

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
13th March - Second Sunday of Lent**



<p>Collect Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>
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FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:
Please pray for all who serve us in our local community

For our Church:
Please pray for the PCC meeting tomorrow (7th March)
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 Peace
Please pray for all countries of the world were people suffer from war, natural disasters and the effects of climate change

For the Sick: Please pray for Mike Douglas, Kenneth Michael (Liz Whitehead's Father), Erica Kazaz (friend of Malcolm Studholme), Brian Tucker, Duncan Wardle (Graham Barley's nephew), Kate McMahon (relative of Elizabeth Barton), Azeem (Dafydd and Meira's 9yr old Grandson) awaiting open heart surgery at Alderhey Hospital. and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For the Bereaved: Please pray for family and friends of Samuel Smale (funeral 17th March) and Tim Healey (Revd Jane taking funeral service in her previous parish - Great Barrow - on 18th March)

<p>SERVICE DETAILS FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT</p> <p>Sun 13th March 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am All Age at St Chad's Platinum Jubilee - 70 Acts of Service</p> <p>Sun 20th March 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am MW at St Barts</p>	<p>Sun 27th March 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am Morning Worship at St Chads With Junior Church</p> <p>Wednesdays 10.30am HC at St Chad's</p> <p>ZOOM Services:- Sundays 6.30pm Evening Prayer Joining details from Revd Jane</p>
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Church Office: Mrs K Butler, St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH
Tel 648 8169. Website: www.thurstaston.org.uk E-Mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
Revd Jane Turner 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday). E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

Trial Service Pattern will remain in place for the time being

Thank You to everyone who contributed to the review of services. All your comments were collated into a document which was circulated to the PCC ahead of the meeting on Monday 7th March. The PCC spent an hour discussing these comments. The feedback was naturally very mixed, with some people liking the new service times and others wishing to return to the old pattern.

The main concerns for the PCC were that we need a service pattern which is sustainable into the future, and which will provide the best opportunities for growth and welcoming new people, especially families and children into our church family. The best way to do this would be to have one service in each of our buildings every Sunday, however the PCC were aware that doing this would be challenging for many reasons, and so decided to remain with the trial service pattern for the time being, whilst exploring further some new ways forward.

The PCC looked at some statistics which showed that between 2017-2019: -

- the 8.00am congregation had remained constant at around 9 people
- the 9.30am congregation had remained steady at around 33 adults and 10 children
- the 11.15am congregation had shrunk from around 28 people to 19 people
- the Wednesday morning congregation had remained constant at around 8 people

During the pandemic, all congregations (in common with many other churches) had shrunk considerably. As we enter the recovery phase, the service review feedback indicates that some people have no intention of ever returning to "in person worship" and many others have re-evaluated and will come less often than they used to do, in order to spend more time with family and friends at the weekends.

The statistics for September 2021 through to February 2022 show that: -

- the 9.00am congregation has grown with attendance averaging at 12 people, a couple of whom would pre-pandemic have chosen to worship at St Chad's.
- the Wednesday congregation has grown with attendance ranging between 8 and 15 people.
- the 10.30am service at St Chad's is averaging at around 23 adults and 3 children
- the 10.30am service at St Bartholomew's is averaging at around 18 adults, half of whom would pre-pandemic have chosen to worship at St Chad's.

Much of the feedback reveals that our varied pattern of services and styles of service has been appreciated over many years. This past strength is now becoming a weakness, as we are spread too thinly across too many services for growth to become a real possibility and for a decreasing number of ageing volunteers to maintain. Now is the time for us to look outwards, to look at the needs of our community, to seek to encourage new people to join us on the journey of faith. If we are to survive as a parish, we must grow.

Growth is likely to mean change and sacrifice on our part. The PCC, being aware that change will not come easily, are therefore taking some more time to reflect and engage with families before making decisions as to how we can best create a sustainable and growing pattern of services to lead us into the future.

The PCC rejoice in the support which the congregation have shown during the last two years. We are encouraged that people are finding their way back into the churches in gradually increasing numbers. We are planning to celebrate in style during the Queen's Jubilee weekend.

