

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – First Sunday of Advent**



**Collect**

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen

**Post-Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

**FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**For our Community:**

Please pray the local lockdown measures help control the continuing rise of Coronavirus infections.

Please pray for local businesses as they adapt to second lockdown.

Please pray for the hospital chaplain (Revd Malcolm Cowan) as he unceasingly supports patients who can't have visitors.

Please pray for our schools as they remain open through lock down

**For our Church:**

Give thanks for each other and pray for those who will find lockdown especially hard

**For the world:**

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

**For the Sick:**

Please pray for Mary Wishart. Please continue to pray for Molly (aged 2), Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**For the Bereaved:**

Please pray for family and friends of Alan Fletcher.

**From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:** Bishop Jorge Pina Cabral, The Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury).

## OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

64 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.  
4 Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.  
5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right,  
who remember your ways.  
But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.  
How then can we be saved?  
6 All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
7 No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.  
8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
9 Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

## Psalms 80:1-8,18-20

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned  
upon the cherubim, ♦  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.  
3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦  
and come to our salvation.  
4 Turn us again, O God; ♦  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.  
5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?  
6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦  
you give them abundance of tears to drink.  
7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.  
18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦  
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.  
19 And so will we not go back from you; ♦  
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.  
20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress,

"the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

<sup>26</sup> "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it<sup>l</sup> is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**



## WIRRAL FOODBANK

Can you help with donations for Wirral Foodbank? Items can be dropped off at Dawpool Primary School - enter through the pedestrian entrance and place your items in the lime green donations bin. In order to avoid congestion at drop off and pick up times, we suggest that you drop your items between 10.00-11.30am. If you can't get to school, items may also be dropped off to 38 Heathbank Avenue (box in front of the garage)

The following items will be much appreciated so they can be given out during the month of December

RICE PUDDING  
 CEREAL  
 TEA  
 COFFEE  
 SQUASH  
 HOT CHOCOLATE  
 TINNED SPAGHETTI  
 TINNED POTATOES  
 TINNED /PACKET SOUP  
 TINNED MEAT  
 TINNED FISH  
 RICE  
 INSTANT MASH  
 PASTA SAUCE  
 TOOTHPASTE/TOOTHBRUSH  
 DEODRANT  
 SHAMPOO  
 CHOCOLATE  
 BISCUITS  
 SUGAR  
 JAM  
 SPONGE PUDDINGS  
 NAPPIES SIZE 5&6



A special thank you to those who continue to remember to collect their used stamps for RDA (Riding for the Disabled) and a reminder, with Christmas not too far off, to save all those Royal Mail stamps.

## Leprosy Boxes



Due to COVID-19 and my ill health, my request for the annual collection of boxes is well overdue. There is no way I can collect the boxes, so I would be most grateful if those of you with a box could open them, count the money, and then write a cheque made payable to:-

**"THE LEPROSY MISSION"**

Please then post that cheque to:-

**Mrs Patricia Hulme  
 39 Breezehill Rd,  
 Neston, CH64 9PZ**

One off donations are always gratefully received.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Pat Hulme.

We now have an Amazon smile account. The Link can be found on the website at [www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk), on the first page, scroll down until you see the amazon smile banner. If you click on the banner it will take you directly to amazon, any purchases you then make Amazon will donate money to the church with no cost to you.

Support  
 The Parochial Church Council  
 Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of  
 St Bartholomew, Thurstaston  
 When you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk),  
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The Jesse Tree takes its name from a passage in the book of the prophet Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." It is, in short, the family tree of Jesus illustrating his descent from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of David.

Revd Jane will be creating a Jesse Tree outside the Rectory, so feel free to stop and take a look - if you need to walk up the drive to do so

The symbols which will appear this week will be:-

## The FIRST week of ADVENT

### **The Creation of the World** (Genesis 1)

*Symbol: The World*

In the beginning God created the world and everything in it. He made light and dark, day and night, sun and moon and stars, creatures that flew through the sky and wriggled in the earth and ran across the plains. He made plants and flowers and trees. He made man and woman and gave them everything they needed to live wonderful lives. God was pleased with everything he had made. It was a wonderful world!

*God our Creator,*

*in the beginning you made everything that exists  
and saw that it was good.*

*Help us to see your powerful hand*

*in the world you have made,*

*and lift our eyes to heaven to see the One who is to come.*

### **Adam and Eve** (Genesis 3)

*Symbol: Apple*

Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world in the beautiful Garden of Eden but sadly they didn't listen to God and live as God wanted them to live. God told them not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God was very upset when they didn't listen to him and so he sent them out from the garden.

*Father,*

*you give us the gift of freedom.*

*Help us to make good choices in life*

*and to look to Jesus as the One who*

*takes away the sins of the world.*

### **Noah** (Genesis 6:11-22)

*Symbol: Rainbow and Dove*

God was very disappointed by the way people were living. He told Noah that he was going to destroy the world. He told him to build an ark for himself and his family and for two creatures of every kind. God made it rain for forty days and forty nights. Then it stopped raining and a rainbow shone in the sky. Noah and his family were safe. God said the rainbow was a sign that he would never destroy the earth again. It was his promise.

*All Powerful Father,*

*you saved Noah through wood and water*

*and set your colourful promise in the sky.*

*Help us to see Jesus as the one who saves us*

*through his death on the cross*

*and who keeps his promise to be with us always.*

### **Abraham** (Genesis 12:1-7)

*Symbol: Stars*

God called Abraham and told him that he would make him the father of many people. He said that his descendants (his children and his children's children) would be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore: too many to count! Abraham obeyed God and did what he wanted!

*Great and Good Father,*

*when we look to the night sky*

*and see the stars shining through the darkness*

*we remember the generations of people who have come to  
know you through the faith of Abraham.*

*Keep our faith strong*

*and help us to be ready*

*for the coming of Jesus into our lives.*

### **Isaac** (Genesis 22:1-19)

*Symbol: A Ram*

God wanted to put Abraham to the test. He wanted to see how strong his faith really was. So he asked him to do a very difficult thing. He asked him to sacrifice his own son. Can you imagine what he must have felt like? But just as Isaac was about to do as God wanted an angel stepped in to stop him. God provided a ram for the sacrifice. God now knew that Abraham would do anything for him.

*God our Father,*

*as Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son, Isaac,*

*so you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world*

*as the sacrificial lamb*

*to share your love and give us life.*

### **Jacob** (Genesis 28:1-17)

*Symbol: Ladder*

Jacob was going home to see his brother, Esau. He had upset Esau and wanted to make amends. One night as Jacob slept on the ground he dreamed that a ladder stretched from earth to heaven with angels going up and down. When he woke up he realised that he had been in God's presence.

*Heavenly Father,*

*in his dream Jacob saw heaven opened.*

*On waking he realised that he had been in your presence.*

*Help us to know that you are always with us,*

*and to turn our gaze to heaven,*

*from where Christ will come again in glory.*



**DURING LOCKDOWN – Church Services are not permitted but  
CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR INDIVIDUALS TO COME AND PRAY ON SUNDAYS**

With the help of some very willing volunteers, and following the service pattern already in place, the building will be open:-

				<b>*ZOOM ONLINE</b>
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Bartholomew's Open 8-9am	St Chad's Open 10-11am		6.30pm Evening Prayer

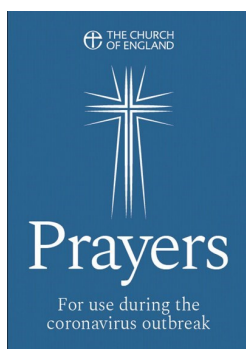
You will still need to observe all the same safety rules as for church services (sanitising, face masks, social distancing etc) and you will still need to complete a test and trace form.

When coming to church for individual prayer you may like to simply come for a few minutes and sit in the peace and sanctity of the building. We don't expect people to come and sit in silence for the whole hour - you can arrive and leave at any time during the hour the building is open.

At St Chad's the chairs will be slightly rearranged (still socially distanced) into more of a horse-shoe shape with a coffee table in the middle which have a visual display to help your focus (Thank you to Julie and Margaret for providing these).

Some may like some more structure to help them pray and you could use the morning worship book which you have in your pack if you've already been to a service, or is available in church for you to collect if this will be your first visit since lockdown.

Or you may like to use the booklet which we posted out in April. I still have some of these if you have lost yours or didn't receive one in the first place - let me know if you'd find it helpful to have one now.



For those who choose to remain at home, we will continue to provide sermon via Facebook and Zoom Services as indicated above. And don't forget the Daily Hope Phone Line is still available.

At this stage we don't believe it will be necessary for you to book a space in church for individual prayer, but if all the seats are taken you will be asked to wait until one becomes available, and if our expectation regarding numbers of people is incorrect, we will implement a booking system.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

**\*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.**

**As we go to print, it looks as if churches will be allowed to re-open next weekend. Our Service Bookings system will open again tomorrow (Mon 30th Nov) - same rules and principles as when it first opened - see website for more details - so you will be able to book for Dec 6th (8am and 9.30am), but there will only be a service if the Government permits churches to re-open. Otherwise, we will aim to open for people to come and pray as individuals for those who wish to do so.**