

Crosstalk

60p



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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

September 2020

JESUS The Gate of the sheep



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.

"Your magazine needs you"

Please send your contributions
(eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting articles etc.,)
to office@thurstaston.org.uk
no later than 21st September

Contents

3	<i>Diary Dates/Registers</i>	10	<i>God in the Sciences</i>
4	<i>From your Rector</i>	11	<i>God in the Arts</i>
5	<i>Louis Pasteur/Observations/Back to School</i>	12	<i>Mouse Makes</i>
6	<i>Psalm 23</i>	13—16	<i>Welcome Back to Church</i>
7	<i>Ruth Eden</i>	17	<i>Facebook/RDA/ Cartoon</i>
8&9	<i>Abbey's 'black jesus' stirs up a storm</i>	18-26	<i>Advertisers</i>
		27	<i>Contacts List: Who's Who</i>
		28	<i>Church Services</i>

Diary Dates

**Please see the back page for
Church Service dates and times**

From the Registers

Weddings

*We ask for Gods Blessing upon
the marriage of*

*22nd August
Jarrad Furling and Nicola Howley*

What's in your hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, *'What is in your hand?'*(Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, *'I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.'* A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!



What has God given *you* that will help and encourage others?

Rerd Jane

Louis Pasteur - 'father' of microbiology

A tiny invisible thing that brings disease and death ... where have we heard that before?! But Louis Pasteur, who died 125 years ago this month, on 28th September 1895, was not interested in a virus from China, but in tiny living organisms that brought disease and death in other ways.

Pasteur made some outstanding breakthroughs. He discovered the principles of vaccination, and then created the first vaccines for anthrax and rabies. His medical discoveries provided support for the germ theory of disease and nullified the theory of spontaneous generation.

But Louis Pasteur is best known for his invention of the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process that was named after him: pasteurisation. In doing so, he saved the French beer, wine and silk industries.

All in all, this gifted French biologist, microbiologist, and chemist well deserves his title as the 'father of microbiology,' and to be seen as one of the three main founders of bacteriology.

Some observations out of the coronavirus crisis...

History books will inevitably tell the story of a virus that swept the world in 2020. But it is up to us what that story will look like. Either... the story of a virus that ... showed up the weakness, selfishness and frailty of people... or how people responded with their best, how the virus was a medical but not a social tragedy. – *Canon Will Hughes, Vicar of Petersfield, Portsmouth Diocese.*

The Covid-19 pandemic is traumatic not only because it threatens our existence... but it also threatens the cultural norms, frameworks and habits that we take for granted ...leaving us socially isolated and ... disorientated. It is no longer easy for us to say '...but life goes on'. – *Canon Joanna Collicutt, clinical psychologist, Ripon College Cuddesdon.*

September also means Back to School...



There is just one way to bring up a child in the way he should go, and that is to travel that way yourself. – *Abraham Lincoln*

Parenting is a marathon, not a sprint. – *Anon*

If all the college students who slept in class were placed end to end, they would be much more comfortable. – *Anon*



There are few psalms as personal and real as Psalm 23. It records David's experience of God as his Shepherd going through dark times. In the midst of the effects of a global pandemic, this psalm speaks to the fears that can overwhelm us.

He Knows Me: 'The Lord is my shepherd...' Just as a good shepherd knows every sheep in his flock, so God know each one of us intimately.

He Provides for Me: 'He makes me lie down in green pastures...' Just as the shepherd knows the needs of his sheep, so God will provide what we need in our lives and circumstances.

He Guides Me: 'He guides me along the right paths...' Just as the shepherd leads the sheep to the best pastures, so God provides the best for us, as we listen and follow Him.

He Protects Me: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley...' Just as the sheep have no need to fear danger when following the shepherd, so we live knowing God's presence and protection.

He Comforts Me: 'your rod and your staff, they comfort me.' As the shepherd's rod defends the sheep, and the staff enables him to control the sheep, so God comforts us through His Word and discipline.

The final verses of the psalm (v5-6) offer the security of knowing that our lives are in His hands, even through death, as He leads us to the home we've been looking for all our lives.

