

Crosstalk

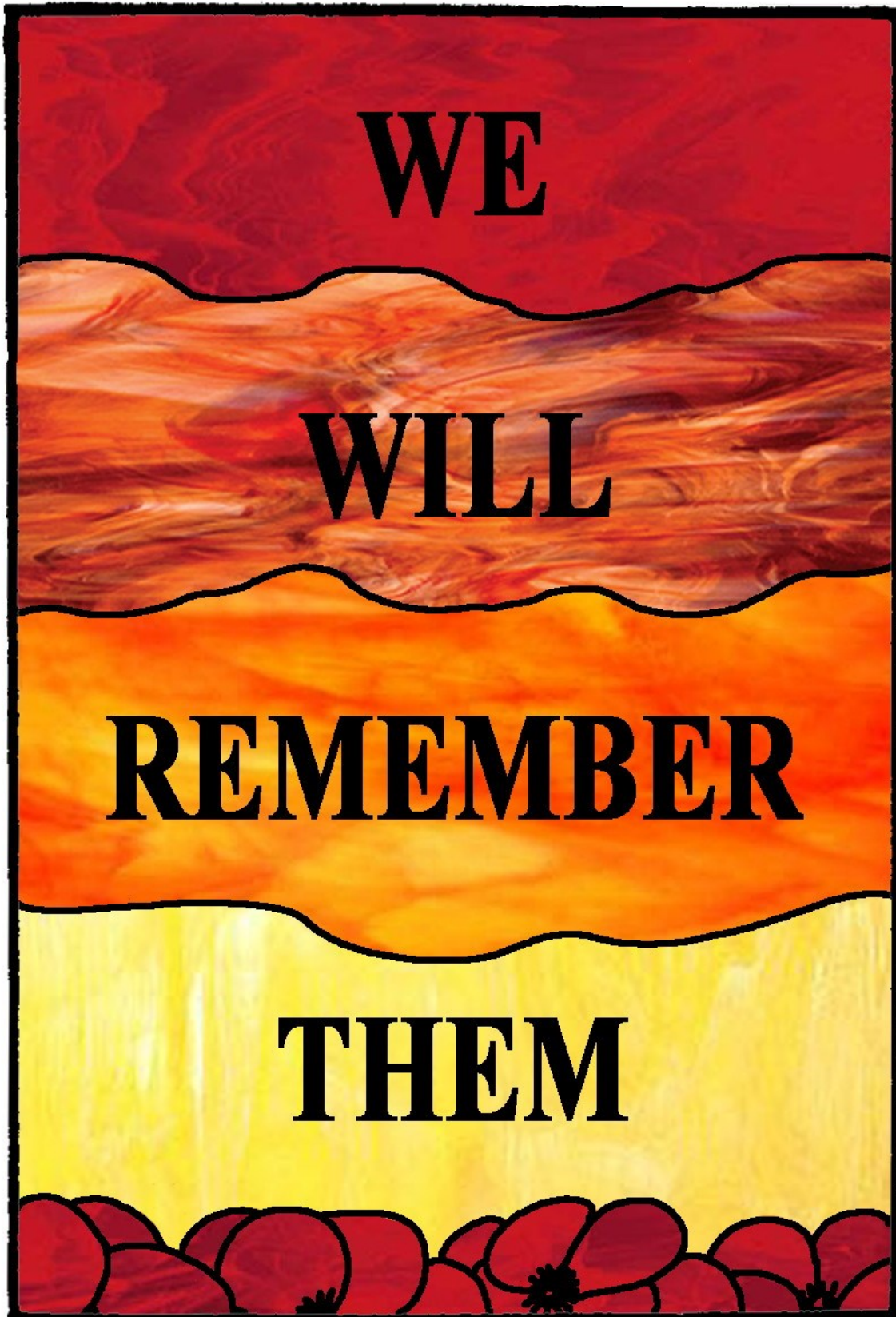
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

November 2020



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 November

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Diary Dates

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

From the Registers



From Your Rector

We Will Remember – 80 years on

This year we've been remembering the Battle of Britain, described by Winston Churchill in August 1940 as *'one of the decisive battles of the war... never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'* It was a dramatic turning point in the history of the Second World War. The occasions for Remembrance this month will provide us times of gratitude for what was achieved in the darkest moments of war.



However, this year we are very aware of our own struggles with the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. We face an unseen enemy, but the effects on our lives and society are almost as devastating as world war.

