

Crosstalk

60p



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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

February 2022

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are
the Light of the nations
and you bring light
to our darkness.
So shine in our hearts,
that all our actions,
words and attitudes
at all times will reflect
lives filled with the praise
of your glory.

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Everyone's
Responsibility**

 * "Your magazine needs you" *
 * Please send your contributions *
 * (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting *
 * articles etc.,) *
 * to office@thurstaston.org.uk *

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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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Diary Dates

**Please see the back page for
Church Service dates and times**



Funerals

7th January - Jill Stott

From Your Rector

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines' Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others.

God's love is unconditional: God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'* (Philip Yancey).

God's love is sacrificial: God's love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God's love. He died for our sins to give us access to God's love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God's love is forgiving: According to the film *Love Story*, Love means never having to say you're sorry.' Yet Jesus' love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.



In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: "I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!"

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

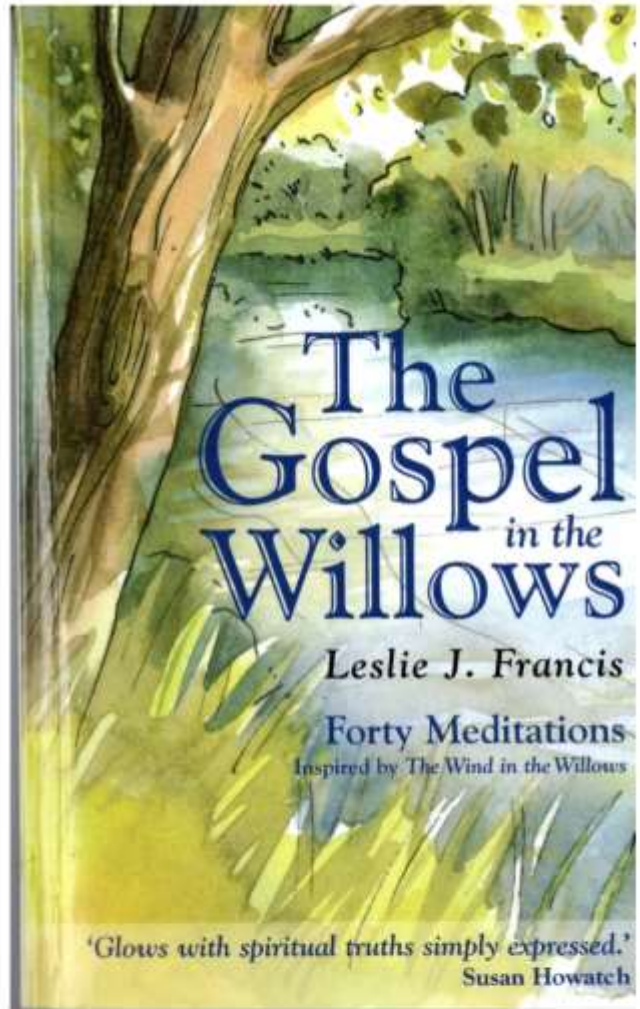
Rerd Jane

The Gospel in the Willows

Reading Group for Spring Term
(including lent)

Join in the journey along the river of life with Ratty and Mole and other characters from the classic “Wind in the Willows” by Kenneth Grahame. The book combines a daily reading from the literary classic with a gospel passage, a short meditation by Leslie Francis and a prayer. Each week we will gather together to reflect on a section of the book.

Do please buy yourself a copy of “The Gospel in the Willows” and let Revd Jane know if you would like to come along to the group - so that she can keep you informed of whether we are meeting in person or online via Zoom.



Wednesdays 8.00-9.00pm

26th Jan: Come and watch the classic animated film of Wind in the Willows, voiced by an all star cast including David Jason as Toad, Michael Hordern as Badger, Richard Pearson as Mole and Ian Carmichael as Ratty with Una Stubbs and Beryl Reid. The film lasts 78 minutes.

2nd February	Exploring faith by the river bank
9th February	Learning to be disciples on the open road
16th February	Hearing parables in the wild wood

23rd Feb – Half Term 2nd March—Ash Wednesday

9th March	Coming face to face with Mr Badger
16th March	Dulce domum
23rd March	Shaping the future with Mr Toad
30th March	The piper at the gates of heaven
6th April	Learning from Toad’s Adventures



Review of Service Pattern



The PCC need your Comments

You will recall that a new service pattern was implemented in September 2021 (primarily as a result of not having enough volunteers to maintain the previous pattern and secondly with the aim of drawing our congregations together in fellowship and worship)

The PCC are grateful to everyone who has supported this trial pattern of services which we agreed to review after six months, and so this is on the Agenda for the PCC meeting on 7th March.

