

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
13th September 2020 – Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**



Collect

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community: Please pray for children and young people returning to schools and colleges. Please pray the number of Wirral cases of Coronavirus stops rising.

For our Church: Please pray for the PCC and for wisdom as we seek to work out how and when to re-open for community groups.

For the world: Please continue to pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.

For those preparing for marriage: Please pray for Peter and Diana to be married on 6th November.

For the Bereaved: Please pray for family and friends of James Nash (relative of a congregation member) who was tragically attacked in his own garden in broad daylight and died as a result of his injuries.

For the Sick: Please continue to pray for Molly (aged 2), Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough, 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.

From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle: (Prompted by the Gospel Reading for today)

The unforgiving slave makes a mockery of the king's mercy towards him. No wonder then that the king is so angry and orders him to be tortured. The parable has an over-the-top quality to it in order to make the point forcefully. All the action of the parable takes place within one royal household. Everyone listening to the parable knows exactly how honour and personal obligations work in such a household. The king forgives his slave an absolutely huge debt that has accrued whilst he's been making full use of his position in the household. The king's forgiveness goes way beyond what a person of inferior status might have expected. The king extended his royal compassion to include someone who has no claim whatsoever to such royal mercy. That the slave refuses to extend such mercy to another slave (someone of a status similar to his own) who owes him a paltry sum in comparison to his own forgiven debt is to profoundly dishonour the king's mercy. It is as if what the king did was less than worthless. The slave's action is the worst kind of insult. It leaves the king with no alternative but to respond in the harshest manner. His anger is justifiable. Is it that we, like the first slave, refuse to emulate in our behaviour towards one another the mercy we ourselves have received? The parable suggests such behaviour mocks God.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Pray for the Anglican Church of South America
Archbishop Gregory James Venables - Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Argentina.

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm 103:1-13

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ◆
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ◆
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins ◆
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit ◆
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, ◆
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness ◆
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses ◆
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ◆
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, ◆
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ◆
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, ◆
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, ◆
so far has he set our sins from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children, ◆
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 18:21-35

All: Glory to you, O Lord

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven¹ times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Next Sunday: 20th September

Holy Communion St Bartholomew's 8.00am

Morning Worship St Chad's 9.30am

Don't forget to book your seat

Details on front page of our website and circulated as a separate leaflet on 9th August - contact Parish Office if you need a copy.

Sermon on Facebook and by email

continues as throughout pandemic, posted after Service in church.

An Update from the Treasurer (August 31st 2020):-

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

In August the newly set-up (in response to Covid-19) D/Ds totalled £ 891
Regular weekly (Green) envelopes plus donations in cash or by cheque delivered to the Rectory have totalled £ 1465
So **income** (which would have come in through church services had we been physically meeting) totalled **£2356**

This compares to a total in August 2019 of £3833

This month we have had another couple of new Direct Debits set up (thank you)

We must also continue to 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

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.