

Crosstalk

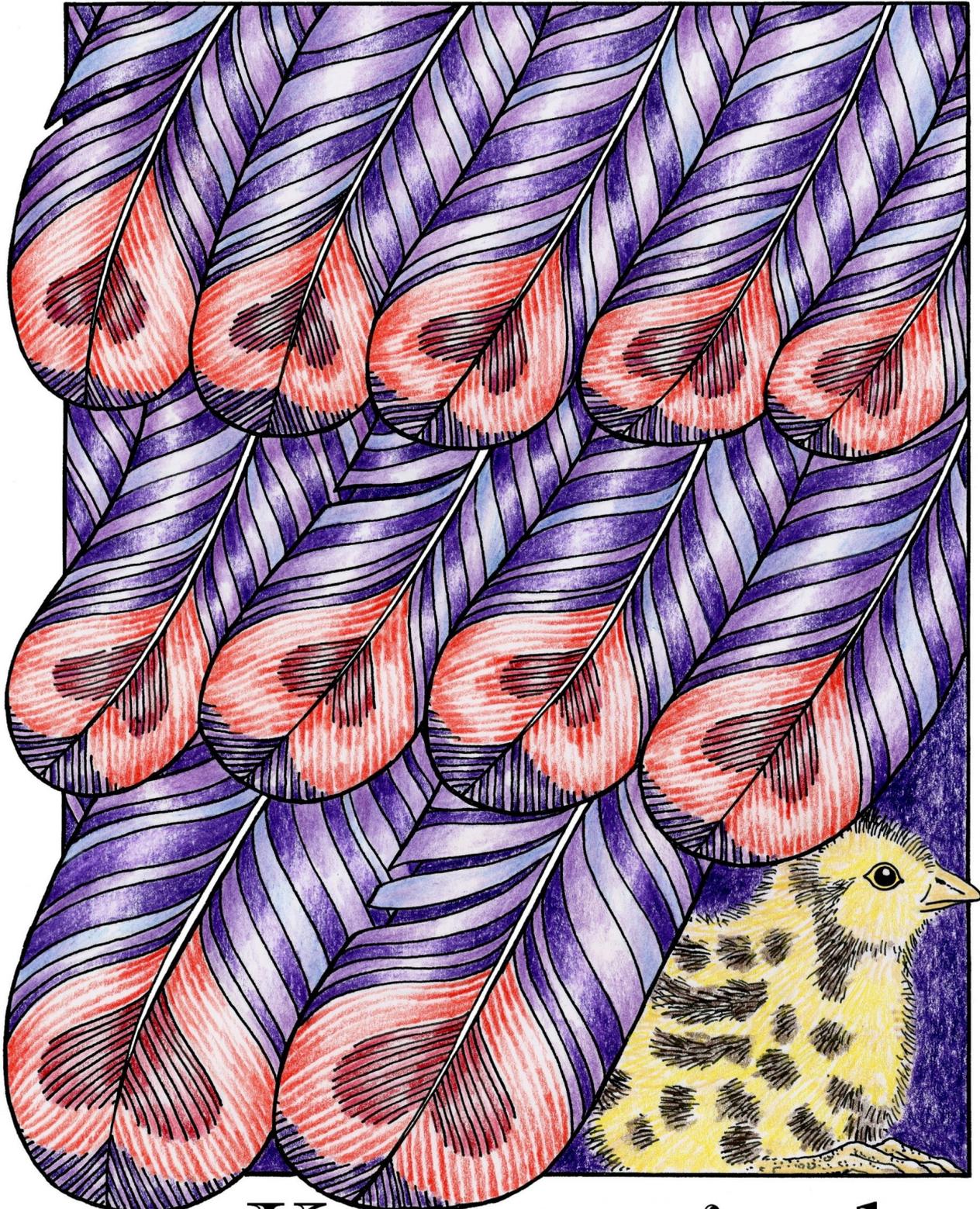
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

February 2021



shelter of your wings Ps 17:8

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Diary Dates

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

From the Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

22nd January - Mary Wishart

26th January - Fred Halifax

It's all in the spelling...

G - God

R - Ran

A - Alongside

C - Carrying

E - Everything

From Your Rector

'I can resist everything but temptation' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

Rerd Jane



A parcel for Justin! Now lockdown at home would be more bearable.



Fill the neighbourhood with Love

The aim is to have everyone put up their decorations on 11th-12th February



So that by the weekend of 13-14th there will be hearts everywhere to brighten up our community and bring a smile to people's faces as they go about their daily exercise or travel to/from work.

Feel free to decorate trees and gardens as well. There will be a "Love is ..." trail at St Bartholomew's.

Love Is...

As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: - *what does real love look like?*

The Apostle Paul says:

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.' (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).



Love is unconditional:

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

Love is forgiving:

According to the film Love Story, *'Love means never having to say you're sorry.'* This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial:

Paul says that agape love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. *'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'* (C S Lewis).



Shrove Tuesday: Who's for pancakes?

Why do we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, as we call it today? And what is Shrove Tuesday? And why do thousands of people feel it rewarding to race along a street somewhere tossing pancakes from their frying pans as they go?

Well, the answer to the first question is that it is the day before Lent begins and for well over a thousand years that has meant it was the last chance to enjoy meat, fat and other tasty dishes until Easter Day. The 'Lent Fast' was widely and strictly observed. The food in the larder wouldn't keep for six weeks so it had to be eaten. With all these rich foods no wonder the French call it 'Fatty Tuesday' – Mardi Gras.



So, what have pancake races got to do with all this solemnity? 'Shrove' is an old word for 'forgiven' and in those days to prepare for the rigors of Lent people would want to confess and seek forgiveness – not quite what you want at a party. The answer is quite simply enjoying yourself while you can! So, on Shrove Tuesday this year (16th Feb) let's have some fun and make it last as long as possible.

The most convincing (and amusing) of the explanations of pancake races is of outwitting the Sexton who rang the curfew bell that marked the start of Lent. He was reluctant to do it while the race was unfinished. So, the revelry caused by dropped pancakes, postponed the inevitable.

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Ash Wednesday: A good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Lil Ormsby

Parishioners will have been saddened to hear of the passing of our friend, Lil Ormsby, in her care home at Ffynnongroyw, a Welsh village directly opposite our parish - on the other side of the River Dee. Lil was one of the loveliest ladies you could ever wish to meet and was a wonderful servant of our parish. For many years, she was a server at St Chad's, but helped and supported the work of the church in so many other ways.

As a tribute, I've reprinted Lil's wonderfully, exciting account of her growing up during World War 2. This was first published in *Crosstalk* some years ago and, later, in my book, *Parishioners at War*.



The Wartime Memories of Lil Ormsby

Lil was 7 years old at the outbreak of the war and living in Netherton, a village on the outskirts of Liverpool. Her younger brother, Ken, was born during the war in 1940. In those days, Netherton was a rural farming area and there were only fifteen houses where Lil lived. Her own cottage was only five doors away from the Leeds - Liverpool Canal. While Lil's father, John, known to everyone as Jack, worked as a fireman stoking the boilers in a nearby soap factory, her mother, Ivy, worked for Fred, the local farmer. Lil, herself, often worked on the farm as a young girl and can remember haymaking late into the evening. Lil recalls taking her mother cups of tea while Ivy sat in front of a great pyramid of potatoes cutting potato sets. In the winter it was so cold her mother would wrap herself in sacks to try to keep warm.

Following the announcement of the war, Lil's father set about the task of building his own air raid shelter in the family's quite expansive back garden. Each morning, after his night shift, he would walk home carrying a large railway sleeper on his bicycle. He used these to line a large hole he had dug in the garden. He added a door and lined the floor and roof with waterproofing and felt. A butt was positioned next to the shelter so they had water to drink. Whenever an air raid occurred, the family would retreat into the shelter but Lil's father would always stay outside to keep watch. A stick of bombs was dropped in the area when a German bomber mistook the moonlight shining on the canal for a railway line. However, none of the local houses was hit. On what is now the local golf course, there was a large gun battery and Lil recalls the whole ground shaking when the guns were firing at the bombers overhead. Once, when Lil and her mum were standing at the front gate, a plane went over. Assuming it was one of 'ours', they waved frantically and Lil's

mum shouted, *Good luck!* However, their plane spotting skills were, somewhat, suspect – as they quickly found out when the plane suddenly banked and dived towards them with machine guns blazing! They dashed around to the back of the house, while a neighbour, out walking, threw herself into a hedge. Luckily, no one was harmed!

Lil, first of all, attended St Benet's Roman Catholic School which was the only school in the area. She recalls being exempted from assemblies in that tiny village school and an ongoing feud with another pupil who called her, *a proddy dog!* When St Oswald's church and school were built, Lil transferred there. Both schools had air raid shelters and, after the war, those at St Benet's were usefully converted into toilets! After the age of 11 years, Lil transferred to Litherland Central School which also had its own air raid shelters. Lil recalls one brutal Maths teacher who used to hit the pupils with a short, thick stick. On one occasion, she hit a mixed group of pupils on their legs, causing particularly severe swelling on the girls' legs, which weren't protected by the long grey stockings the boys wore. The teacher was hauled before the head teacher when their mothers complained. She didn't stay to answer the complaints but, promptly, put on her hat and coat and walked out!



Some children were evacuated to a house not far from Lil's. Lil's mother noticed that they weren't allowed in the house during the day but were out in the cold. It transpired that the lady who hosted them didn't want them in the house too much because they were dirty. Lil's mother took them in instead. Some weeks later, their mother came to see them. She begged the billeting officer to let them take her home and, reluctantly, he agreed. Tragically, not long after returning home, the young daughter amongst them was burnt to death when her nightdress was set ablaze, as she stood near to their open fire.

Another 'evacuee' Lil's family hosted was a man who had twice been bombed at his home in Wallasey and had fled to Netherton to try to escape the bombing. He worked in Liverpool and travelled everywhere on his bicycle. Whenever there was an air raid warning, Lil recalls him sitting with them in

their make-shift air raid shelter wearing a tin helmet and shaking with fear until the *all clear* was heard.

Once, Lil was walking to school with four friends when a man approached them and pointed to their gas mask boxes asking, '*Have you got any food in there?*' Lil immediately realised something was badly wrong when the man failed to recognise that the boxes they carried were for gas masks and were not lunch boxes. Petrified, she called upon the others to run with her and they headed in the direction of school as fast as they could. They knocked on the headmaster, Mr Lord's door and told him what had happened. He went out and looked for the man but, by this time, he had disappeared. Mr Lord phoned the local anti aircraft battery and the troops there



confirmed a plane had been shot down in the area and that patrols would be sent out. It later emerged the German pilot had stolen some clothes off a washing line to cover his uniform, though Lil recalled, in retrospect, he was still wearing his uniform leggings!

The farming nature of the area meant that prisoners of war were drafted in to help in the fields. The first group Lil and her family encountered were the Italians. Lil's mother used to bake scones and take them to them. One

very small soldier was an organist and started to help out by playing the organ at St Benet's Church. At the end of the war, he stayed on in the area and married the lady organist who also played there. Lil recalls she was very tall and, together, they made a somewhat odd looking couple!

Later, German prisoners of war were drafted in. Lil was not, initially, happy with their presence because her Uncle Herbert was a prisoner of war near Dresden. When the POWs found this out, they assured Lil's family that, given where he was, he would be all right. As a result, they were then also given scones! One of the POWs made some rope slippers for Lil's mother as a thank you present.

On V.E. day, Lil and her mother were riding on a tram. As they turned into Great Crosshall Street, Liverpool, they came across crowds of people shouting and cheering. The tram driver stopped the tram and asked them what was going on. The crowds shouted back, '*The war's over!*' At that point, all Lil's mum wanted to do was to return home to her husband as quickly as possible!

After the war, Lil married Reg in 1953 and they set up home in Irby, Wirral. Lil became a loyal and popular member of the local parish of St Bartholomew, Thurstaston and St Chad, Irby, and volunteered for over ten years as a server at St Chad's.



Alan Jones

March, last year, when the first lockdown started and Rev Jane asked for articles for the Parish Magazine, I had no idea that I would still be writing them nearly a year later!

This time seems much worse, the virus is rampaging and I, consequently, feel much more anxious than before. I worry more for my family and friends and for myself.

I am going out far less, the weather does play a part in this, but I am wary of being near other people, even outside. I must admit though, that far more people are adhering to the social distance rule. A lot of people I have spoken to feel the same way.

I am glad that my decorating is finished, and the new carpet is down. I just need some furniture to go in the pristine, empty room. I have just re done an old chair, semi reupholstered it and made cushions for another one, but now I have run out of projects. I will have to find something to do inside until the weather improves, then I have the garage to tackle!

I do intend to do some studying; I have a lot more to learn about Photography and how to treat the photographs when I have downloaded them onto my laptop.

I have been out for a few walks, one early in the morning with my camera, when it was very frosty and the sun was rising and one at sunset, again with my camera.



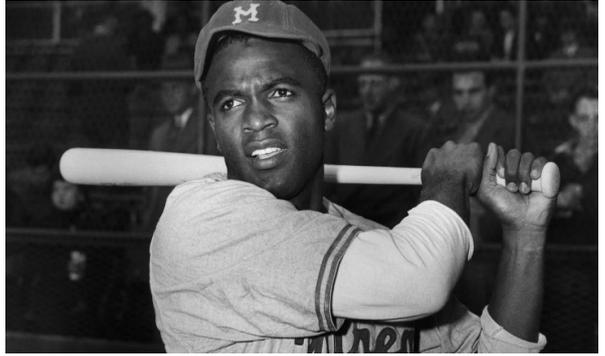
I have been for a couple of longer walks, a couple of times in the woods, but it is so muddy that now I tend to stick to the roads.

Although I have “bubbled” with my younger daughter we have agreed not to meet up for a few weeks. I felt it was safer for both of us in the present climate, although my daughter did take some persuading.

I must admit that my “conversations” with God have increased and I feel that it is this that is helping me cope with this difficult time.

'This is my commandment that you love one another'

Jackie Robinson was the first black man to play major league baseball. In his first season with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Robinson faced adversity everywhere he travelled. Pitchers threw fastballs at his head, runners spiked him, brutal cards containing insults were held up and he was verbally abused.



During one game, racial taunts and insults, from both sets of fans, seemed to reach a peak. To make matters worse, Jackie committed an error and stood humiliated while fans poured insults on him. Another dodger, a southern white called Pee Wee Reese, called timeout. He walked from his base towards Robinson and put his arm round him. The stadium went quiet. Robinson later said that arm around his shoulder saved his career.

The title for this article comes from John's Gospel Chapter 15 verse 12, part of a passage that uses the word *love* nine times. It is, perhaps, difficult, in our language, to define precisely what the word, *love*, really means. We talk, for example, about loving chocolate, loving particular T.V. programmes, loving walks in the country or loving our children or our partners. Clearly, these are all very different kinds of love, but, confusingly, they all make use of the same word!

The Ancient Greeks went some way to recognising this problem by used four words to represent different kinds of love. They used *Storge* for affection, *Philia* for friendship (as in *Philadelphia*, the city of brotherly love), *Eros* for the love between a man and a woman, from which we get the word erotic and, finally, *agape* for the kind of selfless love that Jesus refers to in our title from St John's Gospel and the apostle, Paul, writes about so vividly about in 1 Corinthians 13.

Anders Nygran wrote:

Agape is neither kindled by attractiveness nor quenched by the unattractiveness of its object. This is seen in God's love for sinners who are loved in spite of their sin. God's love is not determined by the worthiness or unworthiness of those who God loves but by God's own nature of love.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it more succinctly:

The New Testament answers the question, What is love? quite unambiguously, by pointing solely and entirely to Christ.

Like hatred and prejudice, love can be learned. Psychologists placed some baby monkeys in a cage containing two artificial surrogate mothers. One was made of cold wire and carried a bottle and one was made of soft terry cloth – good to cuddle but it carried no food. They observed that the baby monkeys spent more time with the soft monkey, the warmth of which triggered something in their minds. The few babies that preferred the wire mother, took the food and moved on. When they were older they became detached parents who did not nurture their young,

suggesting we all, perhaps, need to experience the warmth of love to grow in love ourselves.

Jesus identified the greatest expression of love as being that when someone lays down his or her life for another, as he was to do. We can only look, in humility and awe, upon people who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of others – the soldier who throws himself or herself on a grenade, the pilot who remains with his or her doomed plane to steer it away from a populated area.

A young girl with Leukaemia needed a blood transfusion as close as possible to her own blood type to help her treatment. Her even younger brother was asked to help. The boy thought long and hard. His parents were surprised at the length of time he was taking, but did not put any pressure on him. Finally, he agreed. The two were placed in adjacent beds in the hospital and the boy watched as blood from his arm flowed into that of his sister. Finally, he turned to his parents standing at their bedsides and asked, *'when do I die?'*

Of course, sacrificing your life for others, in a loving way, does not always involve death. Precious, a 16 year old African teenager, was orphaned, along with her younger brother and sister, when both their parents died from AIDS.

From then on, Precious got up at 3.00 a.m. each morning and walked two and a half hours to work, where she was treated no better than slave by her employer. At the end of the day, she walked for two and a half hours back to her home. She earned just 60 dollars a year with which she provided two meals of corn a day and paid for her younger siblings to go to school. Her dream was that, one day, her brother and sister would become teachers.

Before the advent of nursing homes, elderly parents were often looked after by their children. I can recall a single, lady who lived in my street, devoting the whole of her middle aged life to her frail elderly mother who, despite her frailty, nevertheless lived to a great age.

I used to visit Ellen Holmes, a member of St Bartholomew's Congregation, every week when she became unable to attend church. On one occasion, we were talking about our respective parents when she told me her mother spent the last three years of her life bedridden. In order to look after her mother, Ellen had to move into her mother's home. This she did without question and nor did her husband raise any objection - even though he was left largely on his own for the three years. Their love for Ellen's mother, and for each other, overcame the sacrifices they had to make.

I am sure you can match these stories from people you have come across in your lives - people who respond to Jesus' call for us to love one another in a totally selfless way.

Having planted the seed of love in them and demonstrated how it should be nurtured, Jesus reminded his disciples that they should bear fruit. In this respect, he was probably referring to the missionary endeavours they would be required to undertake.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. John 15:16

Through the gospel, that same teaching and message is handed down to us. As Christians, we are unified together as children of God within his love. Our connection with that love and our sharing of that love with, and to, others serves as our Christian I.D., our identifying mark as Christians. It is the mark of Christ.

Our love should be joyful as Jesus stresses in the same passage from John's Gospel as our title:

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that joy may be complete. John 15:11

But it should also be sacrificial. We sacrifice old ways to make room for new blessings from God and we make sacrifices of ourselves to help others. In this way, like the disciples, we have the ability to bear fruit – to bring help to those in need and to spread the gospel of Good News by our words but, above all, by our selfless, loving actions.

A final thought from Mother Theresa:

Being a Christian is about being a carrier of God's love. May God grant that, we might be carriers of God's love, that we might love one another as God in Christ loved us.

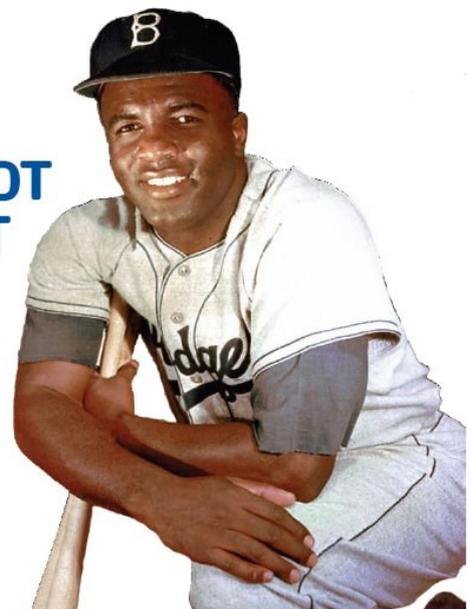
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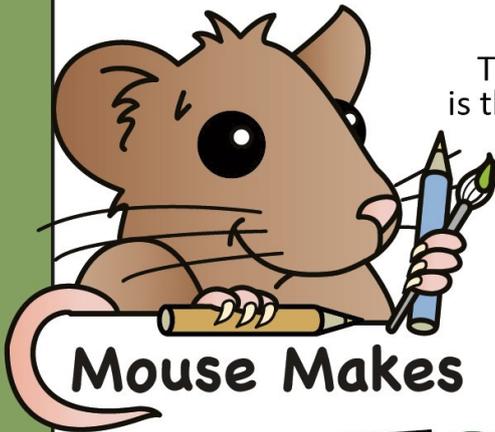
Jackie Robinson went on to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers for 10 years, becoming the first African American to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Although he died prematurely in 1972, in 1984 his memory was honoured with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in America. In 1997 his Jersey Number, 42, was retired in his honour and in 2005 he was also, posthumously, awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Alan Jones

**"A LIFE IS NOT
IMPORTANT
EXCEPT IN
THE IMPACT
IT HAS ON
OTHER LIVES."**

~JACKIE ROBINSON





WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E				H
---	--	--	--	---

• What two things did God create first?
Genesis 1:1

		S		
--	--	---	--	--

• What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
• What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

				G
--	--	--	--	---

• Who is the creator?
Genesis 1:1

				D
--	--	--	--	---

• What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

--	--	--	--	--

• Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
• Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

				H
--	--	--	--	---

• Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

L					S
---	--	--	--	--	---

By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.

FIND THE CREATION PAIRS from Genesis 1 and 2

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH | MORNING |
| LIGHT | FRUIT |
| DAYS | SEA |
| TREES | NIGHT |
| LAND | FISH |
| EVENING | YEARS |
| ADAM | HEAVENS |
| DAY | DARK |
| BIRDS | WATER |
| SKY | EVE |

DID YOU KNOW?
The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*

C R E A T U R E H G O D P
D G A L R E F R U I T E L
L O R I E S L B M O S E A
A O T G E T Y D A R K P N
N D H H E A V E N I G H T
D A Y T R R S P I R I T W
A S E E D S K Y B I R D O

Can you find these words in the word search?
GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO

God in the Sciences:

Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some need extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters', but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.

Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.



GOD IN THE ARTS : Christ in the Wilderness –Scorpions

Forty days and forty nights

On the 17th of this month, we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is currently held in a private collection.



Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with his head, his hands and his feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about him, apart from his tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert? During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God.

He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

Wordsearch for February

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon
Anna
temple
love
Valentine
romance
Matthias
Fairtrade
Fortnight
coffee
bananas
chocolate
justice
poverty
nest box
marriage
wedding
Holocaust
leprosy



Mountains make you feel better

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood. Mountains can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the ocean can help boost your inspiration.

A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that water is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. Woodlands can help you forget your worries, and fields and meadows can enhance your energy levels.

Fairtrade Fortnight: 22nd February – 7th March



It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



Here is an unconditional love that keeps on giving

Leprosy is a disease often considered confined to Biblical times. But did you know there are almost a quarter of a million new leprosy cases diagnosed each year? Even though there is a cure for leprosy, for every person treated there are a hidden 20 needing the cure.

Leprosy hides in remote villages like Namatua, where Zaina lives in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's most northern province. There are no doctors in Namatua, and medical care is scarce. Leprosy is shrouded by fear and misunderstanding, which means people with the disease face extreme discrimination.

For too long, leprosy has disrupted and disabled lives. It has separated loved ones and torn families apart. But through the power of unconditional love, life in Mozambique, is changing.

The Leprosy Mission is raising up people like Zaina to become Leprosy Changemakers, to lead the fight against leprosy. They are part of a sea change, paving the way for a Mozambique free of leprosy and discrimination.

Zaina was shown God's unconditional love through the kindness of a stranger. Forever grateful, Zaina's love for others walking the same path as her knows no bounds. She goes the extra mile to find those who are hidden away and fearful so that they too have the freedom of a new life.

Zaina was a young mum when she first noticed discoloured patches on her skin. She didn't know what they were, but when they became visible to other people in her home village of Namatua, they recognised the signs of leprosy. Because of age-old myths surrounding disease, some of the villagers banished her to the forest, chanting "go to the bush" over and over.

Together with her young son, Zaina was forced to live in the forest. If that wasn't hard enough, a group of villagers came to take her little boy away. Zaina was heartbroken. Hungry and without medicine, her body became increasingly weak.

By the grace of God a stranger found Zaina in the forest. He built her a hut to shelter from the rain and took her to a health post where her leprosy was cured. Leprosy Changemakers, trained by The Leprosy Mission, were able to go to Namatua and teach the villagers about leprosy and how it is easily cured.

Zaina was able to take back her future into her own hands and is now a thriving member of her community. Determined others shouldn't have to suffer a similar fate, Zaina has trained as a Leprosy Changemaker. She is able to recognise the early signs of leprosy and has made it her mission to encourage others affected by the disease.

"I say to someone with leprosy that they should take care of themselves," she said.



“They should take the medication because this disease has a cure. They should bathe, wash their clothes, brush their teeth and carry on living. They must realise they will get better.”

The Unconditional Appeal sees churches in the UK partner with communities in Mozambique to build community hubs.

A community hub, or a Hub of Hope, gives a beating heart to a village like Namatua, a place from which to lead the fight against leprosy. A place where Leprosy Changemakers, like Zaina, can learn to recognise early symptoms of the disease. Crucially, a Hub of Hope is a place where people affected by leprosy are welcomed unconditionally.

Will you become a Leprosy Changemaker today by sharing Jesus's unconditional love for people with leprosy?

There is a wonderful opportunity, thanks to UK Aid Match, for your unconditional love to go twice as far. Gifts to The Unconditional Appeal made from 24 January to 24 April 2021 will be DOUBLED by the UK government.

Your gift of £24 will bring the cure to someone with leprosy. So by giving £24 your gift will be doubled to £48 so two people can be found, diagnosed and cured.

It costs £70 to train a Leprosy Changemaker to recognise the early signs of the disease. They will act as a supportive friend to travel with to a healthpost or make contact with a Community Health Worker who can give the cure. So by giving £35 today, your donation becomes £70, training a Leprosy Changemaker whose love goes on to transform the lives of others.

This is an unconditional love that keeps giving.

‘We love because He first loved us.’
1 John 4:19 (NIV)



To make a donation either visit:-
<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/about/#/>
and click on the donate button

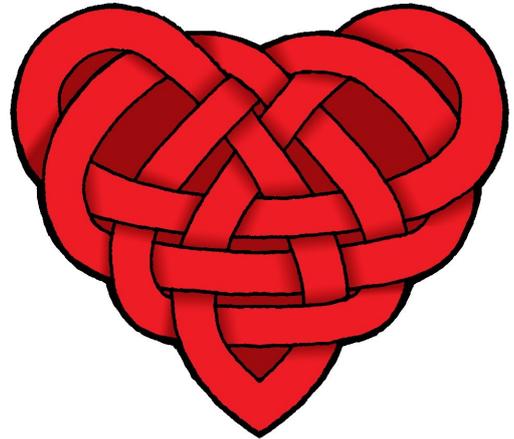
Or write a cheque made payable to:- **“THE LEPROSY MISSION”**
Please then post that cheque to:-
The Leprosy Mission, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5GZ

It is not enough to love – you need to be loved

Sometimes we can be inclined to give and give and give to others - without asking anything in return. We may think that this is a sign of generosity - of great strength. But it can also be one of pride - we want to be seen as the one who does not need help. Or it can be a sign of very low self-esteem - we do not think we are worth receiving anything from others.

Whatever the reason, when we keep giving, without also receiving, we put ourselves in danger - we will burn out quickly. It is as important to know when we need to TAKE attention and care, as when we need to give it to others. If you do not pay careful attention to your own needs - whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritual - you will not last the distance.

If you want to remain a joyful giver for years to come, you need also to be a joyful taker and accept God's love, given to you through other people.



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:-

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I can't tell you how impressed my boyfriend and I were to buy our house through Alan at Open House in February. They offered such a personal and efficient service at what was such a busy time in our lives, having just had our baby daughter in December! They were understanding, flexible with viewings & their communication was excellent. We are enjoying our new house so much & Alan even gave us a lovely bottle of champagne as a moving in present. Thanks again X"



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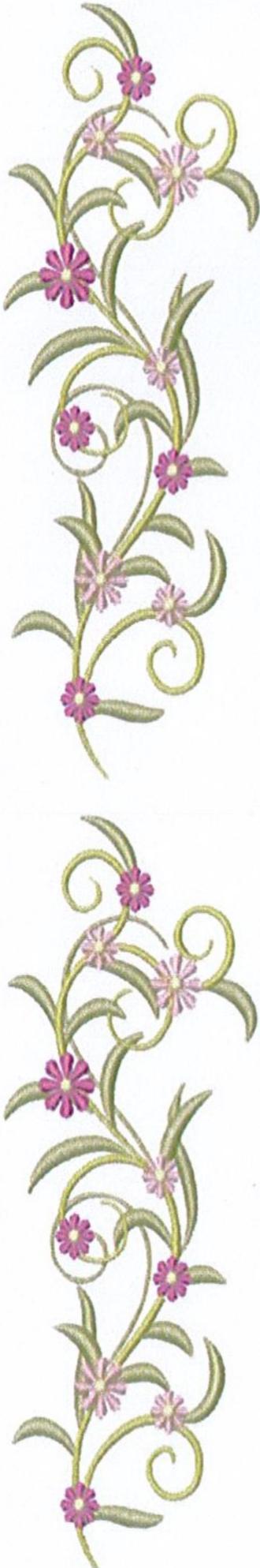
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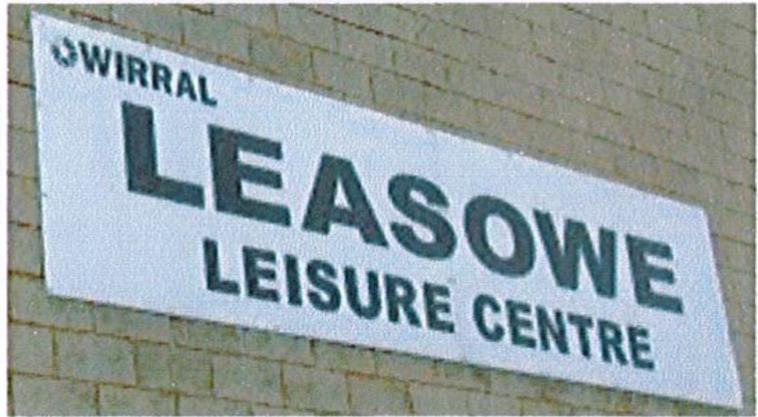
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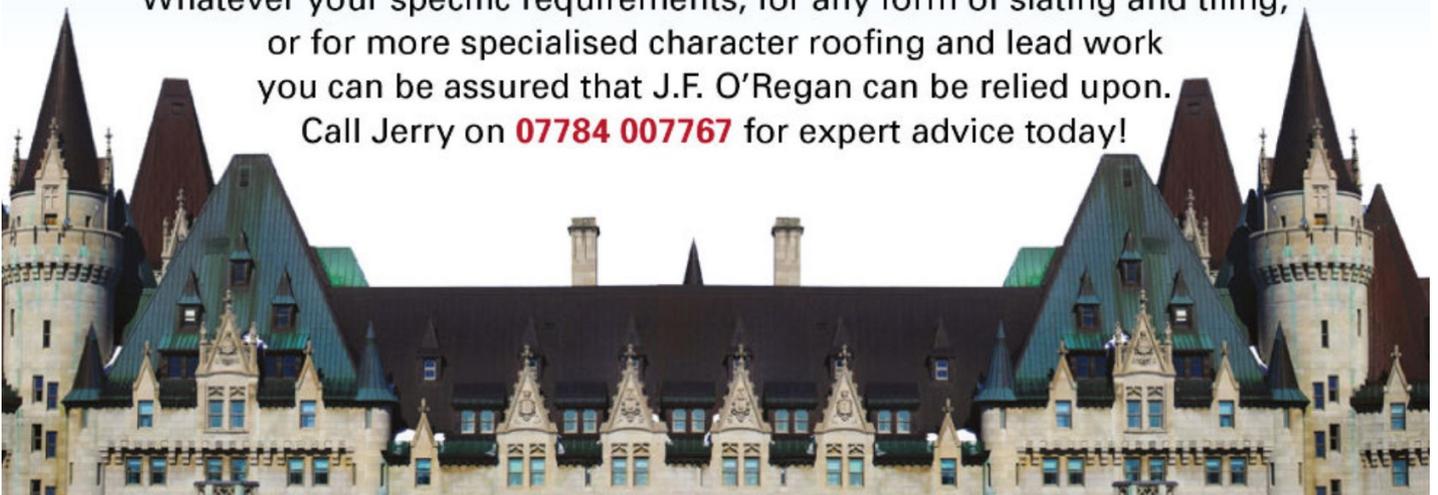
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Contacts

Churchwarden Mrs Liz Whitehead	606 9083	Evening Mothers' Union (EMU) Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)	6481112
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
Revd David Trollope	342 2648	Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs June Bibby	678 8124
Revd Ray Dent	792 2022	Cleaning Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Leslie Worrall	648 5590
Revd Margaret Fletcher	648 1025	Bellringers Tower Captain Dr Peter Robson	648 6691
PCC Secretary Mr Graham Barley	648 1867		
PCC Treasurer Mr Kevin Marley		CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk		Junior Church Mrs Julie Deboorder	648 6331
Verger Mr Jon Oliver	648 1754	Seniors/Youth (11-16) Mrs Janet Trigg	648 8821
Organist Mr Craig Vickers	648 7405	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk or Freephone	0800 1 69 59 01
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office	648 8169		
St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary Mrs Jean Heath	648 6015		

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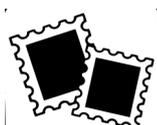
Christian Aid Representative Vacant	
Children's Society Representative Mrs Jean Heath	648 6015
Leprosy Mission Representative Mrs Pat Hulme	538 1953
Adoption Society Representative Mrs Chris Rostock	648 1112



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There is a box in St Chad's foyer and
an envelope at the back of St Bart's.



FEBRUARY 2021

ZOOM Services:-

Joining details available by emailing the Rector

Feb 7th - 6.00pm All Age

Feb 14th - 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Feb 21st - 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Feb 28th - 6.30pm Evening Prayer

The PCC agreed on Monday 11th January 2021 that we would not hold services in church (except funerals and weddings (in exceptional circumstances)) until the latest Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3 (and transmission rates are much lower and vaccination programme has begun to take effect).

We will continue to provide a sermon via facebook, the weekly emails (including notice sheet, sermon, family together at home resource and other bits and bobs), and Evening Prayer via Zoom.

Contact the Rector if you want to be added to the weekly email list.

ZOOM Coffee and Chat:-
Wednesday mornings 10.15-11.00am

Joining details available by emailing the Rector

No agenda
just turn up and chat
with whoever else appears

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

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

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