

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
20th March - Third Sunday of Lent**



<p>Collect Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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 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 where people suffer from war, natural disasters and the effects of climate change

For the Sick: Please pray for Kenneth Michael (Liz Whitehead's Father), 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 Mike Douglas (funeral at St Bartholomew's 2pm Monday 4th April) and Erica Kazaz

**SERVICE DETAILS
FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT**

<p style="text-align: center;">Sun 20th March 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am MW at St Barts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun 27th March 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am Morning Worship at St Chads With Junior Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sun 3rd April 9.00am BCP HC at St Barts 10.30am HC at St Barts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesdays 10.30am HC at St Chad's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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

Old Testament Reading : Isaiah 55:1-9

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
2 Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
5 See, you shall call nations that you do not
know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to
you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of
Israel,
for he has glorified you.
6 Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have
mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM 63:1-9

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦
my soul is a thirst for you.
2 My flesh also faints for you, ♦
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦
that I might behold your power and your glory.
4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦
and so my lips shall praise you.
5 I will bless you as long as I live ♦
and lift up my hands in your name.

6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and
fatness, ♦
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
7 When I remember you upon my bed ♦
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
8 For you have been my helper ♦
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
9 My soul clings to you; ♦
your right hand shall hold me fast.

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

10 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:1-9

All: Glory to you, O Lord

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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
press 3
the daily
tion



below -
to hear
reflec-

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



Irby Ukraine Gift Day



A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event in anyway.

Irby raised the wonderful amount of £2563.45 of which £1540 has been gift aided too. We have received dried foods, toiletries and baby supplies which will be donated also.

A cheque will be sent via Irby Methodist Church account to the International Aid Charity in Chorley.

Once again thank you to all, in demonstrating your generosity, care and compassion for the people of Ukraine whom we continue to pray for their safety and peace in their country.
Yours in Christian love
on behalf of Irby Methodist Church
Linda Renmans

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am All-Age Service at St Chad's

Wednesday 13th April

10.30am Communion at St Chad's

Thursday 14th April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Communion at St Chad's

Friday 15th April Good Friday

10.00am All-Age Service at St Chad's
2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 17th April Easter Day

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's



Congratulations to Becky Randall, her coffee morning last week raised £620 for Alzheimer's Society. It was such a lovely atmosphere and enjoyed by many.

Thank you to everyone who supported by helping and by attending



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.

PS. Thanks to those who donated last week—we now only need £178.00

Life

WHAT'S THE STORY?

A series of evenings looking at life through the lens of the stories Jesus told, with popular speaker **Glenn 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 Catherine's 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

Comerstone 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

Everyday Faith in Birkenhead, Wallasey and Wirral North Deaneries
July 7th 7.30pm–9.00 pm
St Stephens Church, Prenton Lane,
Prenton CH42 8LA

Everyday Faith in Birkenhead, Wallasey and Wirral North Deaneries
Learn how the local church can encourage people to live out their faith in everyday life.



Christians are called to follow Jesus each day, wherever we are – in our homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods, as well as in church. The diocese are running a series of evenings over the next few months to help you find out more about how the local church can encourage people to live out their faith in everyday life. This session is aimed particularly at the parishes in Birkenhead, Wallasey and Wirral North

To Register please go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/everyday-faith-in-birkenhead-wallasey-and-wirral-north-deaneries-tickets-290377907137> or contact Kate in the office,



**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**
ataloss.org

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.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: **7.30pm on Monday 4th April** via Zoom
(Joining details available by emailing rector@thurstaston.org.uk)

More details, along with the minutes of last years meeting can be found in the March magazine.

It would be fabulous to welcome new members onto the Parochial Church Council. There are 4 vacancies (two people whose term of office is coming to end are considering re-standing). There is also a vacancy for someone to represent us on Deanery Synod. And there is a church warden vacancy. So LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY for more people to get involved in this way. Nomination forms are at the back of both churches. If you want to know what's involved, please speak to Revd Jane or any member of the PCC (Liz Whitehead, Chris Smale, Julie Davies, Andy Harford, Judith Hodgson, Pat Neil, Graham Barley, Janet Trigg, Julie DeBoorder, Malcolm Studholme, Jon Oliver, Chris Williams, Roger Jackson, Elizabeth Barton)