In order for the PCC to complete this review we need your comments.

Please note that the primary driving factor behind the trial pattern was lack of volunteers - especially (but not exclusively) sidespeople for St Chad's.

Please email your comments and/or offers of being added to the various rotas of people who are needed to make Sunday services happen **to office@thurstaston.org.uk** with the title "Review of Service Pattern", **or jot them on a piece of paper and post it in the letterbox at St Chads** in an envelope marked "Review of Service Pattern".

We need to receive your comments **by Sunday 27th February** at the very latest, so that they can be collated and sent to the members of the PCC in advance of the meeting.

St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am
(Term Time Only)

£1.50 per child – All Welcome

Parents/Carers will be responsible for their child(ren) during the sessions
For further information please contact
Allison via the Parish Office 648 8169



PLATINUM JUBILEE

Celebration of Faith & Service



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee begins this month, although the main celebrations will take place during the Jubilee weekend in June.

We are going to be using the **10.30am All Age Services** at St Chad's between now and June to look at various aspects of this Celebration of Faith and Service.

February 13th **The Faith of Queen Elizabeth**

March 13th **70 Acts of Service**

April 10th (Palm Sunday) – **Royalty**

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

May 8th **Anointed by God**

And then for the **Platinum Jubilee Weekend**

Sunday June 5th - Pentecost

We are planning to have a Family Communion Service at St Bart's followed by a picnic (or other food related event) at St Chads

Would you like to be part of a planning group and help to organise the community picnic at St Chads on Sunday 5th June?

Let Revd Jane know if you would like to help with planning this historical event.

We need bunting, party games, a choir to sing the Jubilee Anthem and so much more!



Heart Bomb

February 11 – March 27

Hearts for everyone

Put up hearts everywhere

Join in the joy

Celebrate Everyone is Loved

Irby Village Hearts

The Heart Bomb we did last year was such a success, we will be repeating this again this February to coincide with Valentine's weekend. They will be left up until after Mother's Day so it will run 11 Feb – 27 March.

Irby Village, St Chad and St Bartholomew Churches will be festooned in hearts, bringing everyone a cheerful greeting, a smile and a heart hug.

The W.I. have been busy knitting and sewing hearts to make the display even bigger and better than last year. If you can knit (Pattern can be emailed to you or I have some printed copies) or sew some hearts, please let me know, any colour, any size, but if you have some red, white or blue we can re-use them for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Please do join in, whether putting up some hearts in your windows or your gardens and together we can bring joy to the community.

Julie DeBoorder Email: jules2121jule@gmail.com



Ruth's Reflections

Happy New year to everyone, although it seems a long time ago! Well the big news is that I have finally moved. It was very stressful as it was touch and go up to the last minute! The move itself went well, the men moving me were brilliant, nothing was too much trouble for them and they made the day a lot more pleasant.

I feel really at home here although I had doubts that I was doing the right thing. A lot of conversations with God took place!

The garden here is a jungle, even the artificial grass has weeds. It is small and when sorted out will be easy to maintain. I have met some of the neighbours, they are really nice.

Christmas and New Year were very quiet, half my family had covid so I couldn't see them. I didn't like not being able to see the grandchildren, but as I have said before it makes me realise how hard it is for those whose families are far away. We also had a death in the family so any celebrations were subdued.

I did get to church on Christmas Day, which was lovely, to me Christmas is not Christmas without Church.

This is only a short "scribbling" this time, lots of boxes to unpack!



Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.



GOD IN THE SCIENCES: The Love of Wisdom of Natural Things

Some time ago a scientist was invited to speak at the Dewsbury Women's Institute. He spoke about his research on polymers, hoping that the women of this Yorkshire mill town would connect with his desire to develop new fibres.

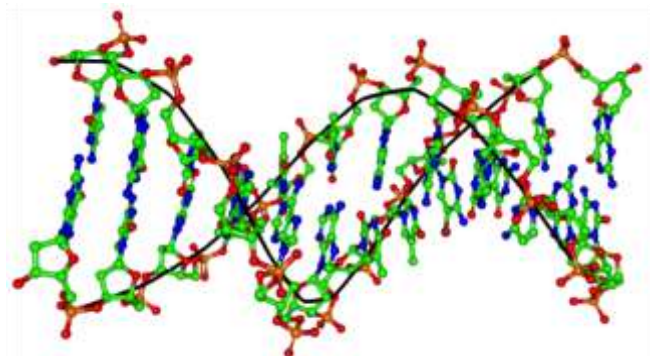
One person in particular, a woman called Betty who had worked in a mill since the age of 15, listened as if her life depended on it, and peppered him with questions afterwards. She had always been interested in how things work, but until that day had not found anyone to answer her questions. Whenever she had asked about the processes that they were using in the mill, she was just told to get on with her job.

From the outside, science can seem a closed specialty, hemmed in by intimidating jargon. When McLeish described science as 'the love of wisdom of natural things', however, he realised he was opening a door. He was moved to see that Betty was not the only person who shed a tear when her questions were finally taken seriously, confirming that her enquiring mind was indeed probing in the right direction – only fifty years too late.

Hearing about people like Betty reminds me that science is a very natural activity for anyone to be involved in. McLeish is convinced that there is a future in 'science therapy'. In his book *Faith and Wisdom in Science*, where this story appears, he asks the question "If a reintroduction to the activity of representing both inner and outer worlds in paint, music and drama can help to heal minds, what hope might there be for a participation in a gentle and contemplative science in restoring a broken or misunderstood relationship with the physical world?"

This story inspired me to run a number of hands-on science activities with adult audiences in churches. I have extracted DNA from strawberries with a midweek group for older people, organised hands-on exhibits to liven up lecture or discussion events, and even had groups extracting DNA from their own cheek cells.

Every time I lead activities like these, I find that grown-ups are grateful for the opportunity to have a go at science themselves. I love helping church-based groups, in particular, to reconnect with science and celebrate what they find. Science is not just for children and professionals – it is for everyone to enjoy and explore the world God made.



Reflected Faith Series: Candlemas

There are three reasons for this festival, which is held each year on the second of February.

Firstly, it's the halfway point between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox, so from that date on the daylight hours get longer.

In pre-Christian times, this day was known as the 'Feast of Lights' and celebrated the increase strength of the life-giving sun as Winter gave way to Spring.



Secondly, it's when we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby Jesus, to the Temple forty days after His birth.

And the third reason? It's directly linked to the name of the feast – Candlemas. It was so named because on that day each year all the candles for the coming year were brought into the church to be blessed at a 'mass'. Remember that candles were important in those days, not only because there were no electric lights; people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine.

In many churches on this feast there will be a procession of the whole congregation with lighted candles – often inside the whole building, going into every 'dark' corner. Everyone carries their own lighted candle, which they are encouraged to take home and light there also.

One of the prayers that may be used is this:

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with You is the well of life
and in Your light shall we see light.*

This month

Christ is often called the 'Light of the World' who came to bring light, hope, and peace into our darkness. Have a think about those places that are dark for you and perhaps you do not like going there or will not go there. Perhaps they are too painful or scary. Just pause for a short time with a lit candle and imagine Jesus going there for you or with you. Lighting your way. Making it safe. He came to give us life – and life to the full – even in those dark places.

GOD IN THE ARTS : NUNC DIMITTIS

Waiting is a common human experience. Our lives are made up of waiting that leads to encounter, and the waiting requires patience and humility. Milton wrote in his blindness, 'They also serve who only stand and wait' as he wondered what he could do for God's kingdom now that his sight had gone.

Simeon in this month's painting of the 'Presentation of Christ' had been waiting. He belonged to a people who had been waiting for centuries. He was heir to the hopes and dreams of a nation waiting for a better world now that the holy city was in the hands of Roman invaders. With his people he clung to the hope that God would come to bring freedom and a new



life. God's chosen one, the Messiah, would bring this about. When it came, there was no fanfare, no warning, just an ordinary family from faraway Nazareth in the Temple, performing the religious duties for the firstborn son. But the waiting led to encounter, and the sight of the new-born child led to insight as Simeon recognised that light and salvation had at last come.

Rembrandt has captured all this in his painting, 'Simeon with the Christ Child in the Temple': the faith and patience, the hope and humility of an old man, a priest, who takes the babe into his arms and blesses God. It was the artist's last painting and left unfinished at his death in 1669. The figure of Mary by Simeon's side may have been painted by another artist at a later stage. It is the aged priest and the new-born babe that impress us as we look: Simeon with his venerable beard and eyes half closed, and the tiny child cradled in his strong arms, looking up intently with his eyes open.

As Rembrandt painted this canvas, was he saying something about his own life? He had not been afraid to paint his portrait at various stages - at 21, at 35, at 53 - a total of 60 portraits covering the span of years.

