St Bartholomew's

29th March
APCM
6.30pm St Chad's

29th March
Clocks go Forward

Foxhill Retreat
26th—29th May
See page 10

5th April
Palm Sunday
See page 14

From the Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

14th February

Arthur Broster

26th February

Norma Kingsbury

27th February

Alfred Wallis

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

16th February

Rebecca Sadie Randall

&

Evie Jane Randall

Dear Friends,

Psalm 84

This psalm is appropriate to think about during Lent, as it was used by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem. It speaks of the journey to find the presence of God in our lives. Where is our heart with God?

A Heart for God's Presence: 'How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.' (v1,2). For the psalmist, the Temple is the focus of God's presence and the place where he longs to be. How much do we long to know God's presence ourselves? Lent is a time to seek Him through the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, prayer, fasting, silence and solitude.

A Heart set on Pilgrimage: 'Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.' (5,6). Lent reminds us that the Christian life is a journey of faith, which is not always easy. We pass through the valley of Baka, which is the dry desert place in our experience. Here God can seem remote and silent. However, it also the season when we are refreshed by the Holy Spirit filling our lives.

A Heart that's Undivided: 'Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.' (10). We will find a home in God's presence only with an undivided heart, as we maintain our focus on God and trust him for all we need.

'Most of Scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak FOR us.' (St Athanasius).

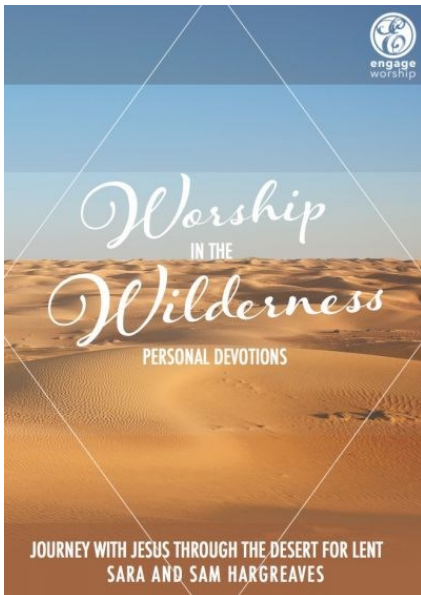
Rerd Jane

Worship in the Wilderness Together in Church Services

Feb 26th(8pm)	Ash Wednesday	A Secret Journey
1st March	Lent 1	A Spirit-led Journey
8th March	Lent 2	A Simple Journey
15th March	Lent 3	A Sorrowful Journey
22nd March	Lent 4	A Sacrificial Journey
<i>This is also Mothering Sunday - see bottom of page for more details</i>		
29th March	Lent 5	A truth-Speaking Journey
5th April	Palm Sunday	A Surprising Journey

Worship in the Wilderness Personal Devotions or in a Small Group

Worship in the Wilderness is a Lent series, journeying with Jesus through the desert. Explore this rich biblical theme, which touches on subjects such as simplicity, silence, sorrow, truth-speaking and being led by the Spirit.



The *Personal Devotions* book is an A5, 56 page full colour book. It contains five daily readings per week up to Palm Sunday. There are biblical reflections, creative responses and practical applications for earthing the ideas in real life.

Small group will meet on Thursdays 8.00-9.00pm at St Chad's
EVERYONE WELCOME - You will need a copy of the book which is £6.00 - Let Jane know if you want one (initially ordered 10 copies)

5th Mar: A Secret Journey and A Spirit-led Journey	26th Mar: A Sacrificial Journey
12th Mar: A Simple Journey	2nd Apr: A truth-Speaking Journey
19th Mar: A Sorrowful Journey	

Mothering Sunday 22nd March

We will distribute flowers as usual at all morning services, but as you can see from above the theme of the service will be a Lenten one. Junior Church will do appropriate craft activities for Mothering Sunday. And then for those who feel that they would like a service with more of a Mothering Sunday feel, there will be a special service:-

5.00pm Evensong for Mothering Sunday at St Bartholomew's - All Welcome

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

All parishioners are invited to two meetings on Sunday March 29th at St Chad's at 6.30 pm, to hear reports on the activities and finances of the church during 2019 and to appoint members of the congregations as churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), members of the Deanery Synod and sidespersons.

