

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
15th December - Third Sunday of Advent**



**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 those elected to serve in local and national government.  
Please pray for schools in our parish.

**For our Church:**

Please pray for victims and survivors of abuse and safeguarding teams across the diocese.  
Please pray for Bishops Mark; Julie and Sam, & Archdeacons Mike and Jane  
Please pray for Revd Ailsa Whorton and 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, Margaret and Roy Fordham, John Reynolds, Isabelle Vickers, Roy Thomas, Meira Jones-Evans, Sally Felix, Muriel McKie, Joan Stanley (friend of Tina Samson), Teddy David Boote (age 4, Great Nephew of Elizabeth Barton and Joyce Kenworthy), June Bibby, Elizabeth Hall and Baby Erin (granddaughter and great-granddaughter of Margaret and Roy Fordham), Leslie Worrall, Dot Turner, Ann Dean (mum of Julie's friend Nikki) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**For wedding couple:** James Leyland and Laura Mc Cabe

**For the bereaved:**

**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**

**Sun 15th December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am Morning Worship at St Barts**

**Sun 22nd December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's with nativity and Junior Church**  
**6.00pm Carol Service at St Bartholomew's**

**\*\* Please see inside page for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services \*\***

**Sun 29th December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**  
**10.30am Holy Communion at St Barts**

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: Zeph 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.  
<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.  
<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,

but will rejoice over you with singing.”  
<sup>18</sup> “I will remove from you  
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed  
festivals,  
which is a burden and reproach for you.  
<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you.  
I will rescue the lame;  
I will gather the exiles.  
I will give them praise and honor  
in every land where they have suffered shame.  
<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honor and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your very eyes,”  
says the LORD.

### **New Testament Reading: Phil 1 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends 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 coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

<sup>13</sup> “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

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

Chester Diocese Mission Team invite you to join with them in prayer during Advent:

“Advent, the season of waiting and preparation, is the perfect time for us all to pray looking out of the window; searching to see where God is already at work, and discerning how we can join in. In everything we do, we want the Father to be directing our path So, ask Him to show us the people we can bless and help encounter the good news of Jesus Christ, and invite the Spirit to equip and encourage us to take those first steps.”

### Advent Window Prayer

As I look out of my window on the world you created today

Give me eyes to see who you want me to see

Open my ears to hear your voice and help me to listen to your Word

Show me where your hands are already at work

Move my feet so that I am in the place where you want me to be

So I can bump into the people you want me to meet

Put on my heart the people on your heart

And help me to think like Jesus.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit today, so that I can play my small part in your great big plan.

Amen



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Tuesday 24th Dec - Christmas Eve**

**4.00pm Crib Service at St Bartholomew's**

**11.15pm First Communion of Christmas  
at St Bartholomew's**

**Wednesday 25th Dec - Christmas Day**

**10.00am All-Age Communion at St Chad's**

### CHURCH ROTAS

We would love to encourage new people to join the rotas during 2025. If you would like to shadow someone to learn what's involved, please speak to Revd Jane.

Become a sidesperson/welcomer, join the coffee team, do a Bible reading, lead the prayers, become a sacristan (preparing communion table before services), become a server (helping with communion), join the flower team, help at Junior Church.

**Your Church NEEDS YOU  
and would love to encourage you in  
stepping out in faith to take on a new role.**

### Psalm 146:4-9

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help

is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

# A warm welcome at the Warm Hub

Every Tuesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Open to everyone, so please drop in!

St. Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH  
0151 648 8169

There are a range of activities including,  
Quizzes, games, jigsaws, crosswords etc

December 3rd : Festive Activities

December 10th: Christmas Decorations

December 17th: Carols followed by  
Buffet Lunch

The warm hub will be closed on  
December 24th & 31st



The Warm Hub  
belongs to a  
growing na-  
tional network  
of



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

This QR code can be used with mobile phones to make donations to Church using a debit or credit card.

It is becoming increasingly important that

- we reduce the amount of cash and cheques that we handle
- and increase the number of donations made through PGS, standing orders, or using electronic payment devices, etc.

The reason being that the PCC is being charged to bank cash and cheques over a certain limit each month, and we have reached that limit a few times in the last year.

Thank you for taking time to prayerfully consider your donations to church and for all financial support that is received.

Your donations enable us to work towards our vision of serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby.

**Donations of Flowers for Church:** You can make a donation "in memory of", "in celebration of" or just because! Please sign up at the back of church. You do not have to arrange the flowers - the flower team can do that for you.

Money for your donation (with your contact details and the date for your flowers) should be given to the parish office in a clearly marked envelope, or by BACS indicating that it is Flower Fund, followed by email to the office.



Please continue to collect and **RNIB** bring your used stamps to \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

See differently

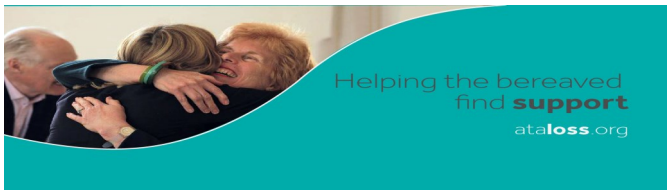
RNIB request that, if possible, you leave 1cm of envelope around the stamp. Thank you for your continued support. Jean Heath



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 Foodbank.

#### SHOPPING LIST

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



Helping the bereaved  
find support  
ataloss.org

### 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 more about the national policies and procedures at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)



**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**