Remembering is not just about focusing on past events. It is also about making present past events, as we give thanks for all that took place. The Battle of Britain was fought by the Few and won in the skies over the Channel. In our battle with the virus, we can call to mind the victory of Jesus: *'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.'* (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus secured the victory of death by His cross and resurrection, so that we don't need to fear death, but trust in His loving purposes for our lives.

Currently we can't see clearly what the future holds for us; it may be very different from what we might expect. However, we can pray for God's will to be done and that we will play our part, just as each of those airmen did so many years ago.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Rexd Jane

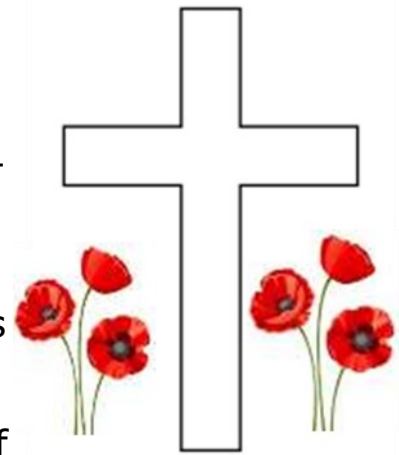
All-Age Remembrance Trail in St Bartholomew's Church Yard from Sun 25th Oct - Sun 15th Nov

There are 4 special places to pray in the churchyard during this season of Remembrance.

1. All Hallows Eve – confronting our fears
2. All Saints – remembering those whose lives inspire us in faith
3. All Souls – remembering our own beloved dead
4. Remembrance – honouring the sacrifice of those in war, and praying for peace

Look for the poppy and the cross picture.

At each station, there is a way to pray with words and a way to pray with your senses. Children and adults may do whichever one they prefer.



A Tale of Two War Memorials

Standing directly opposite each other, like gateposts on either side of the, sometimes, treacherous waters of the Dee Estuary are the War Memorials in the villages of Thurstaston and Ffynnongroyw. Although separated by country and, to some extent, by language, these two small settlements attest to the way in which the heartbreaking impact of both World Wars touched virtually every hamlet in these islands. The story of just some of these local sacrifices, made during the two conflicts, is etched in stone on the two memorials.



The War Memorial in Ffynnongroyw stands in a small square opposite All Saints' Parish Church and was erected in 1994 at the instigation of Councillor Dorothy Banks (known locally as Dolly) who lost two of her brothers, Jeremiah Johnson and Joseph Johnson, in the 2nd World War. Three more of the local men named on the World War 2 list were crew members of the MV, The Lady Mostyn, which was sunk in 1940 by a mine in Liverpool Bay. Two of them were brothers.

Two of the other men listed died as prisoners of war. Madoc Jones endured three years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp before dying in Borneo, shortly before the Japanese were driven out of Singapore. Gwilym Price was taken prisoner in North Africa and was being transported to Italy, along with 2000 other prisoners, when their prison ship was, tragically, sunk by Allied Planes.

PTO

Altogether, the names of 11 men who died during WW2 are listed on the memorial – including Kenneth Thomas Roberts of the Royal Armoured Corps who was awarded the Military Medal and who died in Belgium aged 27.

The 1st World War section lists 16 men from the village and local area who lost their lives, including Elias Jones, a Stretcher Bearer, who was awarded both the Military Medal and the DCM for bravery under extreme fire – unusual awards for a non combatant.



The War Memorial at Thurstaston



The War Memorial at Ffynnongroyw

The War Memorial at Thurstaston stands in a lawn and tree lined garden in the front grounds of St Bartholomew's Church. It was erected in the early 1920's and carries the names of six servicemen who fell in the 1st World War and thirteen who fell in the 2nd World War. It is rare for the number of those from the 2nd World War to exceed those for the 1st World War, but this is, probably, explained by population growth in the area between the wars.

