

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
29th March 2020 – Lent 5**



<p>Collect Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i></p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and forever. <i>Amen</i></p>
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FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For the World: For our link diocese of the Solomon Islands and The Congo - as they also struggle with the Coronavirus

For the Parish: Please pray for:-

all who are struggling with self isolation and social distancing;
for wedding couples and baptism families as we wait for guidance on when it may be possible for these to take place.

For our Community: Please pray for:-

all work in the NHS and other key roles in these challenging weeks;
for Foodbanks - see below;
for homeless and charities supporting them

For the Sick: Please pray for Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Lynne Rose, Audrey Fernyhough, Roy Fordham and for all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For the Bereaved: Family and friends of Frances Harrison

From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle: For those struggling with mental health.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Bishop Ogeno Charles Opoka, Magwi (South Sudan)

A Prayer for our Diocese

Almighty God, who sent Jesus Christ to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom and calls us to follow him: guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit, to show love and mercy as we build your Kingdom.

We pray for the person you are calling to be the next Bishop of Chester; bless, guide and strengthen them to answer your call; in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORSHIP AT HOME

TV BBC1

Songs of Praise 1.15pm

BBC Radio 4

Sunday 8.10am – Sunday Worship

PREMIER CHRISTIAN RADIO

On Radio DAB nationally, On TV Freeview channel 725, iphone and android apps
Sunday 10.00am for “Worship at Home” and lots of other stuff during the week.

CHESTER DIOCESE LIVESTREAMING SERVICES

5:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 10am on Sundays.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/chestercathedralchoirandorgan>

WIRRAL NORTH DEANERY LIVESTREAMING CHURCH SERVICES

Several churches in our Deanery are live streaming services so if you have the technology then choose one of these (listed in order of the time of service) to have a look at:-

Christ Church Higher Bebington 10.00am at can be found by opening up YouTube and then searching for "Christ Church HB".

Christ Church Barnston and St Michael's Pensby 10.30am

Go to website barnston.info and click on “online service”.

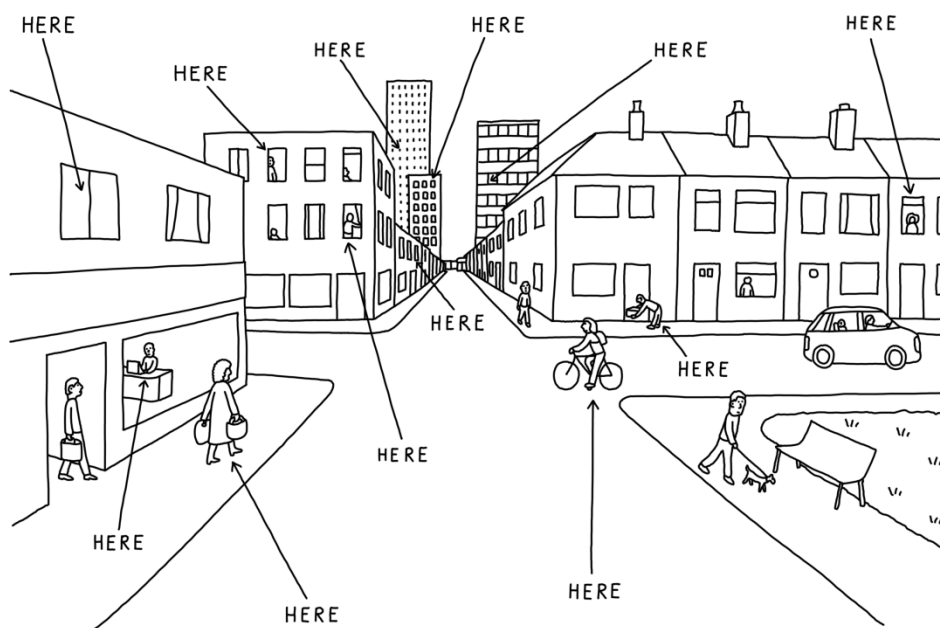
Townfield Church and St Andrew's Bebington 10.30am

It can be accessed by simply being on

www.facebook.com/townfieldchurchbebington at 10.30am on Sunday. It can be watched without a Facebook account, or commented on with an account. It will also appear as a recording to watch later on the same page.

St Mary's Upton 11.30am Sunday www.stm-upton.org.uk/service-stream

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



Following Archbishops Instructions the poster below is now on display at both churches. This means that NO-ONE should enter the building. So if you are a keyholder, please respect this instruction.

COVID-19

The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

See: www.thurstaston.org.uk

The vicar/churchwardens of this church can be contacted in an emergency by telephoning 0151 648 1816 or emailing rector@thurstaston.org.uk

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

HUGE THANKS to everyone who has set up a standing order or sent a donation. This is a great help as we have no other income from church services or hall hire or anywhere else at the moment.

Our church relies on donations to provide care and support to everyone in this community. Now more than ever, if you are able please give generously to support our mission and ministry. Thank you for your support.

**WHILE BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED
ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:-**

Mr K Marley (Treasurer), c/o The Rectory,
77 Thingwall Rd, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

LOCAL FIRMS DOING HOME DELIVERIES

Lewis Butchers Greasby
Tel: 0151 678 7990
Bank transfer or cash
in envelope on doorstep.

Derek Massey butchers,
Telegraph Road, Heswall
Tel: 0151 342 5646.

Fine Fruits Pensby Road
delivers veg boxes.
Tel: 0751 691 4095

A MESSAGE FROM WIRRAL FOODBANK

We recognise the unprecedented situation we all face. Over the years, we have been encouraged and blessed by the support from the churches of Wirral.

Churches account for nearly 40% of annual donations. Due to the current restrictions in place we realise it is difficult to donate food items.

What we do need is your prayer:

Please pray for the following:

- Our staff and volunteers at the Warehouse/Office and Salvation Army Distribution Centre
 - Their safety and welfare
- Trustees and Managers of Wirral Foodbank
 - Wisdom in making the right decisions
- Our communities
 - Those, who under normal circumstances find it hard to manage, and will find the current situation particularly concerning.
 - Those who are now self-isolating
- Wirral Council
 - Wisdom to the officers and elected officials who are responsible for coordinating the response to Covid-19.

If you need help or can offer support the latest information on how to do that can be found at www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

May God bless you all and keep you safe.

A THOUGHT FROM A PARISHIONER SELF-ISOLATING

"I was awake at 5 this morning and was greeted by a beautiful dawn chorus, so I decided to open the window and enjoy, it was just lovely and fills the soul with joy! Not everyone's cup of tea, but if you are a bird nut like me and of a certain age and up for a wee anyway!

Another positive thing from this isolating is I have had time to see beautiful peacock butterflies, bright green leaf buds, bumblebees, birds collecting twigs and moss for nests and smell fresh cut grass.

I have also experienced friendship and kindness from friends and also people I haven't even met yet face to face yet! through a wonderful app to help my road, set up by a lovely thoughtful neighbour.

This all makes me want to sayThank you God for this beautiful world and sending your love to us through friends and neighbours."

Anon.

A PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

RAINBOWS OF HOPE

You may have seen Rainbows of Hope popping up in various people's front windows. But for those who are self-isolating and unable to get out, here are a few photos that have been sent to me.



Genesis 9:16

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

BEAR HUNT – MESSAGE FROM A PARISHIONER

I don't know whether you've heard of this initiative. Parents taking children on daily walk making it "we're going on a bear hunt". Asking people to put bears in their windows for children to spot. I think it's a lovely idea and people in Irby seem to have risen to the occasion. Upstairs windows good.

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Revd Jane Turner 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday). E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk