

# Crosstalk

60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad  
[www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)



January 2021



The Lord God says, “Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the eternal paths, where the good way is; walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.” Jer 6:16

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## Diary Dates

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



## From Your Rector

### Epiphany for today

This month we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the Magi from the East who followed a star to find the baby Jesus: *'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'* (Matthew 2:1).

At the start of a New Year, amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, are we asking the same question? The gifts they offered show us how we can find Him in the uncertainty of the coming year: *'they bowed down and worshipped Him...and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.'* (2:11).

The *gift of gold* reflects that the Magi saw in the baby a king, destined to rule over us all. In this coming year we need to remember that Jesus is on the throne, the seat of power and authority in the whole universe. Will we crown Him king of our lives and dedicate all that we are and do to Him?

The *gift of frankincense* reflects that the visitors saw not just an earthly king, but God in human flesh. Incense symbolises the prayers of God's people and so this gift reminds us that God is worthy of our worship and prayer. Will we offer our praise and prayer, as we seek God to guide us through the uncertainties of this time?

The *gift of myrrh* reflects that these astrologers saw beyond the baby's birth and life, to His death which would secure life for all. Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross and was a spice used in His tomb. As we face the sufferings of this New Year, we can be confident that Jesus knows and understands our experience. Are we ready to trust Him?

*'Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice!  
Heav'n sings Hallelujah:  
Hallelujah the earth replies.'  
(*'We Three Kings'*).*

Wishing you every blessing for 2021,

*Rerd Jane*



*The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the New Year ahead.*

## **Five things I'd like to see in 2021**

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year.

Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

***Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily.*** Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

***Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic*** – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

***Let's value nature.*** Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

***Let's bless technology.*** Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

***Let's value our church family.*** Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life, and be able to pass it on to others.

The Christmas story carries on into the New Year, with Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men, led by the Star in the East. Through the eyes of faith, they saw Messiah in that small baby, and worshipped him, giving gifts that foresaw his life and work. New Year is also a time of new beginnings for us – resolutions about diets and paying the bills and doing better at work... Happy New Year!

Epiphany

Wise

Men

Camels

Baby

Jesus

Star

Herod

Worship

Gold

Frankincense

Myrrh

New

Resolutions

Bills

Work

Study

Running

Gym



I am writing this in two parts. To start it is nearly Christmas day, but I don't feel very "Christmassy" although I am looking forward to the day itself. I have finished decorating the loft bedroom, I am pleased with the result, but it was very hard work. I don't think I will be doing big decorating projects again! Nearly finished the sorting out, a lot of things have gone to a Charity shop and a lot to auction. In a way I have to say "thank you " to Covid, without the Lockdowns and restrictions I would not have got round to doing as much as I have!

I have done very little in the garden, mainly due to decorating and bad weather. I am considering getting a gardener in the spring, I have resisted up till now, but it is getting too much for me. I felt I had to do it as Chris was so proud of his garden and I wanted to keep it going for him.

Part 2.

Christmas is over. I had a lovely day, starting off with a Church service. Very different from the normal service, but still meaningful and enjoyable. I did miss singing the carols, it's the only time I don't get told to be quiet! Following Church, I went to my daughters and son-in-laws for the rest of the day. I was thoroughly spoiled; the food was excellent, and it was so nice not to do anything after years of running round after everyone else.

Life since Christmas has been very dull, television seems to be aimed at 10-year olds, and my usual zoom meetings have been on hold. I have managed to get out for a couple of walks but done very little else.

Happy and healthy New Year to everyone. It's 2021, but nothing has changed so far. I, probably the same as many other people, have found this time very hard and for the first time have felt lonely. It has made me realise how lucky I normally am, and I feel for those people who do not have the same support network that I have.

We just have to keep hoping and praying that things will resolve in the not too distant future.

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Ruth.

## **We must become a 'simpler, humbler, bolder Church' - Archbishops**

The momentous events of 2020 will have a "profound effect" on the future of the Church of England and our wider society, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said.

In a recent joint address to the General Synod, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell said the Church of England must adapt and put its trust in God to become a "simpler, humbler, bolder Church."

The archbishops' comments came as they addressed the first online sitting of the General Synod following a legal change to enable it to meet remotely amid the coronavirus restrictions.

They outlined how the coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout are providing the backdrop to huge social changes - here and around the world.

They also singled out how the Black Lives Matter movement and the publication of the IICSA report on abuse had exposed the Church's own failings and the need to change.

Archbishop Justin told Synod: "2020 will be a year that registers in memory and in history. It can be compared with 1929, with 1914, with 1989.

"We are aware that this is a year in which huge changes are happening in our society and consequently in the Church.

"For let us be clear, there is no possibility of changes in society failing to have a profound effect on the shape, calling and experience of mission in the Church."

Outlining the dramatic events of 2020, he added: "These crises are not signs of the absence of God but calls to recognise the presence of the kingdom and to act in faith and courage, simplifying our life focusing on Jesus Christ, looking outwards to the needy and renewing in our cells our call to wash feet, to serve our society and to be the Church for England."

Archbishop Stephen went on to outline the work of groups set up to discern how the Church of England might respond and change in light of the recent challenges.

He told Synod: "If we put our trust in God, and if we learn to love one another, then I believe we can become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church, better able to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."



## **Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January**

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

## **World Leprosy Day - 30<sup>th</sup> January**

It is not just Covid-19 that makes other people want to avoid us. Up to three million people worldwide are living with leprosy, a disease that can separate sufferers from their loved ones for years.

Someone is newly diagnosed with leprosy every two minutes, and millions of people suffer crippling deformities.

Leprosy Mission was founded to help defeat this terrible disease, and to transform the lives of its victims. Nowadays this established Christian charity is a global network active in 34 countries across the world. 15 countries have a high burden of leprosy; Leprosy Mission works in 11 of them.

Leprosy Mission works closely with governments, local communities, partner health organisations, the World Health Organisation, local NGOs, local churches, and Christian partners.

And – you can help! This month you can pray, make a donation, or even consider working with Leprosy Mission.

Visit <https://www.leprosymission.org/get-involved>

# BILLY LIDDELL

*'Billy Liddell was not only a great footballer, he was a great man.'*

(Bob Crampsey, football historian)

Having only ever watched professional football on our tiny black and white television, the first time I was taken by my father to a Liverpool football game I was genuinely surprised to find the playing surface was green and not grey! The match was memorable, not just because it was my first, but because, playing for Liverpool, was the legendary, Billy Liddell! By this time, the 1950's, Billy was playing centre forward rather than on the left wing, no doubt because, at this stage in his career, he had lost just some of his outstanding pace.



Few people on Merseyside will not have heard of Billy Liddell, perhaps the most famous footballer to have ever graced the Anfield turf. Indeed, for many years, the club was affectionately known as 'Liddellpool' because of the impact he had on the club during his twenty three year playing career with it. During that time, he made 492 appearances and scored 215 goals. Billy was first capped for Scotland in 1942 and last capped in 1956, gaining 28 caps in all. Along with Stanley Matthews, he also played for a Great Britain team in 1947 and 1955.

William Beveridge Liddell was born in 1922 in Townhill near Dunfermline, the eldest of six children of a coal miner who, eventually, died of silicosis and who was determined that Billy would not work in the mine. Billy's first football club was Kingseat Juniors who paid him half a crown per game. However, he was spotted as a 15 year old, while playing for Lochgelly Violet Club, by Matt Busby who, at that time, was a Liverpool player. Busby recommended him to Liverpool and, as soon as he became 16 years old, Liddell joined the club.

The advent of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War saw Liddell, once he became of age, join RAF, Bomber Command, as a navigator and, sometime, pilot, although he did play some

unofficial games for Liverpool and guested for some teams in the U.K. and Canada, close to where he was based, during those war years. The end of the war saw his return to Anfield.

During Liddell's playing career, the rewards of a professional footballer were a far cry from those of today. Throughout his playing career, Liddell also worked full time as an accountant. Bob Paisley's wife, Jessie, recalled the relative simplicity of a player's life at that time:

*It really was fun and enjoyable in those days. The wives went to the games together and Phyllis Liddell and I used to sit on the wall outside the Anfield ground, waiting for Bob and Billy to come out. There was no ladies lounge or anything like that! Then we used to go to the sweet shop before we got the tram home.*

Both within and outside of his football career, Liddell led an exemplary life. When, in a collision, he broke the ribs of the England goalkeeper, Frank Swift in an international at Hampden, Swift himself insisted, '*It was fair, Billy does not know how to be anything but fair.*' Billy was a devout Christian and something of an evangelist, communicating his faith to audiences of young and old alike. He worked tirelessly in support of youth clubs and was also completely teetotal - which begged the question as to why he was awarded a cocktail cabinet when he passed Elisha Scott's appearance record for the club?

After his playing career came to an end, Liddell became a much loved and respected Bursar for the University of Liverpool. He died on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2001.

A final tribute from Bob Paisley:

*Forgive me if my eyes sparkle when I think of Billy Liddell. You can talk of how the players of yesteryear would have struggled to cope with the demands of the modern game. Bill Liddell would have been a star in any team, in any age. How I wish I could have had a Liddell in my successful teams. With him in the side, I reckon we would have won the World Cup, the Grand National and the Boat Race!*



Alan Jones

## How many more waves?

As the days are dark, and winter still stretches ahead, many of us find the prospect of more restrictions for months to come even harder than when we first went into lockdown.

After nine months of coronavirus, we are emotionally drained. We are financially drained. We are lonely, depressed, frightened, and facing deep uncertainty, from job losses to health problems to relationship breakdown. We are running out of steam, and the virus is still going strong.

There is a strong parallel in all this with the ancient book of Job and his experience of loss and pain. Like Job, we are discovering that we are not always entitled to health, wealth, and happiness; and like Job our suffering inexplicably goes on and on. Like the irritating moralising of Job's comforters, the constant critique of the media only seems to make things worse. And, like Job, our minds are incapable of totally grasping the meaning of all this suffering. We need hope.

Job was deprived of everything, yet even in his despair he never lost his belief that God was there. Occasionally an indestructible hope burst forth like a ray of light in the darkness of his pain. "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.' (Job 19:26).

But the truly transformative moment for Job came when, instead of seeing his situation in front of God, he finally *saw God in front of his situation*. Then, even in the intensity of his suffering, the greatness of the Almighty eclipsed the problem. That is the revelation we need.

In this sad and weary time lament is therapeutic, and we can be completely real with our Father in Heaven. Yet in our lament, the path to rekindling true hope lies in the possibility of focusing on the character and immensity of God. Greater is He that is in us than the pandemic that is in the world.

Join in with the ancient words of Psalm 42: 'Why are you downcast O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.'



## Prayer for New Year 2021

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic. The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare – because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have – that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity – if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We **will** be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be. You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

*(An acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells out the title of the poem)*

Heaven's gift of another year  
As the old departs and the new is born,  
Plans for a future and a hope  
Preparing us for each new dawn.  
Yesterday has gone forever,

New days and ventures lie ahead,  
Even darkness turns to light  
When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit  
Ever mindful that He's there,  
As we live our lives before Him  
Rejoicing in His loving care.

*By Megan Carter*

### A New Year's resolution-prayer – following in His footsteps

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

*St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)*

### 2021

At the passing of time I'm aghast  
Another New Year coming fast!  
Can it be that much worse  
Or more of a curse  
Than this horrible year that has passed?

*By Nigel Beeton*

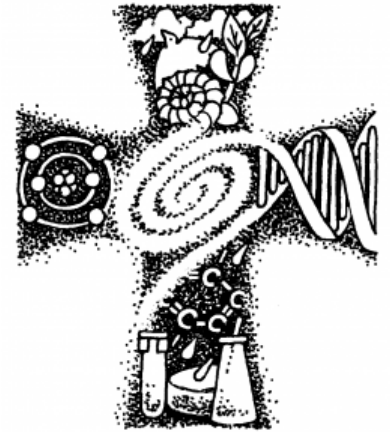
## **God in the Sciences:**

### **A Scientist's Letter to the UK Church: Power, love and self-control**

I want to share a message of hope that Christians in the sciences around the world can bring to the church.

Dr Francis Collins, who leads medical research in the US, spoke earlier in the pandemic about his faith and his hope in God to help us through this time. He

expressed the grief that so many are experiencing, described an intensity of scientific work he has never experienced before, and shared his conviction that he is in exactly the right place just now - serving God with science. He is holding on tight to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 1:7, 'for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.'



#### **Power**

In 2 Timothy the apostle Paul encourages his friend to 'fan into flame the gift of God' that is in him. I am thankful that scientists like Francis are using their own particular talents to understand this virus, and to help prevent or treat infection. The things they discover are not just useful, but at times they can also display the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

#### **Love**

A scientist shows their love for God, for people and for the rest of creation through their work in the lab. One scientist described his experiences to me: "I study God's fingerprints in His creation to learn more of Him and the world He placed us in and to learn how we should take care of it and each other...I pray for inspiration and insight into how His creation works...and that He provides the opportunities to give the glory to Him."

#### **Self-Control**

It is largely our own and others' selfish actions that can turn one animal's friendly virus into our own species' personal nightmare. Thankfully Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection are the solution to evil. Our ultimate and certain hope is that one day all Creation will be renewed. We can also have hope for today, that God is with us in our suffering. When we respond in positive ways to painful events, that is evidence that Jesus is alive and working in our lives.

Science will not solve all our problems, but with God's help and wisdom we can use the tools of science to serve him and love others. Let's pray together for the strength to cope, and for an end to this pandemic.

## GOD IN THE ARTS The hidden years

When St Paul wrote about the birth and humanity of Jesus to the Philippians, he described it as an emptying and a humbling. Jesus humbled Himself, he wrote, 'and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.' In obedience and love Jesus followed the will of His Father through His ministry from baptism to the cross and Easter beyond.

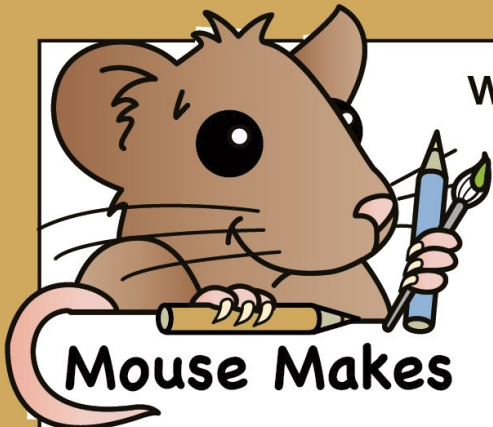
But what about that period called 'the hidden years', after the Holy Family's return from Egypt? The Gospels tell us of only one event in that period leading up to adulthood: the pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. For the rest of those 30 years, He lived with Mary and Joseph 'growing in wisdom and in divine and human favour.' Just as He followed His heavenly Father's will in His ministry, so in these growing years He followed the guidance and teaching of Mary and Joseph.

This month's painting highlights one moment in those years of growth: 'St Joseph the Carpenter' by Georges de la Tour. 'Highlights' is the right word, because this painting captures the strong contrast of light and darkness. Georges de la Tour lived from 1593 to 1652 in Lorraine. He was part of a Franciscan-led revival in that area, and this work from the 1640s captures St Joseph and the Christ-Child with Franciscan tenderness and insight.

We can see the tools of Joseph's trade on the ground. He leans over them, hard at work on a piece of wood. Jesus is sitting by his side, his face lit by the candle, which lights up the carpenter's shop. As well as contrasting light and dark, there is the contrast of young and old, and the thought that the child learning from the old man is also the one who can teach us. De la Tour was particularly fascinated by light and shadows cast by a candle or a lantern. Here the artist shows the candlelight illuminating the face of the child Jesus who will grow up to the Light of the world.

As this New Year begins, we can think back to the light from the Bethlehem manger we celebrated at Christmas. We can look ahead to the light shining from the adult Jesus through His teaching and healing. Here in these hidden years, we can celebrate the light of wisdom and divine favour, as Luke calls them, shining on the face of the child Jesus. We pray for that light to guide us through this New Year. When the way ahead may look dark and uncertain, let us pray that God's light will make clear the path ahead.





What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

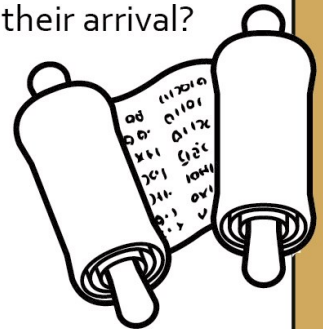
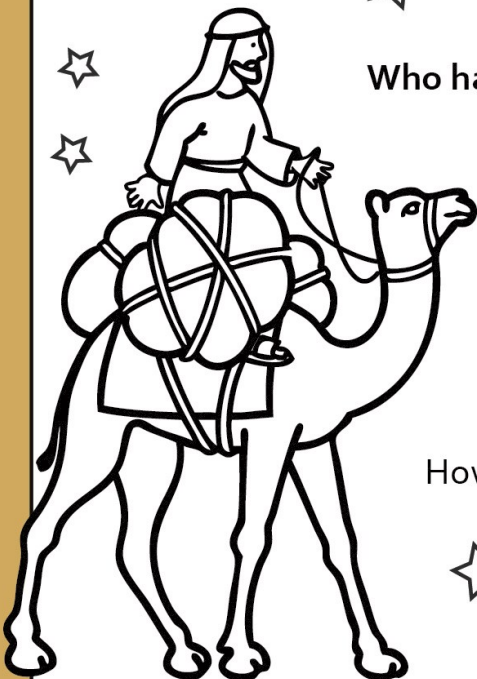
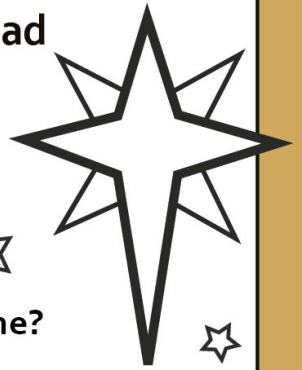
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?  
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? ..... What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

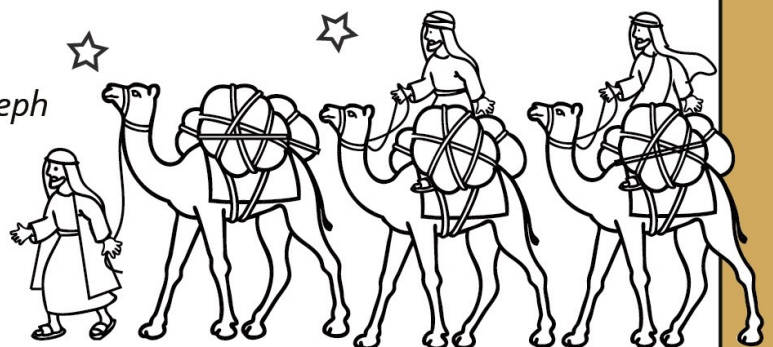
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? .... Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry? .... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?







facebook

St Bartholomew's and St Chad's  
on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/>

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## 2. Hit the shops

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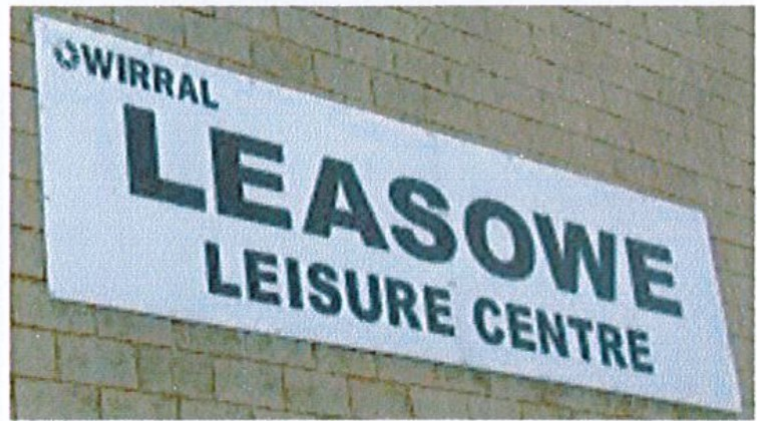
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# **Leasowe Swimming Club for the Disabled**



**Leasowe Swimming Club for the Disabled:  
For people of all ages  
with disabilities and  
their carers**

***SATURDAY***  
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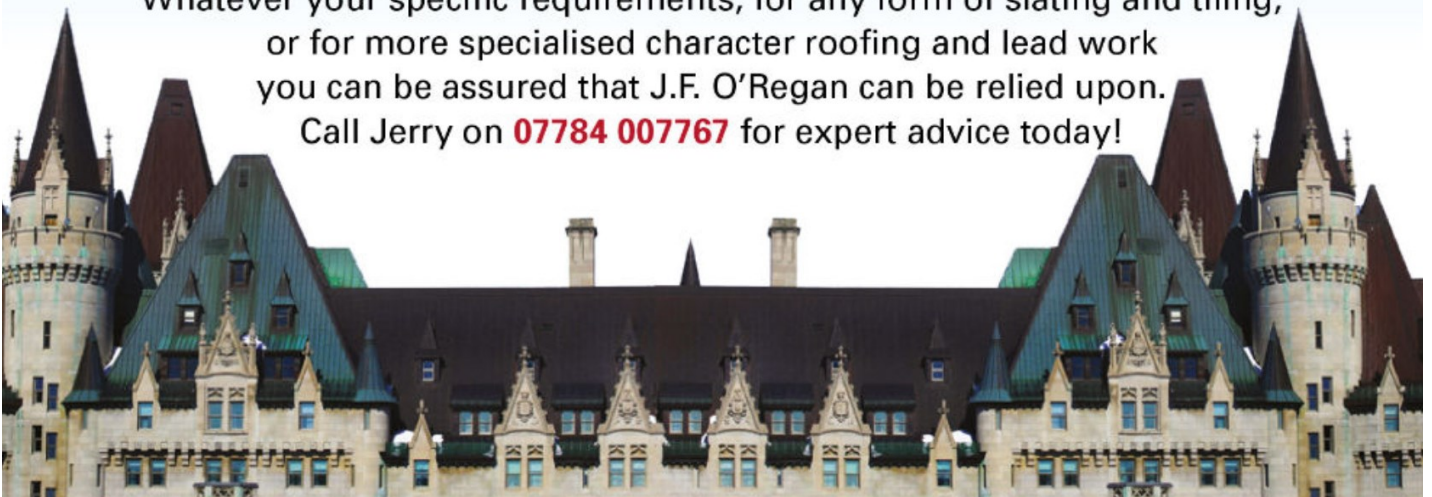
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*\*The National Institutes of Health*



Good

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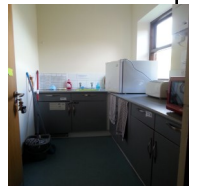
For further information please call Trudi on 0151 342 2614

Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 0AF Tel: 0151 342 2614, Email: [trudi@heswallhall.co.uk](mailto:trudi@heswallhall.co.uk)  
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# JANUARY 2021

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

**Don't forget to book your seat**

Details on front page of our website  
contact Parish Office if you need further information.

\*Zoom details available by emailing [rector@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:rector@thurstaston.org.uk)

## Sermon on Facebook

continues as throughout pandemic, posted after Service in church.

	8.00am St Bart's	9.30am St Chad's	11.15am St Bart's	<b>*ZOOM ONLINE</b>	Wed 10.15am St Chad's <i>(following the Sunday)</i>
Jan 3rd	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship			Holy Communion (6th)
Jan 10th		Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (13 <sup>th</sup> )
Jan 17th	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (20 <sup>th</sup> )
Jan 24th		Holy Communion	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (27 <sup>th</sup> )
Jan 31st		Morning Worship	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (3rd Feb)

### 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**

**PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday**

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: [rector@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)

OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

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