Among those commemorated from the 1st World War are Fred Carr MM and Frank Lester - who was awarded a posthumous V.C. for his role in the clearing of the village of Neuville on 12th October 1918. Fred Carr served with a unit of 51st (Highland) Division and was awarded the Military Medal for his role in the laying of telephone wires while under fire. In 1918, he was wounded by shrapnel and, later, died of his wounds. Frank Lester served in the South Lancashire Regiment and an account of his bravery appeared in the London Gazette on 13th December 1918. It reads:

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice during the clearing of the village of Neuville, on 12th October, 1918, when, with a party of about seven men under an officer, he was the first to enter a house from the back door, and shot 2 Germans as they attempted to get out by the front door. A minute later a fall of masonry blocked the door by which the party had entered. The only exit into the street was under fire at point-blank range. The street was also swept by fire of machine guns at close range. Observing that an enemy sniper was causing heavy casualties to a party in a house across the street, Pte. Lester exclaimed, "I'll settle him!" and, dashing out into the street, shot the sniper at close quarters, falling mortally wounded at the same instant. This gallant man well knew it was certain death to go into the street, and the party opposite was faced with the alternative of crossing the fire-swept street or staying where it was and being shot one by one. To save their lives he sacrificed his own.
—The London Gazette," No. 31067, dated 13th December 1918



Fred Carr MM



Frank Lester VC



The display relating to Frank Lester V.C. in the *Lord Ashcroft Gallery*:

Extraordinary Heroes section of the Imperial War Museum

On the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of the 1st World War, a blue plaque was placed on the wall of Frank Lester's former house, Miller's Hay, 80 Mill Hill Road, Irby. On the 100th Anniversary of the end of the 1st World War, a commemorative paving stone was laid in front of the garden gate. These paving stones were laid across the country in memory of all those World War 1 servicemen awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

Alan Jones

Reflected Faith Series: Welcome to All!

The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on symbols in our churches. This began in March and will run for the rest of 2020.

As I write this, the majority of churches (in the UK) are holding services again in their church buildings or wherever they normally worship together. But things are looking somewhat different.

In my local church you need to ring a Churchwarden to book a place to come to Sunday or mid-week worship. So far, no-one's been turned down or away at the door for not booking.

People are being told where to sit, rather than choosing their favourite spot, so the two-metre gap is maintained.

And, in most services, face masks are required.

So how does all this affect our 'worship'?

There are two key elements to gathered worship for me.

My first is that the welcome is for everyone, regardless of how they look, or dress, their faith or their behaviour.

Many years ago I recall being on a caravan holiday with my Primary-aged children in Scotland. There was to be a raft race and fun by the river, starting immediately after the church service, so we dressed appropriately for a messy time! I was in a fluorescent pink tee-shirt and matching striped summer trousers (they were wow at the time!).

Although we had never been there before and knew no-one, you would have thought we were royalty from the way the congregation treated us. It was wonderful.

We'd come home. We were family. The Christian family.

Brothers and sisters in Christ.

Co-heirs with Jesus.

It's part of our job as Christians to be welcoming. There's no one specific person or role for this. It's down to all of us.

This month: Have a think about how you can express a welcome to the others in your congregation where you worship. Perhaps turn that around and think about how you would be encouraged and welcomed. Would that work for others?

I know it's a tough one if your smile is covered by a mask and you can't shake hands or hug. But what *could* you do?

Also, as you think about the essentials of gathered worship, ask yourself the question –

What else would be an essential for me? There's no single right answer, but it's worth thinking and worth talking to others about.



All Souls - Remembrance and Thanksgiving

All Souls – 2nd November – is the day in the church calendar when we remember and give thanks for those who have died. Most years we hold a special service on the nearest Sunday in which we remember our loved ones by name and say thank you to God for the good times we shared with them throughout their lives. Sadly, due to the Covid pandemic and the limited numbers of people that we can safely get into our church building we have decided this year not to hold this service.



However, we will still be praying for and remembering our loved ones and have come up with a creative way to do that. Members of our congregation have been busy making origami doves and we will be writing the name of your loved one onto one of those doves. At the end of October we will then be hanging all of the doves in a visual display at St Chad's (Roslin Rd, Irby) so that we will be able to use it as a focus for our prayers on Sunday 1st November. The display will be visible through the window of St Chad's and we will leave it on display for at least a week, so if you are walking past at any point, please feel free to take a look.

If you would like a loved one's name (family, friend, work colleague) included on a dove, then please contact Revd Jane with the name(s) that you would like included.

Dear Friend's

I wish to pass on my belated to thanks to all those of the congregation who stood outside St Barts on 15th July to pay their respects to Cecil. Although small in number inside, we had a lovely service thoughtfully prepared and conducted by Revd Jane, with some wonderful music and readings, all of which was intimate and very personal. It was so nice to see so many familiar faces on our arrival, and I am just sorry that we couldn't speak with everyone afterwards due to the weather and time restrictions.

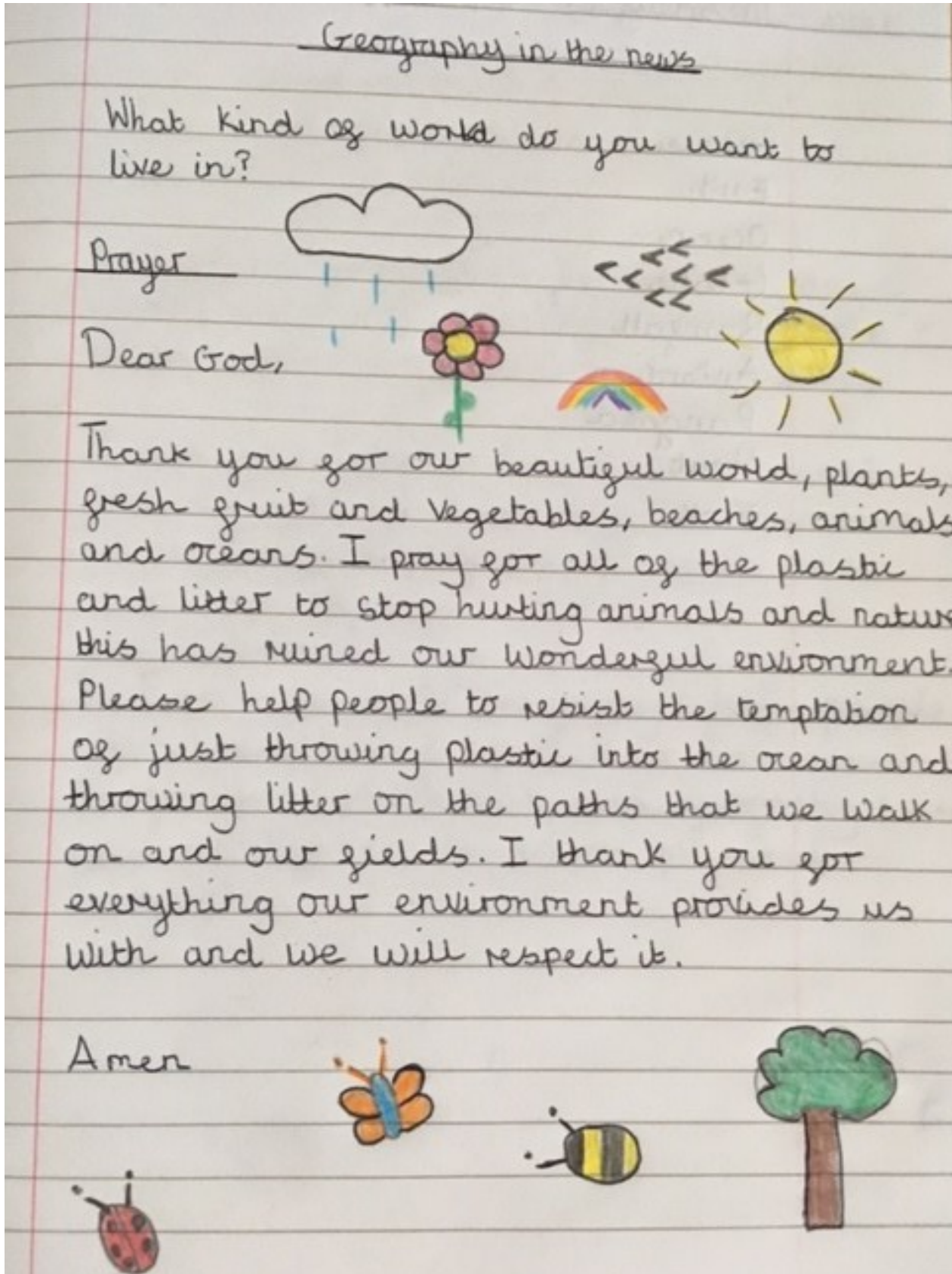
Thank you for the cards sent to the family whilst Cec was in hospital and following his passing which were all a great comfort to us. His passing is a terrible loss to me personally and to Michael, Fiona, Heather and Matthew but we remain sustained by the affection in which Cec was held by so many.

God Bless

Doreen Jones

Daisy started at Upton Convent in September and wanted to share this prayer for the environment. She was also recently appointed as ethos representative for her form.