Some years ago, a great actor was asked to recite Psalm 23, but asked one of the other guests to do the same. His remarkable rendition was followed by the other man, an older Christian speaking from the heart. Afterwards the actor said: *'The difference between us is that I know the psalm, but he knows the shepherd.'*

Well, so it continues. This semi-normal life is still so uncertain that locking forward to the future is difficult. Do you plan for something or not! Also a lot of places require booking so you do have to plan a certain amount. I have been out for a meal, pre-booked, and I enjoyed it very much. Not just because someone else cooked and washed up, but mainly because of the company. Meals at home are lonely, with only the television for company.

I have also been out with the Photographic Society and I am slowly learning to use my camera more effectively. I am still having problems with the computer side of things, I am sure the computer doesn't like me! But what is so nice is the willingness of people to help me improve, they are so patient as I am not a very quick learner!

Another bright spot is that my sister is coming to stay, this is the time we should have been in France. We are both really glad we cancelled as we would have been there when the 2 week quarantine was re-introduced.

The garden is doing OK, the tomatoes finally turned red and are very tasty. The roses have been lovely and are just about to have a second show..

Talking of gardens, several of us bellringers have been meeting on a Sunday morning for coffee in one or other of our gardens. Social distancing etc is observed. We have also started ringing handbells, not very well but we are improving. So far none of the neighbours have complained, in fact one of my neighbours said how much he enjoyed listening to us!

Take care and stay safe everyone and don't worry to much about venturing into the big wide world. Actually doing it isn't as bad as the thought of doing it.

My conversations with God continue, I think they always will even when this virus is (hopefully) overcome.



Ruth Eden

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, is a former communications director for the CofE. Here he offers a personal reflection on a new painting in St Albans Cathedral.

Abbey's 'black Jesus' stirs up a storm

A large-scale painting of the Last Supper depicting Jesus as a black man has sparked controversy and heated debate in the UK and around the world.



I reckon that's no bad thing. In fact, it could be really positive.

St Albans Cathedral, 20 miles north of central London in leafy Hertfordshire, has installed the painting – on show until 31st October – to “stand with the Black Lives Matter movement to be allies for change – building a strong, just and fair community where the dignity of every human being is honoured and celebrated, where black voices are heard, and where black lives matter.”

The installation is a striking piece of art and it's provoking strong reactions – just as good art should do.

People are responding with a wide range of opinions. Many have welcomed the artwork, but others are outraged, accusing the Abbey of

pandering to a 'political correctness' agenda. Some have described it as seeking to be 'trendy' and riding on the bandwagon of a popular movement.

The Cathedral is a special place to me. I was ordained as a priest there, have served as a day chaplain at the historic building, and I minister at a parish church in the city.

Built on the site of an ancient shrine to Saint Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, the Cathedral has been welcoming visitors for hundreds of years. It stands today as a thriving centre of worship, of community and of hospitality for thousands of pilgrims who visit the Cathedral each year.

The painting's artist, Lorna May Wadsworth, said: "I cast Jamaican-born Tafari Hinds as my Jesus to make people question the western myth that He had fair hair and blue eyes.

"I also knew that, from a previous portrait of Tafari, there is something in his countenance that people find deeply empathetic and moving, which is the overriding quality I wanted my Christ to embody."

Not everyone shares the artist's perspective. A Facebook post from the Abbey promoting the installation drew 400 comments within an hour, as people from around the world hotly argued the case for and against the artwork.

One person responded: "The church has not changed the colour of Jesus, they have decided to put on show a piece of art that happens to depict Jesus as black. Let's hope it just gives people a chance to question things they have always just accepted as being right."

Other comments were more critical, with a typical response, "More shameless pandering to Black Lives Matter, bringing trendy identity politics into what is supposed to be the traditional church."

People may object strongly to Lorna May Wadsworth's artwork, or they may welcome it. Either way, it provokes an important debate about the role of race in our society and how we have depicted Christ in western culture.

