

The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad Thurstaston and Irby 19th Dec 2021—2nd Jan 2022



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

FOR OUR PRAYERS

For our Community:

Please pray for all who serve us in our local community - especially key workers

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

For the world:

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

Please pray for our Government as they continue to make decisions about how best to reduce the spread of Omicron

For the Sick:

Please pray for Judith Hodgson, 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 family and friends of Mark Beck (relative of Ruth Eden), and Richard Davis

Please continue to pray for all who grieve the loss of Star Hobson, Ava White and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes



**Wishing you a Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous and Peaceful New Year**

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

Sunday 19th December 2021 - 4th 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

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

⁸ When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-45

All: Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Sunday 26th December 2021 - St Stephen's Day

Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of
an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

New Testament Reading: Acts 7:51-60

⁵¹ 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³ You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 10:17-22

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Sunday 2nd January 2022 - Epiphany

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn
by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Old Testament Reading: Is 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

All: Glory to you, O Lord

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Be natural and relevant as you talk about Jesus

With so much uncertainty surrounding the next couple of months, and the Government once again announcing measures to combat the spread of coronavirus, this diocesan online course is an opportunity to "meet" and reflect with others during January and in the run-up to Lent.

Called *Talking Jesus*, the course will inspire you to share your faith and will give you practical suggestions to help you to be natural and relevant as you talk about Jesus with the people you meet.

Join with others from around the Diocese of Chester in this special online course led by the Everyday Faith team based at Church House.

Booking is essential.

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/talking-jesus.php>

Talking Jesus

A six-week online course that will inspire you to share your faith. Through practical suggestions we will help you to be natural and relevant as you talk about Jesus with the people you meet.



www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk



Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?
Freephone 24 hr Helpline 0808 2000 247

Irby Pharmacy is a safe space

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 19th

9.00am BCP at St Bartholomew's

10.30am MW at St Bartholomew's

4.00pm Carol Service at St Chad's

Every Wednesday
10.30am Holy Communion
at St Chad's

Friday 24th 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 25th - 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 26th

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

From Magi to Mission, the Gospel of Matthew

Chester Cathedral Bible Talk Lecture Series: Spring 2022. Wednesdays at 1.10pm on Zoom. The first session is on Wednesday, 5 January and will be led by Bishop Mark Tanner. To book, please contact deansoffice@chestercathedral.com