Congratulations Daisy - keep up the good work!



forum

It's all about you

Christmas Appeal 2020

Due to Covid-19 which has impacted so many, we're having to do things a little differently this year.

To promote the safety and wellbeing of our supporters, staff, and residents, we wonder if you would consider supporting us financially?

We will continue to make Christmas special for all our residents by ensuring that each person knows they are loved and remembered in receiving a gift.

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Online bank transfer

Name of bank: NatWest

Account name: Birkenhead Forum

Housing Association Ltd

Sort code: 60-23-17

Account number: 03163296

Reference: **Christmas Appeal**

**Thank you for your continued support,
especially during this difficult time**

Betty Rimmer wrote the following reflection "On the morning"

It was printed in the magazine several years ago and Betty has just re-found it and offered it afresh for a new generation to reflect on.

It was a cold grey morning as we rode towards the church.

The road stretched out before us and my tum it gave a lurch.

I remembered all the special times from over 40 years when the children were tiny and full of smiles and tears.

Then their confirmation and the solemn vows they took their proud and happy faces as yes, I sneaked a look!

Our daughter coming down the aisle in veil and lace with a lovely smile.

Her new husband looking proud and our son showing family and friends around.

They had come from far and near to make the day so special here.

St. Bart's as it is affectionately known is not just a building of wood and stone.

It has a heart and is full of tradition and I need not have felt such trepidation.

A quiet morning with time to pray, time to praise.

Time to be thankful for those happy days.

St. Chad's holds many memories too, and really it isn't so very new.

When a young woman with a baby hangs back and says, 'Do you remember me from your Brownie Pack?'

I wonder where all the years have gone and really we are two churches as one!

Well I have scribbled enough and its time to pray and say;

THANK YOU GOD FOR A LOVELY DAY.

Lockdown Reflections Continued

Well, here we go again. "Lockdown" , not as severe as last time, although by the time you read this things will probably have changed. I am finding it far harder this time round, I had got used to seeing people , albeit in their gardens and really enjoying the company. Last time seemed almost like an adventure, but there is no such feeling this time.

Prior to these current restrictions I had been out a lot, mainly with the photographic society, learning a lot about taking photographs, but this has now stopped, luckily the zoom meetings and mentoring sessions are continuing.

I had been going out on longish walks until an accident to my leg stopped them. Motto, don't go climbing on the rocks at New Brighton! Thankfully it is completely better now.

Luckily, in between lockdowns my sister was able to come and stay {we should have been in France}. We had several meals out, ventured to Liverpool, had a lovely day at Bodnant Gardens and met up with my younger daughter , my elder daughter was away in Bala, her trip to Marrakesh having been cancelled!

The garden is OK, most of the fruit is over, just a few apples and pears left to pick. It has been too wet to do much outside lately.

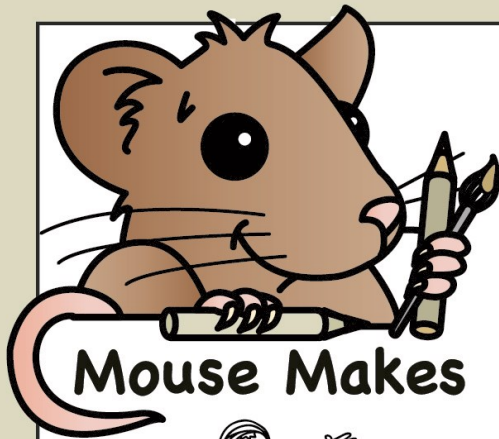
I have mentioned before that since the church bells could not be rung that we ringers have been meeting for coffee and to ring handbells, amidst much hilarity. This has had to stop, as has the limited church bell ringing we were allowed to do recently.

It was thought that it would be good to record these unprecedented times, so I took a photograph of the ringers, socially distanced and wearing facemasks. It will be framed and put in the ringing chamber with an explanation, so that future ringers can see what happened.



Take care, everyone and pray, as I do, that the end of this present situation will come sooner rather than later.

Ruth Eden



REMEMBERING

How do you remember things?

In bible times God's people would remember what God had done for them by building monuments made of stones and by holding festivals and celebrations to give thanks to God.