The Abbey has stirred up a storm, but maybe that's the only way for ingrained attitudes to be challenged, and new perspectives formed.

God in the Sciences: How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?



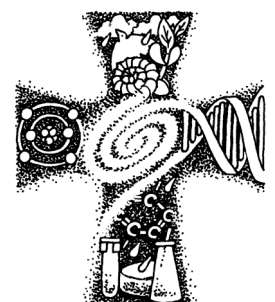
Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be 'very good' (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

Dr Ruth Banciewicz is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, and a member of Christians in Science. See www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches and <http://www.cis.org.uk>



He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident.

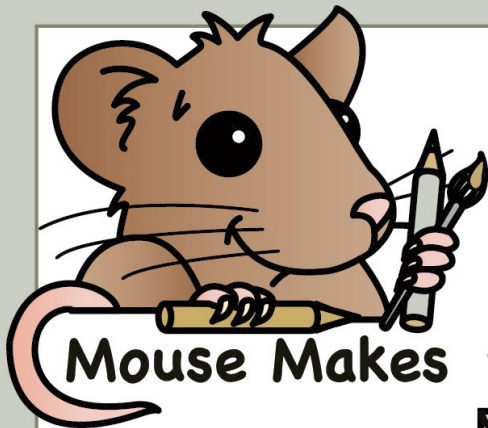
It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.



Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood.

And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.

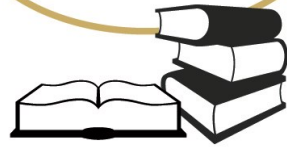


The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write!

The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God.

The Bible has books about:

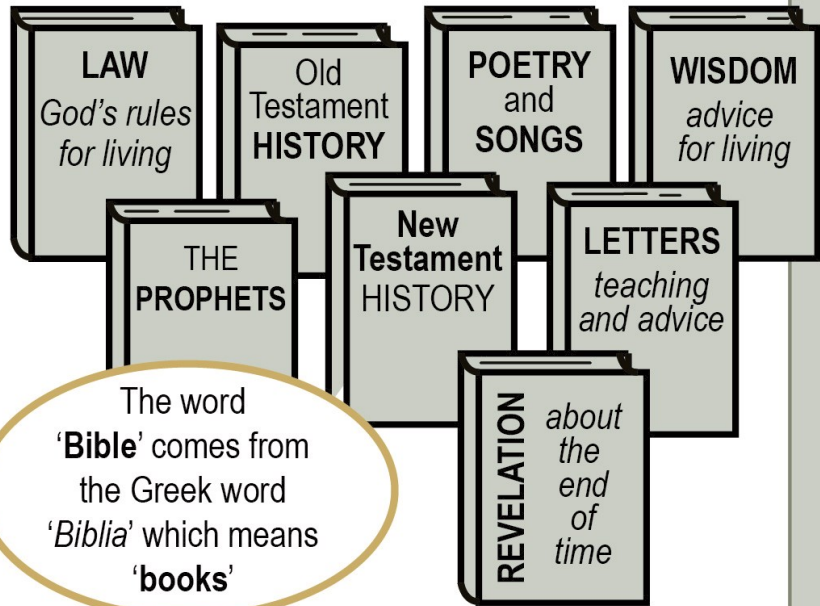
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS

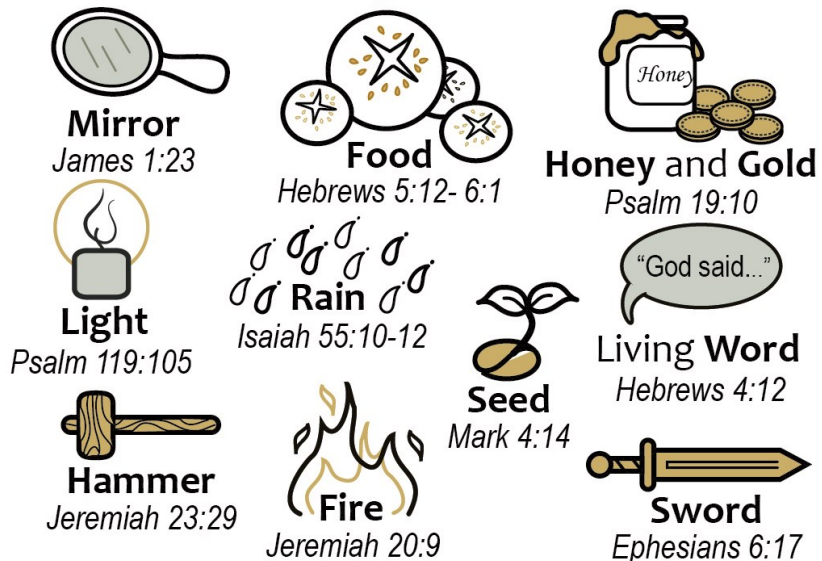
The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

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



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:



...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH **St Bartholomew's and St Chad's**

This is a summary of the guidance sent to all our church members. It's intended as a pocket-sized "aide memoire", and has deliberately been placed in the middle of the magazine so that you can pull it out and keep it easily to hand. It doesn't include all the details – please refer to the full guidance document for those (available on parish website - or in printed form by contacting the parish office). The numbers in brackets by some of the headings refer to the full guidance notes.

Planned Restart Dates and Service Times (p 1)

St Chad's From Aug 16th – 9.30 am

St Bartholomew's
3rd Sunday From Sep 6th - 8.00 am on 1st and
11.15 am on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday

St Chad's midweek From Sep 9th – 10.15 am

The services at 8 am (St Bartholomew's) and 10.15 am (St Chad's) are for those who are over 70 or clinically vulnerable.

Numbers Attending (p 1)

Up to 7 households at St Bartholomew's

Up to 16 households at St Chad's

You must book your place in advance, otherwise you might find that the limits have already been reached.

How to book a place (p 3)

Book by email from Monday morning for the service the following Sunday, or Thursday morning for the service on the following Wednesday. You cannot book before bookings open at 9am.

**Email for bookings:
servicebookings@thurstaston.org.uk**

You should include your name and phone number; the date and time of service you wish to attend; names of all those attending, with ages if under 16; if you have children who will be in a pram, pushchair or on your knee for the whole service please let us know. If you will be in a wheelchair, please also inform us so we can make appropriate arrangements.

We would encourage you to sign a consent form for the NHS "Track and Trace" system for each service you attend. There is a copy of the form at the end of the main document (on page 5) which is downloadable from the front page of the website and will be available in physical form when you arrive at church.

If you cannot send an email and do not have a friend who can do it for you then you can book by phone on 07553 099 388.

If you can send emails, please do not use the phone number.

Arrival at Church (p 3)

A steward will ask you to confirm that you are well, remind you about face coverings and ask you to use the hand sanitiser. On your first service under these arrangements, another steward will invite you to pick up an envelope with two service books – Morning Worship and Holy Communion. You should take these home after the service and bring them with you the next time you come.

When it is safe to do so, we will ask you to return them for general use again but until then they will be your personal copies. Please write your name on the envelope.

The stewards will show you to your place, starting at the front.

You will not be able to sit next to anyone who is not in your household or support bubble.

In St Chad's, please ask the stewards for help if you need to bring chairs together for your household.

Some quiet music will be playing. Please use the time before the service for private prayer and reflection.

Safety is paramount (p 2)

We will follow the guidelines of the Church of England and the Government. Symptoms of Covid-19: new continuous cough, high temperature or change in or loss of your sense of taste and smell. If you have any of these, please do not attend church as you could infect others. You should self-isolate at home immediately.

If you are at increased risk or over 70, Government advice is to stay at home as much as possible. If you do go out, take care to minimise contact with anyone who isn't in your household.

The church will be cleaned before and after every service and left for 72 hours (the time recommended at present) before it can be used again. That means just one service per building on Sundays.

Face coverings

Everyone in the building must wear a face covering which covers mouth and nose. More details and the legitimate exemptions are shown on page 2 of the full guidance notes.

