

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
2nd May 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**



Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love
for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we
serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers
Please pray for all victims of abuse

For our Church:

Pray for our PCC - next meeting 10th May - and especially for Elizabeth Barton who joins the PCC for the first time following the elections at the APCM
Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode and as we plan to return to "in-person" services .

For the world:

Please continue to for countries world-wide struggling with the effects of Covid pandemic

For the Bereaved: Please pray bereaved family and friends of Valerie McNeil, Bob Williams, Derrick Antrobus and Bill Cheater

For the Sick: Please pray for Muriel McKie, Valerie and Norman Prescott (Dot Turner's friends), Pat Hulme, Molly (aged 2), Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

**A prayer for the discernment process
Appointment of new bishops**

Almighty God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom
and calls us to follow him.
Guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,
to show humility, love and mercy as we seek your Kingdom.
We pray for those you are calling
to be the next bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead
and for those discerning that call.
Lead and strengthen them to answer your call;
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

READING from Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip ^[i] baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

the prayer course

Meetings on Zoom

(joining details from Revd Jane)

Wednesday Evenings 7.30-8.30pm

(or 9.00pm at the latest if people are really engaged
with the discussion)

May 5th - Adoration

May 12th - Petition

May 19th - Intercession

May 26th - Unanswered Prayer

HALF TERM

June 9th - Contemplation

June 16th - Listening

June 23rd - Spiritual Warfare

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^l because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^l whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8

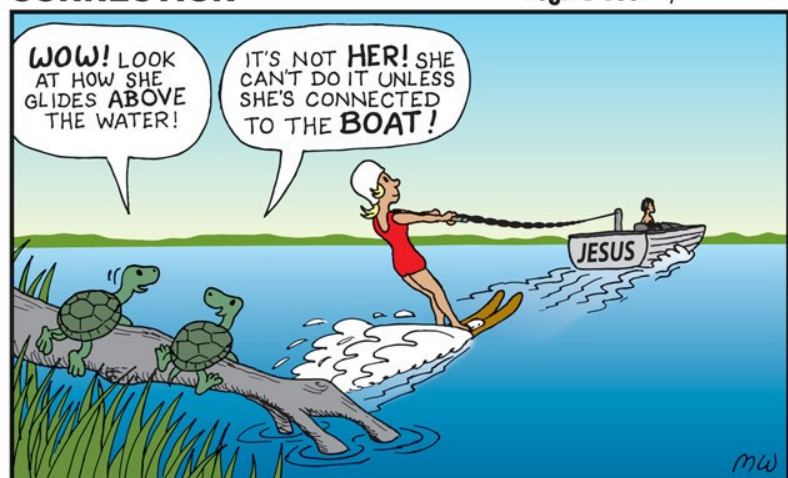
All: Glory to you, O Lord

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^l my disciples.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

CONNECTION

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

— JOHN 15:5 NIV

MAY 2021 SERVICE PATTERN

ZOOM Services:-

*Joining details available
by emailing the Rector*

May 2nd **6.00pm All-Age Service**

May 9th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th May (Ascension Day)

8pm Evening Prayer

May 16th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 23rd 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 30th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

SERVICES IN CHURCH:-

Assuming Step 3 of the Govt Roadmap happens on 17th May we will return to "in person" services. **YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK FOR THESE SERVICES - details on the website and in the parish magazine.**

Sun 23rd May 9.30am HC at St Chad's

11.15am HC at St Bart's

Wed 26th May 10.15am HC at St Chad's

Sun 30th May 8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's

9.30am MW at St Chad's

ZOOM Coffee and Chat:-

Wednesday mornings 10.15-11.00am

5th May, 12th May, 19th May

*Joining details available
by emailing the Rector*

No agenda just turn up and chat

Have you or your loved ones had your coronavirus vaccine?

Give thanks with a donation to Christian Aid to help protect the most vulnerable people across the world, while the vaccine is out of reach. Find out more:-

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>



Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone 24 hour Helpline

0808 2000 247

Irby Pharmacy is a safe space

How to access a Safe Space

- Walk into any participating pharmacy in the UK.
 - Ask at the healthcare counter to use their Safe Space.
 - A pharmacist will show you to the Safe Space. Which will be the consultancy room.
 - Once inside, you will find displayed specialist domestic abuse support information for you to access, to make that call or access Bright Sky safely.
- Safe Spaces are open and ready for you to use.