Old Testament Reading : Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

7 Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him

17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

New Testament Reading Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:31-35

All: Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**LIVE
LENT
Embracing
JUSTICE**

Download the App

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-embracing-justice-our-lent-reflections>

OR

Listen on the free Phone Line

Number below - press 3 to hear the daily reflection



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

The Electoral Roll

All Church of England parishes are required to maintain an electoral roll. Those people whose names are on the roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and to vote. They are also eligible for election on to the Parochial Church Council. The number of people on the electoral roll also determines how many representatives can be sent to the Deanery Synod where decisions may be taken that effect the churches within the deanery. It is therefore important that all those eligible should be entered on to electoral roll for this parish of St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby. Although the roll may be updated regularly a new roll has to be created every 6 years and 2019 was the most recent year in which this had to be done.

To be eligible applicants must be baptised, over 16 and

Either Live within the parish boundary

Or Have been a regular worshipper at St Bartholomew Thurstaston or St Chad Irby
for at least 6 months.

Application forms available at the back of both churches or from the parish office between 6-20th March 2022.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Office Hours Week Beginning 14th March

Monday 9.30 –12.30

Tuesday—**Closed**

Wednesday 9.30 –12.30

Thursday 9.30 –12.30

Back to normal week beginning 21st March

BIG JUBILEE PINIC

Sunday June 5th at St Chad's

Elizabeth Barton has agreed to co-ordinate and plan this.
She's looking for a small group of people who would be
willing to support her. She can be contacted on 648 7178.



We have grant funding which will allow us
to purchase 800 copies of this booklet. The
PCC would very much like to deliver one to
every home in the parish. We will need
another £1000 do be able to so. If anyone
would be willing to sponsor some of these
booklets please let Revd Jane know.



The Children's Society

making childhood better

Saturday, 19th March 2022,
10.30am –12.30pm
at Jean Heath's,
'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road



All Welcome to a
COFFEE MORNING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
with Bring & Buy , Craft Stall
and ShoeBeDoo



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

EMU:

The next meeting will
be on **Thur 17th Mar**
8pm at St Chad's.

Get to know our
newly retired vicar,
Rev David Felix, who
has relocated to
Wirral from
Daresbury.
All Welcome

Life

WHAT'S THE STORY?

A series of evenings looking at life through the lens of the stories
Jesus told, with popular speaker **Glen Scrivener.**

A VALUED LIFE

MONDAY 28TH MARCH, 7:30PM

St Marks New Ferry, New Chester Rd, New Ferry CH62 1DG

What gives our lives value? Should we really live every day like it's our last? Can we give life meaning or are we just floating in an indifferent universe?

A RICH LIFE

TUESDAY 29TH MARCH, 7:30PM

St Andrews Bebington, Church Rd, Bebington CH63 3EX

Is money or the lack of it, the root of all evil? Is it wrong to be rich or want to be rich? Is it wrong to be poor? Glen will interview Mark Mitchell, a local Christian and founder of Mitchell Motor Group, involved with food banks, street pastors, etc.

A HARD LIFE

WEDNESDAY 30TH MARCH, 7:30PM

St Catherines Tranmere, Church Rd, Tranmere CH42 0LQ

Many hardships in life take their toll on us. Some suffer because of their skin colour, ethnicity, or social background. Must a hard life define us forever?

A BETTER LIFE

THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 7:30PM

Cornerstone Wirral, Bebington Rd, Bebington CH63 7NY

It seems there are many ways to find a better life. Do you want a life better than others? Who are you comparing yourself to anyway? What do we even mean by 'better'?

A WONDERFUL LIFE

FRIDAY 1ST APRIL, 7:30PM

Holy Trinity Spital, Chorley Way, Spital CH63 9LS

We all hope for times when we can enjoy life - if only for a while. Imagine if someone actually invited you to a truly wonderful life: Would you go?

wirralgospelpartnership.org.uk/life-mission



**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

St Bartholomew and St Chad takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone
24 hr Helpline
0808 2000 247

Irby Pharmacy is a safe space



Helping the bereaved
find **support**
at atloss.org