The Meeting of Parishioners

The only business during the Meeting of Parishioners is to elect or re-elect churchwardens. They are appointed for a year, working closely with the Rector and the PCC particularly in relation to the buildings or church grounds. At the end of the year, they may agree to be nominated again for election, but there is a time limit of six consecutive years on an appointment as churchwarden. We should have two churchwardens, but at present we have only one and it is increasingly important to appoint another. If you are interested in this, please speak to the Rector or Liz Whitehead as soon as possible.

The Rector must receive nominations for churchwardens on the proper forms before the meeting begins. Nominations 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 maintaining the churchyard, the buildings and their contents. Deanery Synod members represent the parish at Synod meetings. Sidespersons (sometimes called churchwarden's assistants) help with the arrangements at services. During the meeting, we elect people to all these roles. We shall also receive written reports on what the PCC discussed in 2019, the church accounts and the organisations associated with the church.

PCC members are elected for three years, with four members retiring each year. We are hoping for new members who can bring fresh ideas and insights to our discussions and decisions. Four members have reached the end of their terms of office and may be re-elected, and there are two other vacancies, six altogether, four until 2023 and two until 2022.

The current three-year term of office of our Deanery Synod representatives has ended. At present, Julie Parmenter, Malcolm Studholme and Chris Smale represent us. We must elect three representatives, and those who currently represent us can stand for re-election if they wish.

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

Notices will be displayed in both churches with more details of the meetings, and 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 Honorary Secretary before the meeting.

G.J Barley (Hon. Secretary)

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston and St Chad's, Irby
Annual Church Meetings
Sunday 7th April 2019 at St Chad's at 6.30 pm

Thirty three people were present, including one under 16 years.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a) Apologies (shown in alphabetical order) were received from Mrs L Barley, Mrs E Barton, Mrs J Dennison, Mrs J Hodgson, Mr B Jones, Mrs H Perry, Mr C Perry, Mrs M Reed, Dr D Reed, Mrs C Rostock and Mrs S Smale.

2) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

a) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (16th March 2018)

The minutes had been published in the Church magazine and copies were available at the meeting. It was agreed unanimously that they were a true and accurate record.

b) Election of Churchwardens

Mrs E Whitehead had been nominated by Mrs R Smith, seconded by Mr R Dennison. There were no other nominations and Mrs Whitehead was re-elected, the second post of churchwarden being left unfilled.

3) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

a) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (16th March 2018)

The minutes had been published in the Church magazine and copies were available at the meeting. It was agreed unanimously that they were a true and accurate record.

b) Approval of the following Reports published in the Annual Report

Mr Oliver, seconded by Mrs Oliver, proposed acceptance of the following reports:

- i) Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches
- ii) The Business of the Church Council in 2018
- iii) The Electoral Roll
- iv) The Junior Church
- v) The St Chad's Seniors
- vi) Safeguarding

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

c) Approval of other Reports

Mrs J Bibby, seconded by Dr P Robson, proposed acceptance of the following reports:

- i) The Leprosy Mission
- ii) The Children's Society
- iii) Bellringers' Report
- iv) Evening Mothers' Union
- v) 1st Thurstaston Guides
- vi) 3rd Irby Brownies
- vii) Tots and Tinies

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

4) The Financial Affairs of the Parish during 2018

Mr Marley, the Treasurer, referred first to the financial report and accounts published in the Annual Report for 2018 and asked if there were any questions. He was asked whether Parish Share was a debt. A supplementary question was that if Parish Share is not a debt, why was it a liability? Mr Marley said it was essentially an aide memoire, but not paying it in full could lead to significant difficulties in the future. Mr Turnbull commented that "contactless giving" was being

trials in some churches and that the amount collected during services had fallen by a third. New “top-up” regulations allowed us to reclaim more under the GASDS scheme. In response to another question about the Open Door Fund, Mr Marley said it had been agreed [by the Charity Commission] that it could be used for the new boiler in St Bartholomew’s.

