

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
17th December - Advent 3**



**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 and for local businesses and community groups  
Please pray for Foodbanks and those who will support the Homeless this Christmas  
For those whom Christmas will not be a joyous time, through loneliness, abuse, separation, .....

**For our Church:**

Please pray for Bishops Mark; Julie and Sam, & Archdeacon Mike  
Please pray for Revd Ailsa Whorton and her ministry to 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards  
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 Amanda Fletcher, Robin Blythe (Yasmin Whitehead's father), Margaret and Roy Fordham, Jane Fellows (Dot Turner's daughter), John Reynolds, Sally Edmondson (Mollies Cousin), Matthew (Elizabeth Barton's son), Elaine Kavanagh, Baby Isabelle Vickers, Joyce Kenworthy and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**For the Bereaved:** Family and friends of Martyn Smith (funeral 22nd December)

**Forthcoming Services**

**Morning Prayer St Chad's Prayer Room 9.00am MOST Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays**  
(check with Revd Jane for cancellations due to other meetings or commitments)

**EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Sun 17th December</b> | <b>9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's</b><br><b>10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's</b><br><b>6.30pm Carol Service with Christingles at St Chad's</b> |
| <b>Sun 24th December</b> | <b>9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's</b><br><b>10.30am All Age Nativity at St Chad's</b><br><b>11.15pm First Communion at St Barts</b>                       |
| <b>Mon 25th December</b> | <b>10.00am Christmas Day Communion at Barts - All Welcome</b>   |
| <b>Sun 31st December</b> | <b>9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's</b><br><b>10.30am Holy Communion at St Chads</b>  |

Church Office: Mrs K Butler, St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH Tel 648 8169.

Website: [www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk) E-Mail: [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)

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

## Old Testament Reading:

### Is 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

**10.30am Sun 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**  
**All-Age Nativity at St Chads**

You are invited (old & young!)  
to come dressed  
as a character from the story.



## Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes  
of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with  
laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
'The LORD has done great things for  
them.'  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for  
us,  
and we rejoiced.  
<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.  
<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.  
<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.



**THANK YOU**  
**TO CHURCH FARM**  
**FOR DONATING**  
**OUR BEAUTIFUL**  
**CHRISTMAS TREES**

## New Testament Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28

### All: Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### All: Praise to you, O Christ

Please continue to collect and bring your used **R N I B** stamps to Church.

RNIB request that, if possible, you leave 1cm of envelope around the stamp. Thank you for your continued support. Jean Heath



Wirral Foodbank are running short of the items on the Shopping list. Please bring any donations to St Chad's Office and Kate will deliver them to the Food-

#### SHOPPING LIST

TINNED MEAT
TINNED FISH
TINNED VEGETABLES (PEAS, CARROTS, SWEETCORN)
TINNED CUSTARD
TINNED FRUIT
JAM
SHAMPOO
FEMALE HYGIENE
TOOTHBRUSHES/PASTE
DEODORANT



To all at st Bart's and st Chad's .  
 With my love and  
 prayers for a joyful  
 Christmas

Wishing you a happy  
 and holy Christmas

Ailsa, Derek  
 and family

Email Address for  
 Revd Ailsa Whorton is  
 revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk

This has been incorrectly spelt in the  
 parish magazine, so please make sure  
 that you use the correct version.

A warm welcome  
 for all

at the  
**Warm Hub**

All free of  
 charge

Open to everyone, so please drop in!  
 St. Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH  
 0151 648 8169

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.

**Guest speaker**  
**on 4th Tuesday of the month**  
**Talks start at 10.30a.m.**  
 (No speaker December)

Tuesday 23rd January 2024  
 Warm Hub Guest Speaker  
**Steve Jeffrey**  
**A Life at sea!**

everyone welcome for what promises to be a  
 really interesting and entertaining session!



Refreshments, free WIFI, disabled access  
 and a chance to chat with friends.



The Warm Hub now belongs to  
 a growing national network  
 of Places of Welcome



Visit [www.placesofwelcome.org.uk](http://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk) for more information

**Thank You!**



The total raised for  
 the Childrens Society this year  
 was **£943.33** .



**Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?**

Freephone  
 24 hr Helpline  
 0808 2000 247

**Irby Pharmacy is a safe space**

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



**Safeguarding is  
 Everyone's  
 Responsibility**