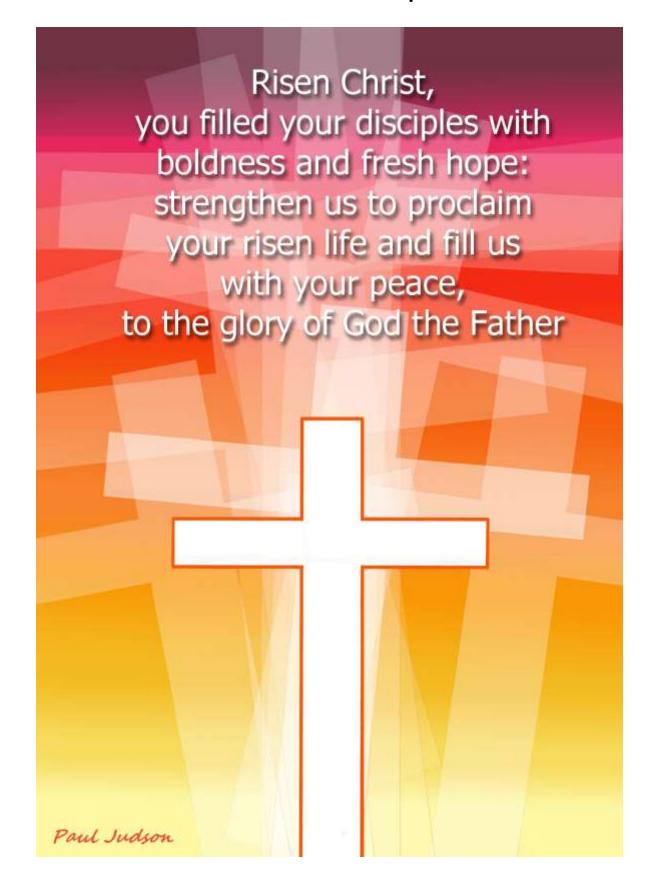
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad www.thurstaston.org.uk



April 2025



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These are now due for 2025. If you see your deliverer please pay them.

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

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Baptisms23rd March Clara Lily Smith

Weddings

Funerals 20th March June Bibby 31st March Brenda Wilson

Prayer for April 2025

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

From Your Rector

In the February half term I was able to go and see "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool. It was a wonderful production and has inspired these Easter thoughts.

Written by CS Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,* the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, 'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection' (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: 'Oh, you're real, you're real!' We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

Revd Jane



A message from Ailsa



It has been a busy time both personally and at work!

Following life saving surgery last year, I had to get back to return to work within 6 months or get the Apprentice sounding "You're Fired".

It was tough but I worked VERY hard and with a lot of support from friends and family worked hard to attain the minimum level of fitness the Army require - even of the Padre - to stall a medical discharge. With some way to go, I was able to start running again and have gradually built this up and ran a 5K at Aintree and a 10K at Chester - that is 3 and 6 miles in old money. My friend joined me for the first and I was proud to run with my son and his friend in the 10K - albeit a lot more slowly!

This has really helped with my fitness but also with my mental health - I have run now for over 30 years and not being able to run has, at times, been very frustrating.

Being outside, breathing, watching the changes of the season, feeling cold rain and warm sunshine have so many effects on the mind - then of course, there is snow - and no more so than on C Squadron's overseas tour - as you will see in the snowy picture of them on exercise overseas.

This long tour which saw soldiers and officers away at Christmas and New year ends soon and we look forward to welcoming them home! Whilst they look to return, A Squadron are to deploy overseas in April - please keep everyone in your prayers.

Camp has been very busy - we have a new Regimental Sergeant Major as well as a new Welfare Officer - so lots of change.

Hope to see you all soon as Easter Leave and some time off approaches!

Every blessing,

Ailsa



Guarding the Easter chocolate

Was there a security tag on your Easter egg this year? If so, it wasn't because high street bosses feared the Easter Bunny might take it.

It's that shoplifting has soared to an unprecedented amount. There were more than 20 million shoplifting incidents last year - an average of about 50,000 cases a day, according to the British Retail Consortium (BRC). In all, retailers lost £2.2 billion.

And it seems that shoplifters also like chocolate. Which is why some WH Smith shops have been tagging the Cadbury Mini Eggs, and why some Tesco stores have put Quality Street chocolates under a wire net, to name but a couple of examples.

Chocolate - food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is *Theobroma* – which means 'food of the gods'?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a

pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and then the desire for another sugar -fix.



Ruth's Reflections

The time has come again, very quickly it seems, for me to write a few things down for you. I haven't been out much, I treated myself to some new furniture so had to stay in waiting for them to be delivered, also waiting for the things that I had donated to the charity shop to be collected. Mostly everything went to plan with only one person not turning up when expected. Still it is all sorted out now.

I have managed to get out in the garden a bit, but it has been too cold to do much. I want to move a couple of plants but it needs to be warmer before I do. I also have decided that I want a tree to go in one corner of the patio. I know what I want so I plan to get one in the next couple of weeks. I have managed to cut the lawn and I am pleased to say it is not looking too bad after the winter.

While we are on the subject of gardening, we Bellringers have taken over the Memorial Garden at St Bartholomew's. We cleared it of weeds and the old straggly roses last Autumn and so three of us went to Premier Plants last week and bought a load of new roses. then last Saturday several of us weeded the bed again and planted the new roses. We bought a variety of colours so when they bloom later this year there should be a lovely display. It should be well worth a walk round to the back of the Church in the summer to see it.

Ringing continues as usual and is still very enjoyable. I think I am improving, very slowly, I do find it difficult to remember what to do, I blame my age.

We have had a couple of outings with the W.I. although I had to miss the last one as it coincided with one of the days I had to stay in. Our next outing is to The Priory in Birkenhead. Although I have been before I am looking forward to going again. I must remember to take my camera.

I had a lovely time when my sister came to stay. The Exhibition of "Threads through the Bible "was wonderful and well worth a visit. After leaving the Cathedral we went to China town to have lunch, followed by some shopping. after a rest at home we met up with my other daughter and husband and went for an Indian meal, which was absolutely delicious.

Well I must stop now, so I will say goodbye.

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.



What's the Big Idea? (Mar) An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings ('mishle') that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32). The purpose of these oracles is 'for attaining wisdom and discipline' (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand 'the sayings and riddles of the wise.' (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.' (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:

Knowing God: 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding' (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: 'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver' (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: 'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth' (5:15-20).

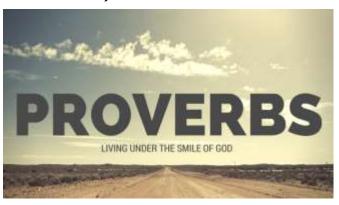
Our Work: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: 'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise' (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: 'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight' (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, 'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths' (5:21); providence, 'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails' (19:21) and goodness, 'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous' (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. 'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves' (Eugene Peterson).



Reflecting Faith: Baptisms and Easter

What time of year were you baptised? For the first few centuries of the Early Church, baptisms were only held at Easter, with the preparation being taught in the few weeks beforehand.

Leo I, Bishop of Rome from 440 to 461 AD, was a strong advocate of holding baptisms solely at Easter.

He wrote: "... for in the baptismal office death ensues through the slaying of sin, and threefold immersion imitates the lying in the tomb three days, and the raising out of the water is like Him that rose again from the tomb."

But, as the years went by and more adults began seeking baptism for their children, the practise changed. The Church was keen to not put any obstacles in the way, and so baptisms became a sacrament to be freely given at any time of the year.

This was especially important because for many years it was mistakenly thought that unbaptised babies should not be buried in a churchyard, and, even more importantly, would not get into heaven.

Thankfully the Church moved away from those wrong positions long ago. Now most of us were baptised when we were very young, often in our first few months of life, at any time of the year.

One thing is certain: baptising a child is not so that God will love them more. It is instead to say that the parents believe in God, and therefore intend to raise the child as part of the family of God.

This month: Have a think about your own Baptism. How old were you? Do you know – if you were a child at the time – why your parents chose that age?



God in the Sciences: The Wonder and the Sorrow of those PCR Tests

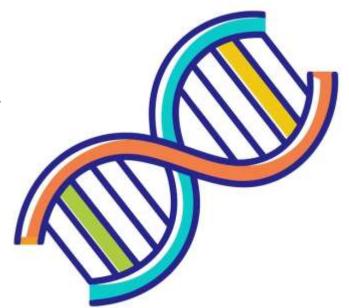
PCR tests were a fact of life for most of us three years ago this month. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people's use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

That swab that you, or someone else, poked down your throat and up your nose went into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid was then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test was actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converted any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA were then made, using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up, it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process worked it meant that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone might have been about to become quite ill.



Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-to-day lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

God in the Arts: : 'In sweet music is such art': the Basilica of St Mark in Venice

In 828 the relics of St Mark the evangelist were seized from their resting place in Alexandria and brought by two adventurers to Venice. The Basilica of St Mark was built to house these relics, and it was this link between the saint and Venice that determined so much of the city's history through the Middle Ages.

Venetians would go to war under the banner of the winged lion, the symbol of St Mark, and through the centuries Venice established its independence, its own system of aristocratic government and commercial supremacy in the Mediterranean. The Basilica of St Mark is a vivid testimony to the grandeur of Venice and this amazing history. James Morris has described the church as descended from Byzantium: "a barbaric building, like a great Mongolian pleasure pavilion or a fortress in Turkestan."



We celebrate St Mark this year on 29th April, (usually 25th) but apart from his Gospel, we know little about the saint's life. He is mentioned by St Peter and St Paul as 'son' and missionary companion. There are many traditions about St Mark: he might be the young man in Gethsemane in chapter 14 of the Gospel, and it is thought that he was martyred in the reign of Trajan. What we do have of St Mark is his Gospel, generally accepted as the earliest of the four to be written. Mark has no infancy narratives and no preparation for the life and ministry of Jesus. Instead, his Gospel begins with the strange, exotic character of St John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness to proclaim the Good News of the Son of God.

In the same way the Basilica of St Mark emerges from the lagoon as strange and as exotic as the Baptist in the Gospel. E V Lucas in 'A Wanderer in Venice' invites the visitor to this church to "let the walls and the floor and the pillars and the ceiling do their own magical work." And the visitor might be lucky enough to hear some of the music of Venetian composers sounding through the basilica. In the 16th century Adrian Willaert wrote music that enhanced the domes and mosaics and ceilings with works for two organs and two choirs sounding out from different parts of the building.

Giovanni Gabrieli, who died in 1612, built upon that tradition. His set of motets, 'Sacrae Symphoniae', were written for the special acoustics of this marbled basilica. He developed the antiphonal sounds of Willaert with glorious, harmonic colours, a boldness of modulation, and a variety of dynamics and timbres. We hear all of that in the motet 'In Ecclesiis,' which is regarded as his masterpiece. The choirs, brass and organ are divided into five groups that would have sounded out around the basilica: 'In churches bless the Lord, in every place bless the Lord, for God is my salvation and my glory. Alleluia.'

As we celebrate St Mark on his feast day, we can think of these threefold proclamations of his Good News: his Gospel, which, in its earthy realism, calls the disciple to follow Jesus wherever He goes; this Basilica that calls us to explore its mystery and marvels; and the music of Gabrieli that calls us to echo God's praises in our own lives.

Revelation for Everyone – 24 Weeks!

Every Wednesday from 30th April to 30th July (inclusive) and 3rd September to 5th November (inclusive) 7.30-9.00pm St Chad's Extension All Welcome to join in this Bible Study

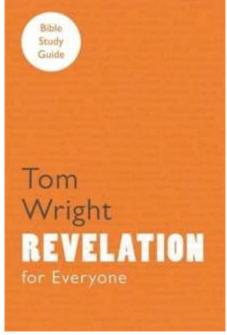
Clearly not everyone would manage every week due to holidays and other commitments, but it would be helpful if you were committed to being at as many sessions as you can.

ISBN: 9780281068654 You will need to buy your own copy of the book.

Putting on this Bible Study was inspired by the group of people who went to the "Threads through the Bible" Exhibition at Liverpool Cathedral in February 2025, who were challenged by the series of embroideries "Threads through Revelation" and wanted to understand more about this book of the Bible.

The Archdeacon of Chester, Mike Gilbertson did his doctoral thesis on the Book of Revelation, and he will be giving us an Overview of the book of Revelation in an introductory session on 30th April and will return at the end of our study (5th November) to answer questions and help us reflect on what we have learned.





Words from the back cover of the Study Book:-

"Many regard Revelation as the hardest book in the New Testament. It is full of strange, lurid, and sometimes bizarre and violent imagery. As a result, people who are quite at home in the Gospels, Acts and Paul's letters find themselves tiptoeing around Revelation with a sense that they don't really belong there. But they do! This book offers one of the clearest and sharpest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation. Here we see how the powerful forces of evil can be and are being overthrown through the victory of Jesus the Messiah, which continues to inspire and strengthen his followers today."

Saturday 26 April 2-4pm

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On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us. Jesus put an end to death by dying for us, and showed us the resurrection to

come by His raising to new life!

Mouse Makes



Jesus is risen!

The angel said: "Jesus ...is not here, for He has risen, just as He said." Matthew 28:6



Jesus said: "Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them." Matthew 18:20



READ the story of the resurrection in: Matthew 28:1-10 Mark 16:1-19 Luke 24:1-49 John 20:1-29

and 21:1-14

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Jesus will come again!

Jesus said: "I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am." John 14:3



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PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER



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Wordsearch for April 2025

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life. But because He does live, we have a sure and certain hope for our future.

passover bread wine body blood betrayal

jerusalem pilate judas gethsemane trial crucifixion

soldiers cross nails vinegar temple curtain

tomb angel stone risen gardener Mary E A E S E B C C E B B R G
W C L T J E R U S A L E M
S B P I B T U R S T O N E
A E M R I R C T S B O E N
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or just because you like seeing flowers in church!



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.

St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

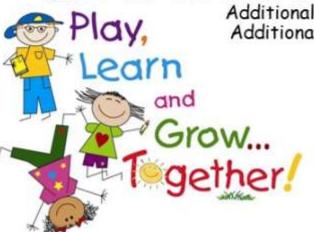
St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am (Term Time Only)



£1.50 for one Adult and one child - All Welcome

Additional children £1.00 Additional Adults £0.50



Parents/Carers will be responsible for their child(ren) during the sessions

For further information please contact Allison via the Parish Office 648 8169

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

Guest Speaker 22nd April

Jenny Schwarz
"A close look at London's
Iconic Buildings"











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



Jigsaw Library

Over the time that Warm Hub has been operating, we have been gifted many jigsaws. While we always have a jigsaw in progress at Warm Hub, there are many waiting for us to use in the future. Rather than these jigsaws just piling up, with the winter nights ahead we would like to

make these jigsaws available for individuals to borrow and then return to us. We can't vouch that all the jigsaws are complete as they are donated to us but if you would like to borrow one then we can make them available on a Tuesday morning when the Warm Hub is open – 9.30 to 12.30 at St Chad's

Susan Smale



You can make donations to Foodbank by placing items (non perishable food and toiletries) in the box by the office door at St Chad's.

Need a Meeting Room?

At St Chad's we have a large hall and some smaller rooms.

Booking Enquiries should be made by emailing hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk

For more information and prices please go to the website https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/hall-and-room-hire/







St Bartholomew's and St Chad's on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/

If you are already on Facebook it is easy to find and "like" the page. Just search for "stchadsstbarts" or "St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby" and you will find us.

If you "like" the page you will receive notifications when we add events and other informative posts.

From our page you can also share individual posts and events with others you may think would like to hear about us and our events.

Please do share this page with your friends.

You do not have to be on Facebook to view our posts.

We also have a Twitter Feed:-



@StBartsStChads

Did you know.....

......back in the year 1976, a committee based at St Chad's Church was trying to raise funds for the RNLI.

They decided to hold an exhibition of paintings by local Irby residents. The exhibition was so successful that the artists decided to join together to form an "Irby Artists Association".

....and the rest, as they say, is history!

The Irby Artists are proud to have had such a long association with St Chad's.

We welcome new members and actively provide support to those wishing to try their hand at painting & drawing, with weekly Monday afternoon sessions, indoors during the winter, and outdoors in the summer months, and two exhibitions of members works per year.

For more information, contact the Chair:

Alan McMahon, Text:07889 404917

Or Email: almac48@virginmedia.com

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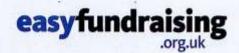
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The Parochial Church Council and/or Editor can take no responsibility for the quality of goods or services offered.

Contacts

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's Rest Day - Tuesday **RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner**

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irbv, CH61 3UH

Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

Organist

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

Churchwardens Verger

Vacant Mr Jon Oliver 648 1754

churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk

Curate Mr Craig Vickers 648 7405

Revd Gaynor Kydd

revdgaynor@thurstaston.org.uk Bellringing - Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson 648 6691

Associate Minister

Flowers for both Churches Revd Ailsa Whorton CF

(Chaplain to the Forces, Army). Team Co-ordinator Dawn Rudd 648 0209

revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk

Ailsa works full time and will reply to emails when she is able around her work commitments

678 4733 (Evenings only and messages will be passed

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16) on to Ailsa via her husband Derek)

Mrs Julie Deboorder 648 6331

Reader Emeritus

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides 648 1400 Mr Alan Jones

www.girlguiding.org.uk or

Freephone 0800 1 69 59 01

648 6015

PCC Secretary

Cheryl Goddard **CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES** pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk

Christian Aid Representative PCC Treasurer

Vacant Vacant

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

Children's Society Representative Mrs Jean Heath

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Williams 07956621731 **Leprosy Mission Representative**

safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk Julie DeBoorder 648 6331

Adoption Society Representative Electoral Roll

Mrs Chris Rostock 648 1112 648 8169 c/o Church Office

St Chad's Hall Booking

hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk

Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816 or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

April 2025 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sun 6th April 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 13th April PALM SUNDAY

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's

Thursday 17th April MAUNDY THURSDAY

11.00am Chrism Eucharist at Chester Catheral

7.00pm Communion at St Chad's

Friday 18th April GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 20th April EASTER DAY

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Sun 27th April 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's

with Junior Church

Sun 4th May 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's