The Rector thanked Mr Marley for all the work he had undertaken to produce the accounts. She thanked the Finance Committee for their work throughout the year.

5) The Independently Examined Accounts for 2018

Dr P Robson, seconded by Mrs P Hulme, proposed acceptance of the independently inspected annual accounts for 2018. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

6) Appointment of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2019

Mrs B Appleyard proposed the appointment of Mrs M Walker, Chartered Accountant, Irby, as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2019. The proposal, which was seconded by Mrs J Bibby, was approved unanimously by those present.

7) Safeguarding Arrangements

A report by the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Kathryn Timmins, had been published in the Annual Report. The Rector invited questions. Mrs Deboorder, seconded by Mr Marley, proposed acceptance of the report and the proposal was agreed unanimously. Mr Smale asked about training and renewal of training. The Rector said that the Diocese was not currently offering retraining but she would be attending a retraining course in the next week and would make enquiries.

8) Matters discussed by the Deanery Synod during 2018

The account published in the Annual Report was accepted unanimously.

9) Election of a member of the congregations to fill a casual vacancy to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod until 2020

Mrs P Crammond, seconded Mr C Smale, proposed Mrs J Parmenter. As there were no other proposals, Mrs Parmenter was declared elected.

10) Election of three members of the Parochial Church Council to serve until 2022

The following people were elected or re-elected as members of the PCC:

- i. Mr A Harford was proposed by Mr Smale, seconded by Mrs Neil and elected until 2022
- ii. Mrs J Hodgson was proposed by Mr Barley, seconded by Mrs Neil and elected until 2022

11) Appointment of Sidespersons

The Rector read out the list of names of serving sidespeople, noting that more were required. All serving sidespeople were re-appointed unanimously.

12) Other Business

There was none.

13) Rector’s closing remarks

The Rector thanked everyone who had helped in any way during the year, saying that it was a huge number of people. Mrs Whitehead thanked the Rector for her dedication, commitment, organisation, faith and continual hard work, and for the support and guidance she had provided. She added a short prayer asking that the grace of God and the power of the Gospel would continue to renew the Rector in the faithful care of His people.

Hunger for God

Forty days of prayer and fasting
Forty days of hunger and thirst;
Forty days to put self behind us
Forty days in Jesus immersed!
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus comes first.

May our hunger not be for manna
May we thirst, instead, to be blessed.
May our hunger be for justice –
Justice for the poor and oppressed.
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus knows best.

May we come through Lent's forty trials
To a truly God-centred place!
May we cease obsession with mirrors
Come to look, instead, on Your face
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
May we all encounter Your grace.

NEW TESTAMENT LIVE

Sat. 14th March 2020, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St. Luke's Methodist Church, 19 Market Street, Hoylake, CH47 2BF

The booking DETAILS...

It is just £14 per person for a life changing day.

Please bring a packed lunch

https://www.bible.org.uk/wtb_event_tickets.php

Everyone receives a full colour workbook and free re-admission for life

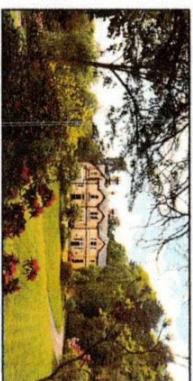
**11 - 16 year olds can attend for free with a paying adult
(but they will not receive a book)**

This retreat will reflect on some of the prayer methods used and encouraged by Saints of the Christian Tradition.

It will focus on different ways of praying, offering the opportunity to experience alternatives when the 'usual' ways of praying seem less helpful.