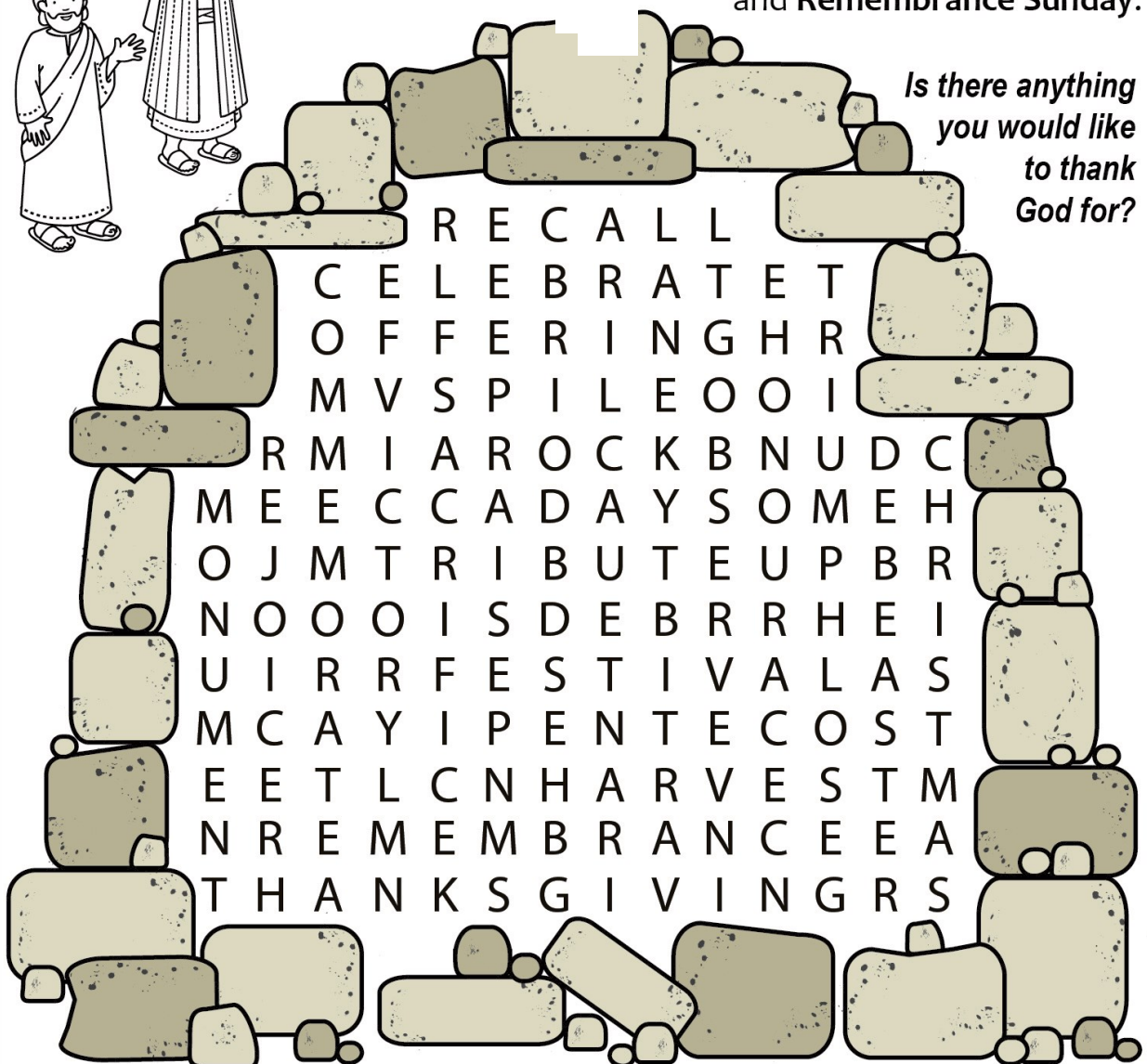


READ *Joshua 4:1-9* and *Exodus 12:1-14*

Today we too build monuments to remember and hold services of thanksgiving like **Harvest** and **Remembrance Sunday**.



Is there anything you would like to thank God for?



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Psalm 122 and Advent

'I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.' (Psalm 122:1,2). These words from Psalm 122 inspired Hubert Parry's great Coronation Anthem *'I was Glad.'* As a Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. For the Jews this represented *'coming home'* to worship at the Temple, the place of God's presence.



Our Worship of God:

As God's people today, we are also called to worship in praise and thanksgiving: *'That is where the tribes go up – to praise the name of the Lord'* (4). Of course, currently our coming together in church to sing our praise to God is greatly restricted. We are a *scattered* rather than a *gathered* community. However, as individuals, we can still offer God the worship of our lives using the resource of psalms like this one.