Other changes in the form of the services

- Children and young people are always very welcome but please supervise them, with appropriate precautions. For the time being, there will be no Junior Church at St Chad's.

You might wish to bring some "quiet" toys or books for your children, as none will be available in the churches.

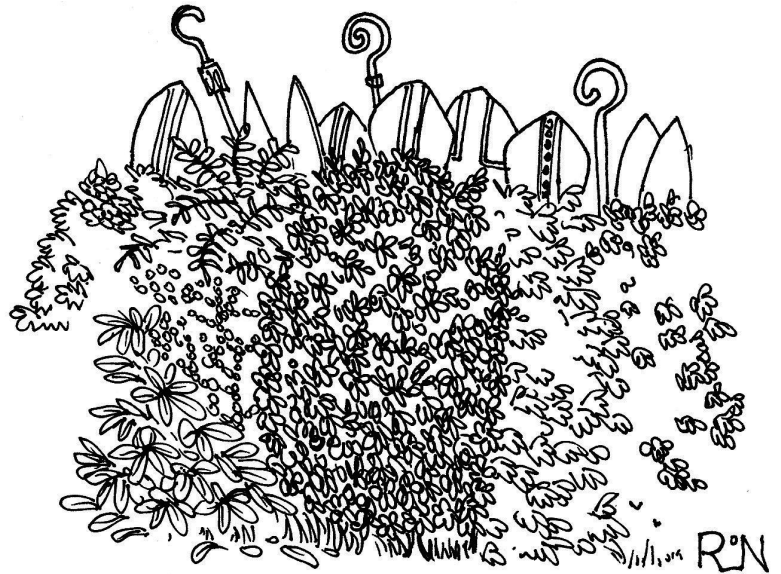
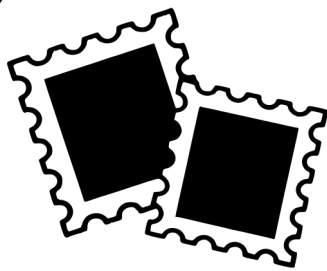
- There will be no singing.
- You will be able to greet other people, with social distancing, outside the church after the service.
- Doors and windows will be open for the duration of services, so if it is a cooler day, please bring something warm to wear.
- For our Giving, we are encouraging people to set up Standing Orders if possible. Otherwise, there will be a collection plate at the back of the church for cash and cheques.
- Receiving Communion – when these services are started, only bread will be distributed, not wine. You should stand to receive, as the altar rails cannot be used. The priest will come to you. If possible, please sanitise your hands before and after removing your face mask and before and after replacing it (do not touch the front of the mask).
- At St Chad's, only the disabled access and baby-change toilet will be in use – but only in an emergency, please.
- At St Chad's - No refreshments will be provided after the service.



Please collect your Postage Stamps

throughout the year for RDA (Riding for the Disabled).

There is a box in St Chad's foyer and an envelope at the back of St Bart's.



The bishops had formed a 'support bubble' all on their own.



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.

Please do share this page with your friends.

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

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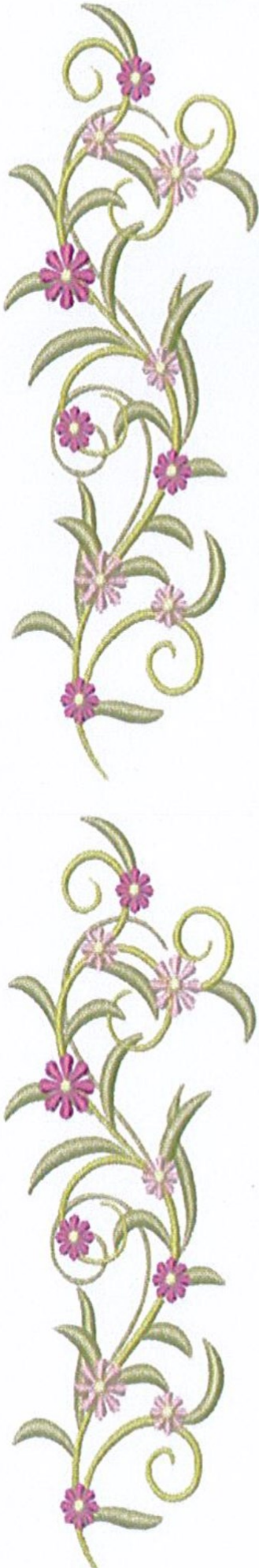
ASDA

