

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
20th December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**



Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this
present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for all those key workers who will continue to work over the Christmas period.
Please pray for the hospital chaplain (Revd Malcolm Cowan) as he unceasingly supports patients
who can't have visitors.

For our Church:

Please pray for those participating in Advent groups and using Advent Resources, that they may
encounter afresh the Comfort and Joy which God provides
Please pray for all who normally pack our buildings for Christmas Services - may they all find ways to
worship God this year when it simply isn't possible to hold big services in our buildings.

For the world:

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

For the Sick:

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

For the Bereaved:

Please pray for family and friends of Sheila Denton.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican
Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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Revd Jane Turner 648 1816
(Day off Tuesday).

E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

⁷ After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³ Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."

⁴ But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you:

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

Psalm 89:1-4,19-26

- ¹ My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord: ♦
with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love is established for ever; ♦
you have set your faithfulness as firm as the heavens.
- ³ For you said: 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; ♦
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴ "Your seed will I establish for ever ♦
and build up your throne for all generations."
- ¹⁹ You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: ♦
'I have set a youth above the mighty; I have raised a young man over the people.
- ²⁰ 'I have found David my servant; ♦
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- ²¹ 'My hand shall hold him fast ♦
and my arm shall strengthen him.
- ²² 'No enemy shall deceive him, ♦
nor any wicked person afflict him.
- ²³ 'I will strike down his foes before his face ♦
and beat down those that hate him.
- ²⁴ 'My truth also and my steadfast love shall be with him, ♦
and in my name shall his head be exalted.
- ²⁵ 'I will set his dominion upon the sea ♦
and his right hand upon the rivers.
- ²⁶ 'He shall call to me, "You are my Father, ♦
my God, and the rock of my salvation;"

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1 26-38

All: Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

All: Praise to you, O Christ



Thank you for the Advent "Comfort and Joy" daily reflections and activities for all ages.

Emily really enjoyed making the Christmas biscuits using the recipe on page 2



"Thank you for the nativity trail. Max really enjoyed it, especially finding Joseph since he had the role of Joseph in his class performance at school."

The Nativity trail is in the church yard at St Bartholomew's and will be available until the new year.

Admission to Dawpool 2021

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID restrictions, we are unable to host our usual open afternoons for prospective parents.

Please visit the "Admission to Dawpool" tab on the school website which contains lots of information for prospective parents, including a virtual tour of the school.

Admissions to our Foundation Two class are administered by the Local Authority.

Applications for September 2021 should be made online at:
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/schooladmissions> by **15th January 2021**.

Admissions to our Foundation One class (preschool) are administered by the school.

We are now accepting applications for September 2021. Please telephone 0151 648 3412 or email schooloffice@dawpool.wirral.sch.uk to register an interest.

Dawpool's Admissions Policies and Procedures are available on our website.

<https://www.dawpool.wirral.sch.uk>

Please contact the school office if you need any support with the application process.

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.





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 that's fine.

The symbols which will appear this week will be:-

The FOURTH week of ADVENT

Elizabeth (Luke 1:23-25; 39-45)

Symbol: Hills

As soon as Mary received the news that she was to be the mother of Jesus she rushed to the hill country of Judaea to greet her cousin Elizabeth. She was also expecting a child, even though she was very old. Mary and Elizabeth were full of joy for all that God was doing in their lives and in the world. Elizabeth's unborn child leaped in her womb at the presence of Mary and the special unborn child she was carrying in her womb.

Father of every generation,

Elizabeth was filled with joy at everything you were doing.

Help us to be excited about Jesus' Birthday

and to share his love with everyone.

John the Baptist (Mark 1:1-8)

Symbol: Water

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus. He told people to stop leading selfish lives and to follow Jesus, whom he called the Lamb of God. He baptized people in the river Jordan.

Father,

John the Baptist pointed people to Jesus

and prepared them for his coming into the world.

Help us to show Jesus to others

and to be ready for his coming into our lives.

Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Symbol: 'M' for Mary

Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. The angel Gabriel visited her to tell her the news. Mary was a bit confused at first but she said to the angel, 'Let everything you have said happen to me. I am the Lord's servant.' It is because of Mary's faith and response to God that Jesus came into the world.

God our Loving Father,

you chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, your only Son.

Help us to be like Mary

and to receive Jesus into our lives.

Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

Symbol: Hammer

Joseph was engaged to be married to Mary and when he heard that she was pregnant with Jesus he was going to leave her. But, in a dream, God told him that the child was holy, and so Joseph stood by Mary and helped her to bring Jesus up.

Father,

Joseph the carpenter stood by Mary

because he was a good and faithful man,

who believed in everything you told him.

May we too stand up for all who are called in your name

and encourage all who want to know Jesus.

Jesus

Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the City of Jesse's son, David. His coming was foretold by prophets and proclaimed by angels, welcomed by shepherds and wise men. He is Emmanuel, God is with us. 'To you is born this day a saviour who is Christ the Lord.'

Father,

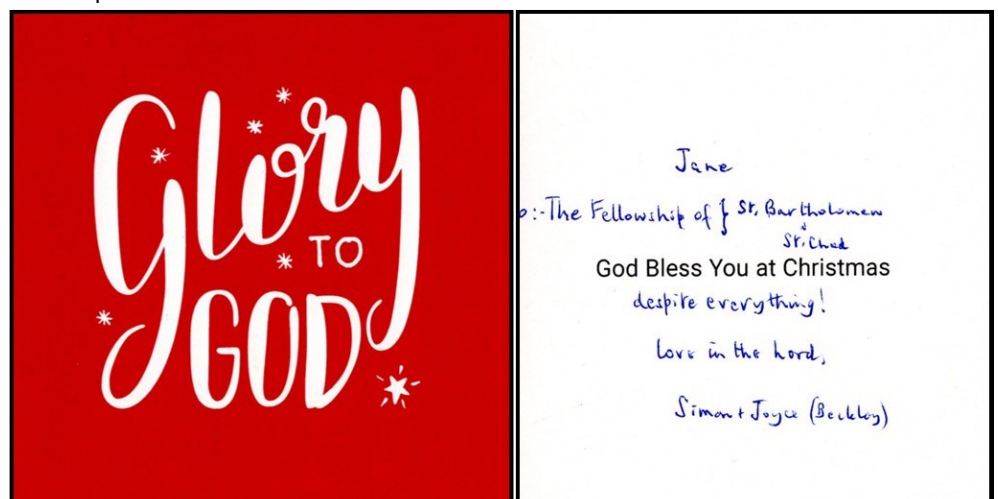
we praise you for the birth of Christ your Son,

who was born in David's city.

May he be born in our hearts today!

Help us to share the news of his coming with others

So that they may know the joy of his saving presence



Jane

o:-The Fellowship of St. Bartholomew
St. Chad

God Bless You at Christmas

despite everything!

Love in the Lord,

Simon & Joyce (Beckley)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

All services subject to Government permission for churches to be open!

	8.00am St Bart's	9.30am St Chad's	11.15am St Bart's	*ZOOM ONLINE	Wed 10.15am St Chad's (following the Sunday)
Dec 20 th	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		6.30pm Service including some Carols	NO SERVICE on 23rd
Thursday Dec 24th Christmas Eve				4.00pm Crib Service	
Friday Dec 25th Christmas Day		Holy Communion	Holy Communion		
Dec 27 th					Holy Communion (30th)
Jan 3 rd	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship			Holy Communion (6th Jan)

You need to book a seat for these services:-

Details on front page of our website www.thurstaston.org.uk

In summary: 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.

**You may book for Christmas Day services
from 9am on Friday 18th December**

***To join a ZOOM service, please contact Revd Jane
who will give you the details.**

We are very grateful for the one-off donations that many of you usually make when you come to church over the Christmas period. Could you make a one-off Christmas donation on line this year? Or could you drop your gift to the Rectory in an envelope for the attention of Mr K. Marley - PCC Treasurer.

If you would like to make a donation to support the ongoing work of our church, you can do so by visiting the treasurers page of the website:-

<https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/treasurers-pages/welcome-from-the-hon-treasurer/>

We now have an Amazon smile account. The Link can be found on the website at www.thurstaston.org.uk, on the first page, scroll down until you see the amazon smile banner (towards the bottom on the right hand side). 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.