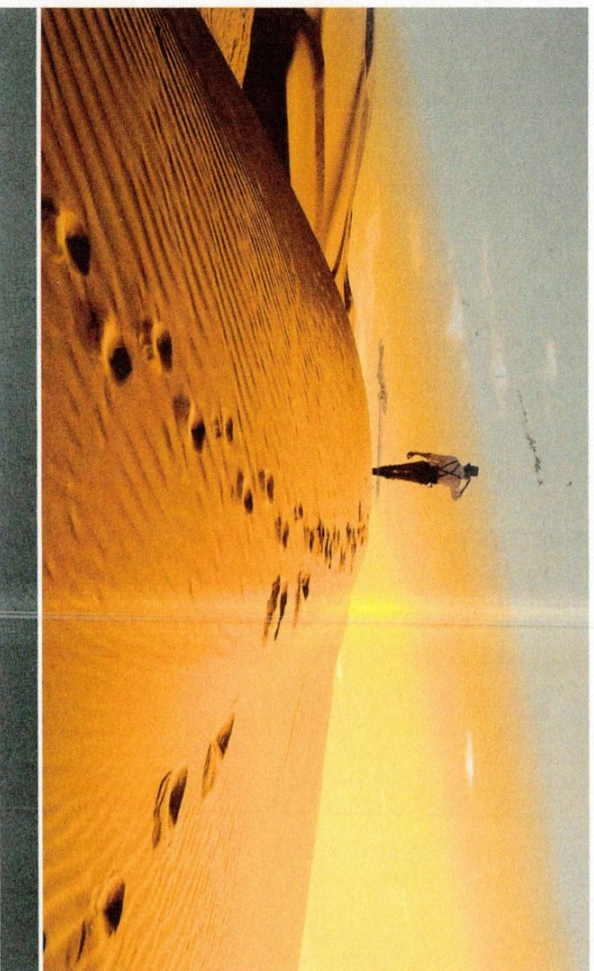
For booking information please visit:
www.foxhillchester.co.uk

26th - 28th May 2020
£175pp - Includes:
en-suite accommodation
meals & refreshments



The Diocese of Chester centre for prayer, study and mission A Christian space for retreats, conferences and training

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Walking in the Footsteps of Giants

A prayer retreat with Sister Winnie

Last year several of us went on a similar retreat.
Here are some reflections of our experiences.

A time for thinking,
listening and contributing.

All in a peaceful place with
new and old friends.

Food good too.

Pat.N.

First time on a retreat,
completely hooked!

Not everything was my
cup of tea but it was so
relaxed, it was fine and
there was always
something available to
suit. A very peaceful,
rejuvenating experience.

The staff were lovely too
and the food delicious. To
add to all that, also space
and time for just you, or a
walk with a friend, a chat
on a bench. Something for
all your needs.

Julie.D.

Retreat Recipe

Take one tired person in need of
rejuvenation

Transport to Foxhill (not far)

Add:-

- joyful, uplifting worship
- interesting thought provoking teaching
- powerful prayer time
- very edible food 😊
- drinks (cold/hot) always available

Sprinkle in:-

- early morning scampering around the arboretum (smell the damp soil, climb up towards the sunlight stirring through the leaves, marvel at the view)
- peace and quiet
- or companionable chatting

- blessed SILENCE

Adjust quantities to suit

Result:-

Refreshment of body, mind and spirit.
Thoroughly recommended.

Beverley.A.

Revd Jane is booked in. Would you like to join her?

If so, contact Foxhill by email or phone.

God in the Sciences : A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

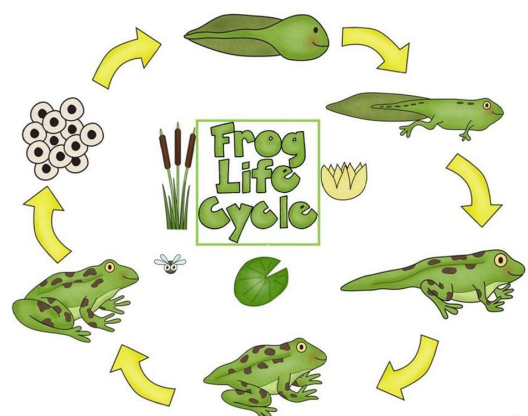
When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs - that is, until a two year-old comes and knocks them over.