Our prayer to God:

The psalm encourages the pilgrims to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure.'* (6). The peace referred to here is more than simply an absence of conflict. Peace speak of wholeness of life in every aspect. This must be our prayer as we continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic and as we seek the prosperity of the wider community: *'I will seek your prosperity'* (9).

This month sees the beginning of Advent, the season when we affirm the hope of Jesus' return. As we pray for peace, we know that it is fulfilled in the coming of God's kingdom in Jesus. Despite living with so much uncertainty, we have the assurance of God's future purposes for our lives, churches and the world.



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.

We also have a Twitter Feed :-

[@StBartsStChads](https://twitter.com/StBartsStChads)



God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?



Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to you...? Why have you made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job’s question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job’s attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God’s creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth’s rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job’s practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God’s plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

He gave us eyes to see them: Tobias, the angel and the dog, by Andrea del Verrochio

‘He never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.’

Jerome K Jerome was writing there about the special bond between human beings and dogs who offer us those vital gifts of loyalty, companionship and help. We can think of guide dogs, sniffer dogs, and dogs serving with the forces in war torn countries. And dogs who have a special part to play in care homes, prisons, with undergraduates taking exams, and autistic children. Dogs are a reassuring, dependable presence in so many ways.



A few years ago Dion Leonard was running an ultra-marathon across the Gobi desert. A stray dog befriended him and together they ran the course. It was an amazing adventure that eventually brought them both back to this land, and they can now be seen exercising in the streets and parks of Edinburgh.

In the book of Tobit in the apocrypha, a dog accompanies his son, Tobias, on another incredible journey. Tobias leaves home with his dog to collect a debt, and Raphael, the angel of healing, is also a companion. It is the theme of this month's painting from the workshop of Andrea del Verrochio which is now in the National Gallery. The studio flourished in the 15th century in Florence, and it is possible that Leonardo da Vinci painted the little dog.

We know that it was not an easy journey and we see the stones along the way. Tobias holds a fish from the river Tigris which will heal his father's blindness. His arm is entwined with the angel's arm, and there at their feet is the faithful dog.

While 'dog' is often a word of contempt in the Bible, here in the apocrypha we meet a dog who provides friendship and security on the journey of life.

Dostoevsky wrote 'Love the animals. God has given them the rudiments of thought and untroubled joy.' We know that to be true as we think of the part dogs play in our lives, and as we rejoice in the special gifts they bring us on the journeys we make.

