

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
5th July 2020 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity**



<p>Collect Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
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FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community: On the birthday of the NHS - please pray for ALL key workers and volunteers who have and continue to make a difference - see below

For PCC: Working towards re-opening our buildings - lots of work needed first - from risk assessment to purchase of anti-bac, gloves, cleaning materials etc., to putting up posters and working out how social distancing can work. Please pray for wisdom and please be patient - Safety is our first priority.

For wedding couples: Jarrad and Nicki planning for their re-scheduled wedding on 22nd August

For the world: Please pray for Japan suffering from flooding. Please pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.

For the Sick: Please pray for Molly (will be 2 in August) in Children's hospital, Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Lynne Rose, Audrey Fernyhough (Wendy Gerrard's Auntie), Roy Fordham, and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For the Bereaved: Please pray for families and friends of Cecil Jones (funeral 15h July) & family and friends of Dan Miller - especially his wife Kate, and his children Thomas (12), Rebecca (10) and Edward (6) - funeral Thursday 2nd July.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Bishop Bijay Nayak, Phulbani (North India). Bishop Dorsey McConnell, Pittsburgh (The Episcopal Church, USA).

#Thankyoutogether – Sunday 5 July at 5pm

On Sunday 5 July, the day the NHS was founded, the whole country is invited to come together at 5pm to applaud all those who have been helping us through the pandemic and recognise the vital community connections that continue to support us all.

Broadcasters will suspend normal transmissions at 5pm.

Everybody will be encouraged to stop what they're doing and join with others (following social distancing advice of course) in their streets or neighbourhoods to **applaud not just the NHS and other key workers but all those who have volunteered or helped keep services and community networks going.**

Following the applause, we hope people will enjoy a drink or a cup of tea and reflect with family, friends and neighbours on the bonds that have sustained us in recent months and will continue to do so.

Give thanks for the appointment of Bishop Mark to be our next diocesan bishop:
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 Bishop Mark in his new role as the next Bishop of Chester. Bless guide and strengthen him to answer your call; in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁶ "To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ "We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn."

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

All: Praise to you, O Christ



When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul!"
It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

Horatio Spafford

Our scars are a sign
Of grace in our lives
Oh Father how You brought us through

When deep were the wounds
And dark was the night
The promise of Your love You proved

Now every battle still to come
Let this be our song

It is well with my soul
It is well
It is well with my soul

Weeping may come
Remain for a night
But joy will paint the morning sky

You're there in the fast
You're there in the feast
Your faithfulness will always shine

Now every blessing still to come
Let this be our song

It is well with my soul
It is well
It is well with my soul

You lead us through battles
You lead us to blessing
And You make us fruitful
In the land of our suffering God

It is well with my soul
It is well
It is well with my soul

I trust Your ways
I trust Your Name
It is well
It is well with my soul

Matt Redman

An Update from the Treasurer (June 26th 2020):-

Once again - THANK YOU for your continued donations which is helping us to continue to pay essential bills.

In June the newly set-up (in response to Covid-19) D/Ds totalled £ 745
Regular weekly (Green) envelopes plus donations in cash or by cheque delivered to the Rectory have totalled £1769
So **income** (which would have come in through church services had we been physically meeting) totalled **£2514**
This compares to a total in June 2019 of £3409

As we prepare to open our buildings there will be new additional costs.

We have just spent £105.79 on initial supplies of anti-bac gel, disposable gloves and face coverings.

We must also thank those who have long-standing direct debits (which are not included in the figures above for either 2019 or 2020) for your continued support.

We are making some savings as a result of not physically meeting which helps to balance this a little bit. We obviously have an ongoing loss of income from Hall Hire and as a result we have temporarily reduced our parish share payments to the diocese.

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

OR IF POSSIBLE BY BACS TRANSFER: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort code:40/52/40 Account: 00018674

In the "Reference Box" – please make sure to include your name – and if space allows the words "regular giving". It would then be helpful if you emailed the Treasurer with the start date, frequency and amount.

