

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
19th July 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Trinity**



Collect

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community: Please pray for all teachers and school staff who have worked so hard throughout the Pandemic with no Easter Break and no half term break - pray that they will get quality time to recover before they begin to plan for whatever September will bring. Please pray for safety for all children and families over the long Summer break.

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 countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.

For the Sick: Please continue to pray for Molly (will be 2 in August) in Children's hospital - large cyst removed from her liver on 9/7/20 - recovering well - please keep praying.

Please also continue to pray for Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough (Wendy Gerrard's Auntie), Roy Fordham, Moira and Peter DeBoorder (Sister and Brother in law of Julie DeBoorder) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

Julie would like to pass on the good news that her friend Lynne Rose is now in remission, thank you for all your prayers.

For the Bereaved: Please continue to pray for family and friends of Cecil Jones whose funeral took place on Wed 15th July

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Bishop Francis Loyo Mori, Rokon (South Sudan). Bishop John Adiema, Rorya (Tanzania).

Bishop Mark officially became the Bishop of Chester on Wed 15th July 2020.

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 13:24-30,36-43

All: Glory to you, O Lord

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Genesis 28:10-19a

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" 17 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel.

Psalm 139: 1-14

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will
die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the
deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are
led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For
you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back
into fear, but you have received a spirit of
adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is
that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children,
then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with
Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we
may also be glorified with him.
¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present
time are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation
waits with eager longing for the revealing of the
children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected
to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the
one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation
itself will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. ²² We know that the whole
creation has been groaning in labour pains until
now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we
ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the
redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were
saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For
who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for
what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Church Remains Online for the time being

We are not yet ready to open. Please be patient. Safety of everyone is our first priority.

The PCC is currently working through over 60 pages of documentation from the Church of England regarding what is required before we can open for services. We are looking into whether we need a booking system for services (which most churches who have opened now have). We are looking at how we can safely "steward" one way systems, use of anti-bac etc etc. We are looking at how we can quarantine service books after use - or whether to use only the screen We are looking at how we maintain online as well as in church - because initially there will be more people staying at home than there will coming to church - simply because of how few people we will be able to get in the buildings. We are looking at how we can continue the ministry of baptisms/weddings/funerals alongside Sunday services, when we have to quarantine the building for 72 hours between services. We cannot re-open until all of these things have been properly thought through and a risk assessment has been agreed by the PCC.

Church will feel very different when we return. We will not be able to greet each other in the ways we are used to as we need to maintain social distancing at all times. We will not be able to sing. We may need to tell you where to sit e.g. filling up from the front. Initially we may only have services of Morning Prayer. Communion (if we can work through the complexities) will be very different - it maybe that the priest will come to you rather than you to the communion rail, and as before lockdown you will only be able to receive bread.

Many churches, including plenty in our deanery, are using July and August to plan and prepare for opening in September. **Please be assured that your PCC are working very hard to make difficult decisions and we will let you know as soon as we can when we are ready to re-open the buildings for services.**

In the meantime, be assured that we will continue to provide resources for you to use at home and we will continue to upload a weekly sermon to facebook.

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.