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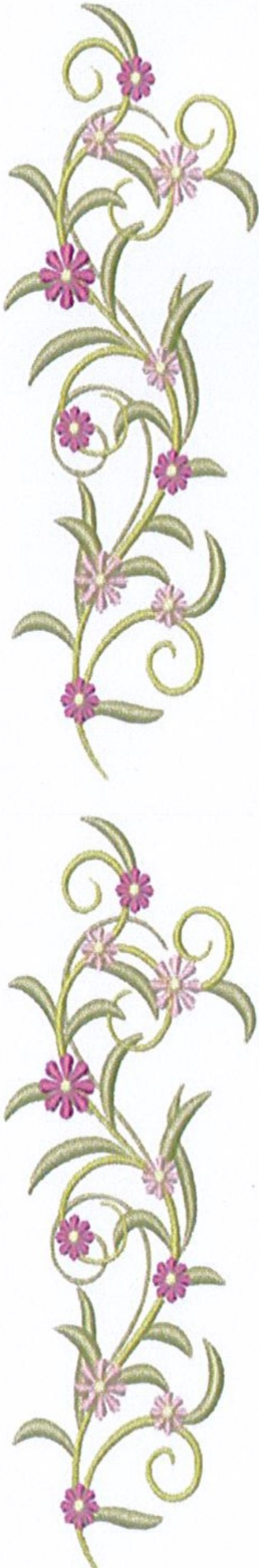
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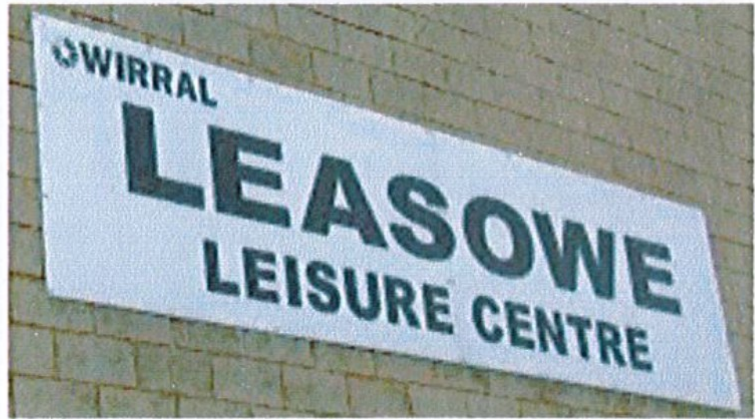
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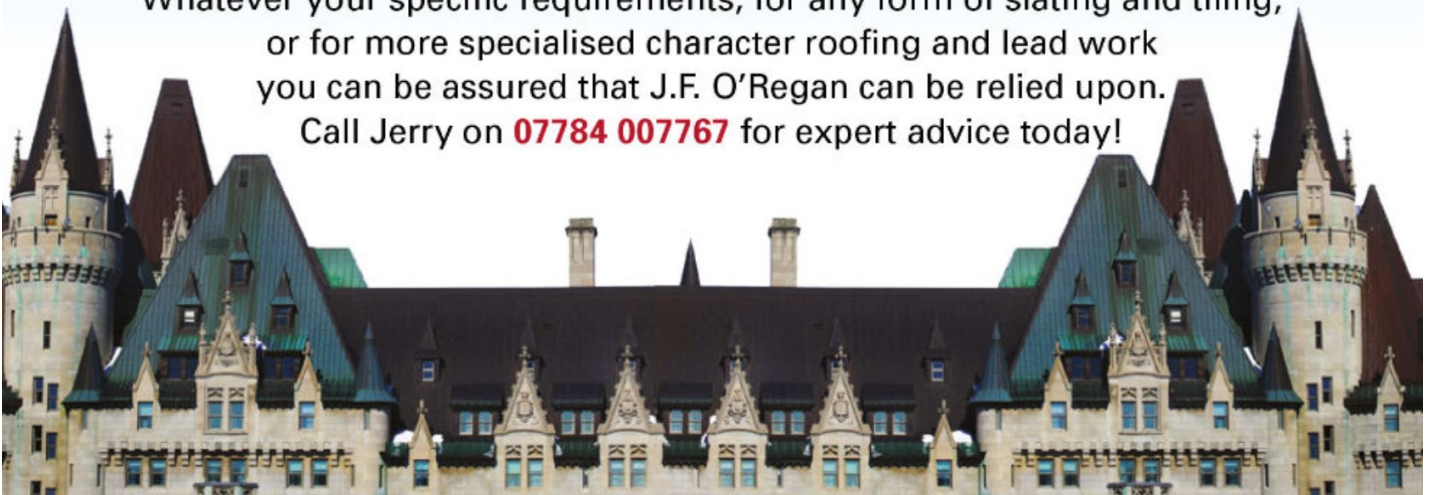
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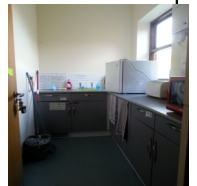
For further information please call Trudi on 0151 342 2614

Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 0AF Tel: 0151 342 2614, Email: trudi@heswallhall.co.uk
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Advertising space is sold in good faith.
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Contacts

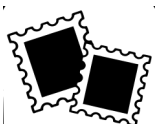
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Reader Mr Alan Jones	648 1400	Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs Elaine Jones	648 1400
Retired Clergy		Flower Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Dawn Rudd	648 0209
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CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Aid Representative Vacant	
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Leprosy Mission Representative Mrs Pat Hulme	538 1953
Adoption Society Representative Mrs Chris Rostock	648 1112

Church Services November 2020

	8.00am St Bartholomew's	9.30am St Chad's	11.15am St Bartholomew's	*ZOOM ONLINE	Wed 10.15am St Chad's <i>(following the Sunday)</i>
Nov 1 st All Saints	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		<i>6.00pm Family Service</i>	Holy Communion
Nov 8 th Remem. Sunday		Holy Communion	Morning Worship	10.45am Act of Remembrance	Holy Communion
Nov 15 th	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship			Holy Communion
Nov 22 nd Christ the King		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion
Nov 29 th Advent Sun.	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

You need to book a seat for these services:-

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.

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.

***To join a ZOOM service, please contact Revd Jane who will give you the details.
You can join a ZOOM service online or by landline telephone.**

Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816 or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

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