Expedia.co.uk

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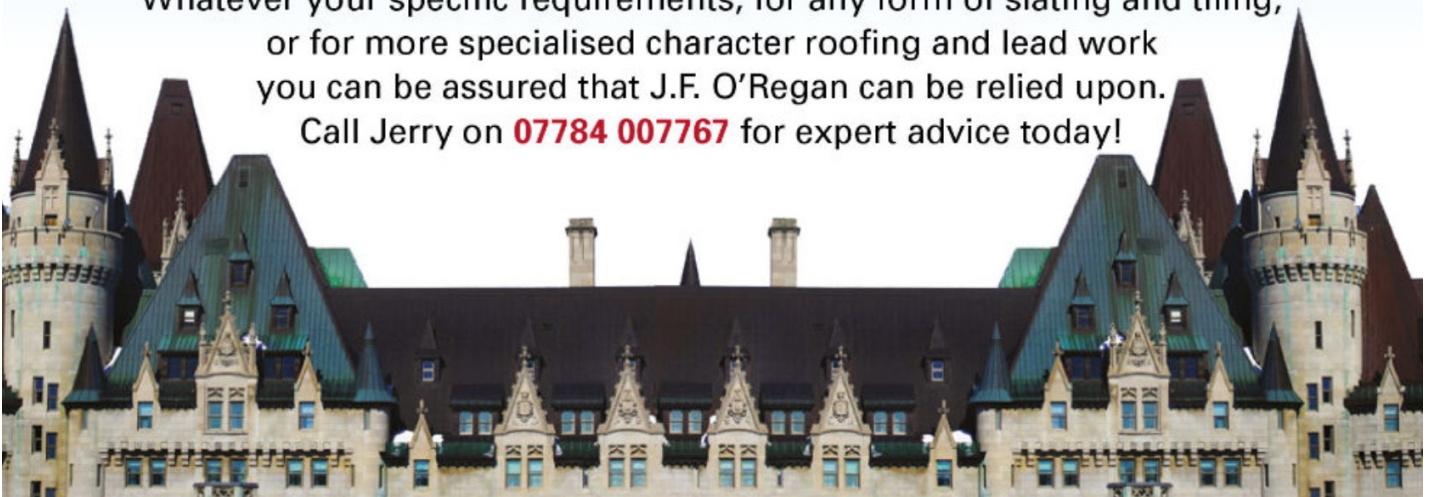
- Schools
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Contacts

Churchwarden Mrs Liz Whitehead	606 9083	Evening Mothers' Union (EMU) Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)	6481112
Reader Mr Alan Jones	648 1400	Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs Elaine Jones	648 1400
Retired Clergy		Flower Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Dawn Rudd	648 0209
Revd David Trollope	342 2648	Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs June Bibby	678 8124
Revd Ray Dent	792 2022	Cleaning Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Leslie Worrall	648 5590
Revd Margaret Fletcher	648 1025	Bellringers Tower Captain Dr Peter Robson	648 6691
PCC Secretary Mr Graham Barley	648 1867		
PCC Treasurer Mr Kevin Marley pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk			
Verger Mr Jon Oliver	648 1754		
Organist Mr Craig Vickers	648 7405		
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office	648 8169		
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 September 2020

As we go to print we haven't decided whether these services will be Morning Worship or Holy Communion.

Please see "pull-out" leaflet in the centre of the magazine for how to book your place at a service.

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am

6th September

11.15am

13th September

8.00am

20th September

11.15am

27th September

St Chad's

9.30am

9.30am

9.30am

9.30am

Weekday Services

Service at St Chad's each Wed 10.15am

Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding,
please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816

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

Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk