

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
12th December 2021 – Advent 3**



**Details of Covid Precautions and Safety for Church Services  
can be found on the front page of our website**

**Collect**

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way  
of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly  
gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
Amen

**FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**For our Community:**

Please pray for all who serve us in our local community - especially key workers  
Please pray for those still without power or waiting for rooves to be repaired as a result of storm Arwen and storm Barra

In a season where people are expected to be joyful and happy, please pray for those who are finding this time of year challenging, due to depression, bereavement, divorce, homelessness, .....

**For our Church:**

Please pray for all of our church services and activities  
Please pray for Bishops Mark; Julie and Sam, & Archdeacons Mike and Ian  
Please pray for Revd Malcolm Cowan and others who serve in the Chaplaincy department of the hospital

**For the world:**

Please pray for all countries of the world where people suffer from war, natural disasters and the effects of climate change

**For the Sick:** Please pray for Judith Hodgson, Mark Beck (relative of Ruth Eden), Elaine Kavanagh, Kate McMahon (relative of Elizabeth Barton), Stephen Brown (Chris Rostock's Nephew) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**For the Bereaved:** Please pray for all who grieve the loss of Ava White and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes



**HUGE thanks to Church Farm  
for such a beautiful tree for St Chad's  
(St Barts tree will follow next week)**

**Thank you also to the good folk  
from the mid-week communion service  
who stayed to help to decorate the tree.**

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Revd Jane Turner 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday). E-Mail: [rector@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:rector@thurstaston.org.uk)

## Old Testament Reading: Zeph 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments  
against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,<sup>1</sup>  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

## New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:7-18

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

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

# A warm invitation to

## The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship Carol Service

for those working or studying in the legal profession, friends & family

with guest speaker *Stephen Shaw QC* from the Northern Ireland Bar,  
music from *Formby Brass Band* and light refreshments afterwards

Wednesday 15th December, 6pm  
Liverpool Parish Church, L2 8TZ



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with our Appeal.

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continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £ 20,915.00

Registered Charity No. 219279

[www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)



## Sunday 12th December - 10.30am St Chad's - All Age Service

This service will include a pop-up Nativity (no rehearsal needed).

EVERYONE - adults and children - is encouraged to come dressed as one of the characters from the Nativity Story? Here are some ideas:-



Which part did you always want in the school nativity play?  
Now's your chance to fulfil that dream!

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

Covid Precautions mean that at all services we will be asking people to use hand sanitiser, wear a face covering and to provide us with contact details for "track and trace".

### For Services indicated in RED:

We will NOT be able to guarantee any social distancing measures, but will request that people are sensible and respectful of others.

### For Services indicated in BLUE:

We will have some socially distanced seats available.

#### Sun Dec 5th

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

10.30am HC at St Bartholomew's

#### Sun Dec 12th

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

10.30am All-Age at St Chad's

#### Sun Dec 19th

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

10.30am MW at St Bartholomew's

4.00pm Carol Service at St Chad's

Zoom Evening Prayer  
6.30pm Sundays  
5th and 12th December  
Joining details  
from Revd Jane

Every Wednesday  
10.30am Holy Communion  
at St Chad's

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's

5.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's

As in previous years, we will run two services exactly the same one after the other. We suggest that the 4pm service is for younger (up to and including Reception) children and that the 5pm service is for older children. If you have children in both age brackets - you choose! If coming to the 5pm service, please don't arrive until 4.45pm in order for the 4pm service to have cleared church and car parking spaces!

11.15pm First Communion of Christmas at St Bartholomew's

#### Saturday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

10.30am Family Communion at St Chad's

You are invited to bring one of your presents to show to everybody else.

NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY

#### Sunday December 26<sup>th</sup>

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY

#### Sunday 2nd January 2022

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Covenant Service at Irby Methodist Church

*we have received an invitation to join our Methodist friends and we would encourage as many as possible to go along.*

NO OTHER SERVICES TODAY