‘He gave us eyes to see them’: woodcut from Cologne Bible of 1478

The RSPCA was the first national animal welfare society in the world and was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, ‘Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure consist with genuine and true benevolence?’



This month we focus on the story of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. Balaam has not heeded God’s will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way. Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, ‘Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?’ Balaam’s eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

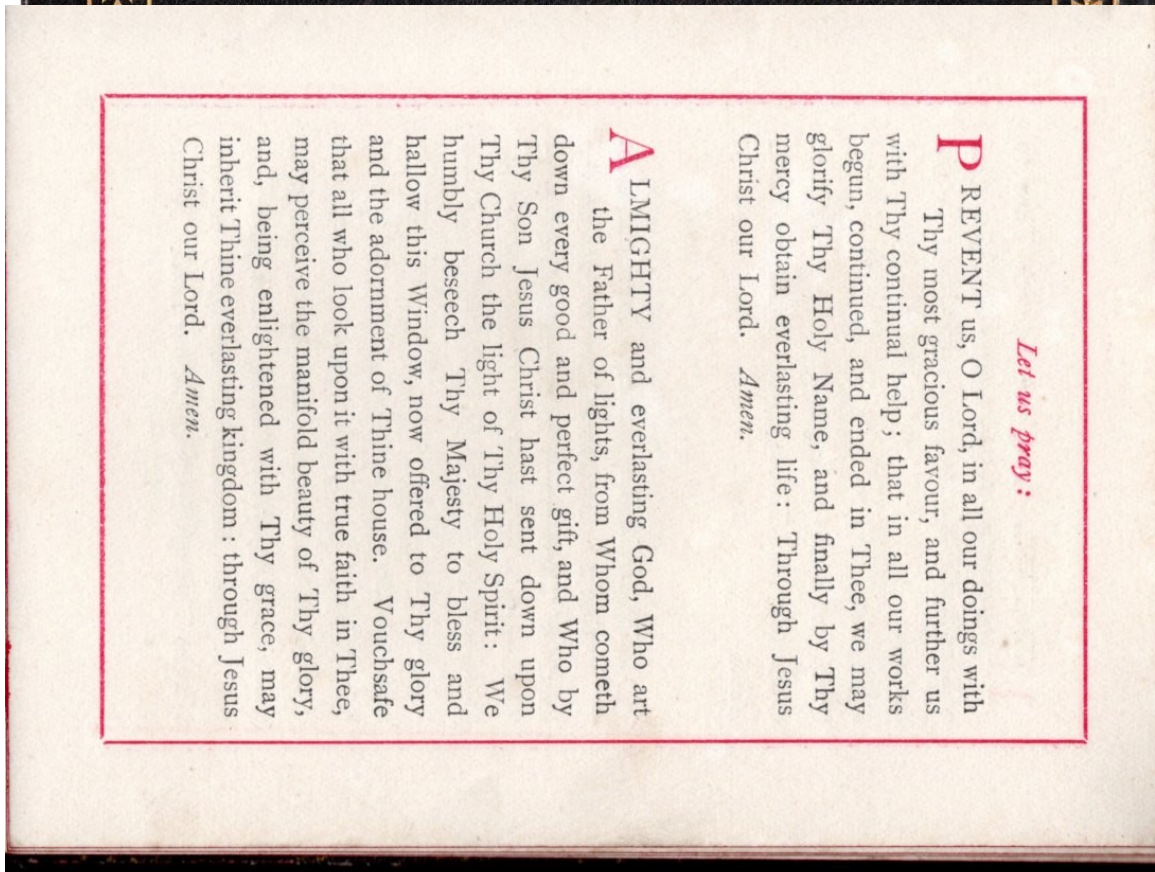
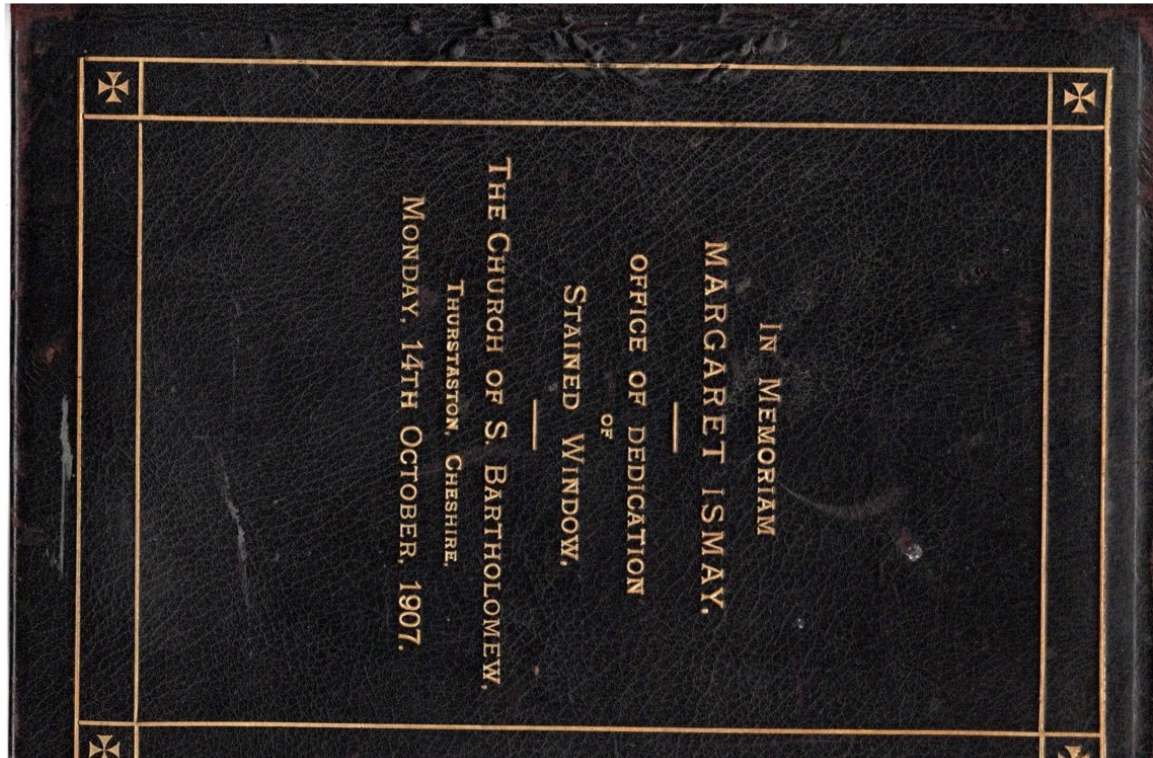
This story is captured in a vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478. It was a translation into Low German and enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey in the countryside. He has raised his hand to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we look and ponder this story, we can remember that cruelty and abuse mark out life today with children, vulnerable adults, and all creatures great and small. The donkey calls us to think of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of Don Quixote, or Tim Moore travelling the camino with his donkey in ‘Spanish Steps.’ And in the Gospels, we recall the donkey in the Christmas story and the donkey that bore Jesus into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. We celebrate that day next month: the humble donkey sharing in the triumph of that entry, just as he shares with all animals in the wonder of creation. G K Chesterton’s poem reminds us that the donkey may be starved, scourged and derided, but he had that special hour of glory. ‘There was a shout about my ears and palms before my feet.’