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

As more local shops
and businesses re-open

Don't forget to support them and let them
know that we have missed them.

You may even like to tell them that we
have been and will be praying for them.



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.**

Lectio 365

Prayer App

Need help praying?

Try this App

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>



Wirral Coronavirus Helpline 0151 666 5050  **WIRRAL**

 **STAY AT HOME**

 **PROTECT THE NHS**

 **save lives**

www.wirralinfobank.co.uk

Welcome to the online resource to help you find support services near you. We are here to support Wirral residents requiring advice, guidance and additional help during this ongoing and difficult coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Opening Church for services – Initial information

Following Government announcements this week you may well be wondering what we will be doing about re-opening St Bartholomew's and St Chad's for worship.

First of all we need to be clear that all permissions are permissive and there is no expectation that every church will be able to open at this stage, and every expectation that things will not return "to normal" any time soon.

We have not been able to make many definitive decisions at this stage, as the detailed information from government, Church of England and Diocese is not yet available (writing at 6pm on Friday 26th June)

However, it is important to share with you the initial thoughts at this stage.

1. Revd Jane will be on holiday ("time off at home") from 6-12th July inclusive.

This is in line with instructions from Bishop Keith (below) to clergy:-

"We understand that many clergy are feeling tired, even exhausted, with this new way of working and with all that the current pandemic has brought. We need to remember that this is a marathon and not a sprint and we must ensure our own wellbeing is sustained.

"It is really important that we continue to practise our sabbath rest, taking a day off every week. Please also continue to take the two consecutive days off per month. We would also encourage you to take holiday leave as you usually would."

Therefore we do not plan to have our first services back in church on either 5th or 12th July.

2. No services at St Bartholomew's until at least September

Taking into account that a large proportion of the St Bartholomew's congregations (including sidespeople, servers and sacristans) are in the vulnerable categories, and some in very vulnerable and shielding categories and the restricted space in the aisle (only 1m wide) which will make social distancing very difficult; and a one-way system impossible - **we would encourage any congregation members who do wish to return to services at this point, to come St Chad's.**

This would also leave St Bartholomew's exclusively available for weddings (two booked – 22nd and 29th Aug) and funerals without creating excessive need for professional cleaning which only has to be done if the building cannot be quarantined for 72 hours after use.

3. Service at St Chad's at 10.30am on Sundays - when we are ready (hopefully by 19th July)

The 10.30am timing is intended to recognise that this is a service for ALL whatever service they normally attend.

In order to be ready the PCC will need to have:-

- a) Risk Assessment in place – this is in progress
- b) Worked out how many people we can safely have in the building – probably still aiming for 2m rule (so far Government info states: "This means people should stay at least 2m (6ft) apart where possible, but otherwise should remain at least 1m apart while taking steps to reduce the risk of transmission, such as wearing face coverings.")
- c) Worked out whether we need a booking system, or risk turning people away if too many turn up
- d) Established that we have enough sidespeople available and trained
 - i) windows and doors should be open, one way system, no service books, cleaning required etc etc
- e) Communicated with any families who wish to bring children to services – the need to be responsible for their children regards social distancing, need to bring own books/toys as there won't be any activity bags available
- f) Purchased sufficient quantities of antibacterial hand sanitiser, disposable gloves and face masks and worked out who will be responsible for ensuring that we don't run out as we go forwards
- g) Installed appropriate signage and reminders of social distancing etc.
- h) The PCC also need to think about how we will be able to manage services alongside maintaining what we are already doing, as those who are shielding will not be given permission to return to church until at least the end of July. And unless C of E advice changes, those over 70 and in vulnerable categories should still be encouraged to stay away.

We know that singing will not be permitted.

We don't yet know if Communion will be permitted.

4. No Junior Church until at least September – this will protect our Junior church leaders and give us chance to work out what Junior Church might look like going forwards.

As things ease over the Summer, it may be possible to have some small scale family activities or services, but we need to think this through carefully as things develop.

Please be assured that we will keep you updated as regularly as we can (via email and on the website) as things continue to develop and change over the coming weeks and months.