A little Bit of History

This beautiful leather bound order of service (front cover and dedication prayer shown below) was given to Revd Jane by the next of kin of Mr Arthur Broster (16.11.36 - 18.1.20).

The original will now be placed in the parish archives at the Chester Diocesan Records office.



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday 5th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
at St Bartholomew's
9.30am Family Service
at St Chad's
11.15am Holy Communion
at St Bartholomew's



Maundy Thursday 9th April

7.30pm Holy Communion at St

Chad's

*There is also a service at 11.00am
at Chester Cathedral*



Good Friday 10th April

10.00am Family Service at St Chad's
2.00pm "Hour at the Cross"
Meditative Service at St. Bartholomew's

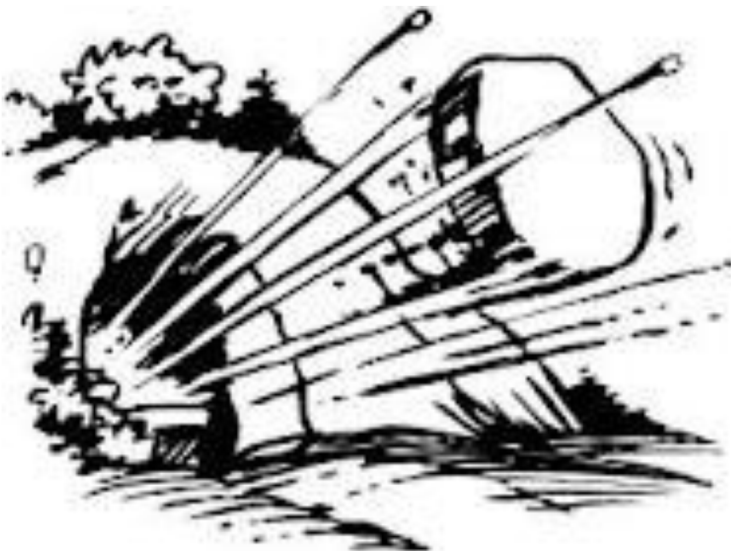
Easter Day 12th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Bar-
tholomew's
9.30am Family Communion



at St
Chad's

11.15am Holy Communion
at St Bartholomew's



Lent lasts for 40 days. Sundays in Lent are ‘oases’; as Sunday is never a day of fasting, but a weekly celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Christians have used Lent as their ‘40 days in the wilderness’, when they set aside the indulgences of life and instead look inward, seeking spiritual renewal and growth. Lent looks towards the Cross and the Empty Tomb, with the assurance of redemption and new life in Christ. The daffodils in our gardens are golden trumpets to proclaim the wonderful message of Easter! The English word for Lent is not at all religious; it is an abbreviation of the Old English word ‘lencten’, or ‘lengthen’. At last winter is over, and the days are getting longer...

Lent
 Forty
 Days
 Sundays
 Fasting
 Weekly
 Celebration
 Resurrection
 Jesus
 Wilderness
 Indulgences
 Inward
 Spiritual
 Renewal
 Growth
 Cross
 Empty
 Tomb
 Redemption
 Daffodils
 Lencten

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



EMU

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



(Evening Mother Union) meets:-
One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)

Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 8pm –
Little Eye Photography ' by Roger Ellison (more information below)
Talk and items for sale

ALL WELCOME

'My Journey into Photography' is a canter through my experiences of learning the hard way how to get the best out of my camera – whatever I had at the time. It starts back in the film days when my father taught me the basic principles and put me to work on photographing some challenging subjects and using some unusual techniques.

Into the digital age and I move from an early 'point and shoot' camera to a bridge camera and then to SLR. The main subjects being birds (especially the more challenging birds in flight), planes (taking advantage of being 'airside' on an active airfield) and landscape (mainly around the Wirral and North Wales). I've also been using a drone for several years to get stunning aerial images giving a new perspective to familiar sights.'



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Help St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby raise FREE funds when you shop online!



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

Got to

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

3. Earn donations

With every purchase you make you'll raise a donation from the retailer. Your donations are then transferred to **St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby**

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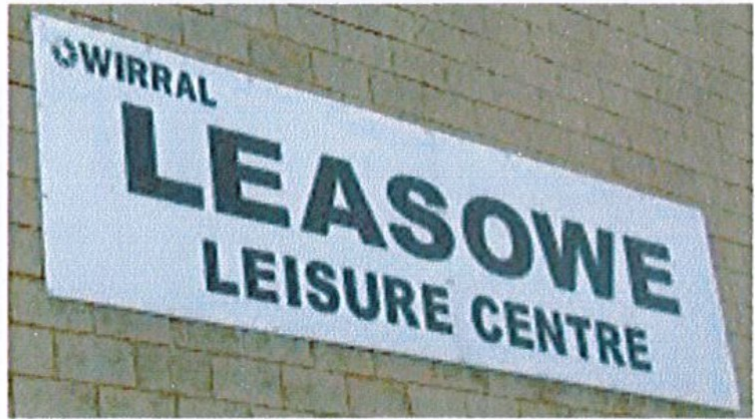
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For people of all ages
with disabilities and
their carers**

SATURDAY
2.30 – 3.30

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**For further
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07890192966
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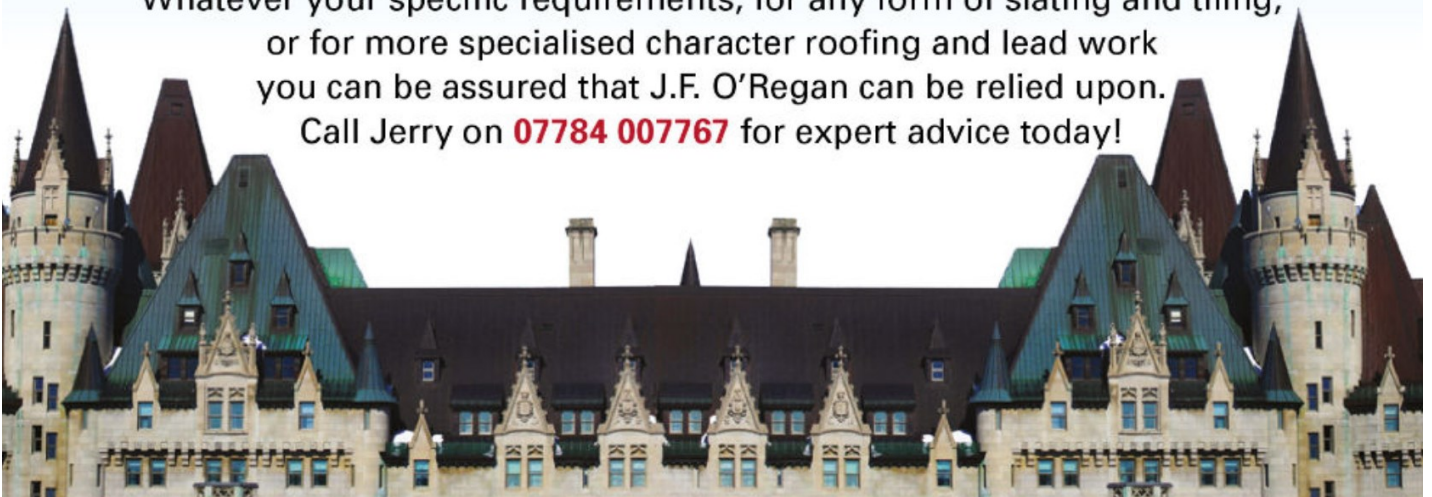
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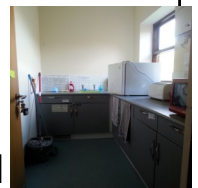
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St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary Mrs Jean Heath	648 6015		

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Rainbows/Brownies/Guides 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 Mrs Pat Hulme	538 1953
Adoption Society Representative Mrs Chris Rostock	648 1112

Church Services March 2020

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15 am Holy Communion
5.00 pm Evensong

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15 am Baptism

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15 am Holy Communion

1st March
Lent 1

8th March
Lent 2

15th March
Lent 3

22nd March
Lent 4
Mothering Sunday

29th March
Lent 5

5th April
Palm Sunday

St Chad's

9.30 am Family Service with
Dawpool

9.30 am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Holy Communion

9.30 am Holy Communion
6.30 pm APCM

9.30am Family Service

Weekday Services

Holy Communion celebrated at St Chad's each Wed 10.15am
ALL WELCOME

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

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

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