In this final painting the years have moved on as we see Simeon, mouthing 'Nunc dimittis' with his eyes half closed. Is the waiting over and the journey coming to an end, so that his eyes will fully close? Or will he open them to see that with the babe in his arms, God has more in store: the promise of a future as they step out together on a new journey.

Five famous quotes from Desmond Tutu

The recent death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu was mourned around the world. Here are five of his more famous quotes, which show why he was so especially honoured for his justice and reconciliation work in South Africa.

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“Don't raise your voice, improve your argument. Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right.”

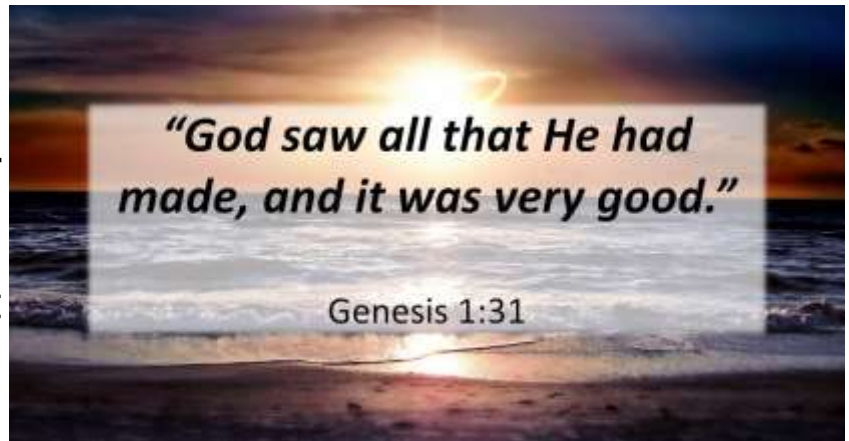
“Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering - remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.”

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realise our need of one another.”



Christian Basics No 1: God the Creator

For many today the universe began with a big bang, in which a lump of matter, smaller than a pinhead, exploded 15 billion years ago. It's a story that defines who we are and where we come from. However, the Bible gives



us another perspective on this event, revealing God as Creator: *'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible'* (Hebrews 11:3). What does Genesis 1 say about God as Creator?

'In the beginning, God'

Whereas science can offer answers about the **how** of creation, the Bible tells us about the **why** i.e. the purpose of the Creator! Creation reflects the character and glory of God, inviting a response of dependence and praise!

'God created the heavens and the earth'

God shaped the universe, as expressed in the *'6 days'* of creation. They speak of an ordered and purposeful universe that expresses God's will: He spoke and it was done! An alternative translation is *'God began creating'*, reminding us that creation is also an ongoing process, where the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives and world.

'God created man in His own image'

In the account, human beings are presented as the climax and crown of creation. We share the sixth day of creation with other creatures, as well as 95% of the same DNA. However, we are distinctively made in the **image of God**, created for relationship with God, with a responsibility to care for the created order.

'And God saw that it was good'

Like an artist, God described His work as *good*. We should always approach this story with wonder, enjoying God's world and affirming creativity in ourselves and others.

Christian Basics No 2: What's wrong with the world?

'How can a God of love allow suffering?' Many people struggle with such questions, however the Bible helps us to understand how sin affects both our own lives and the world.

Genesis provides us with a picture of how sin entered the world. In Genesis 2:16-17, God gave Adam and Eve both permission (*'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden'*) and a prohibition (*'But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'*), alongside warning them of the consequences of disobedience (*'For when you eat of it you will surely die'*).

In Genesis 3, they broke God's law by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. As a result, their eyes were opened to the nature of sin (they knew *shame*) and their relationship with God was broken (they *hid* from Him). As a consequence, death entered their lives. This story reminds us that God gives us free will (an essential aspect of being human) to choose whether God will be at the centre of our lives or not.



The Bible offers different ways of describing sin:

a spirit of independence: we don't want God to interfere with our lives, preferring our own ideas, plans and ways of behaviour.

ignoring the Maker's instructions: if you ignore user instructions, you only have yourself to blame when things go wrong! God created us to function with Him at the centre of our lives.

missing the mark: we fail an exam even when we miss the pass mark by one mark: *'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'* (Romans 3:23).

In a famous correspondence in *The Times* under the title *'What's wrong with the world?'* GK Chesterton's letter simply said: *'Dear Sir, I am.'*

Saving the Planet via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges **aren't cold enough.** Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - **it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers.** Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be **'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic.** Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

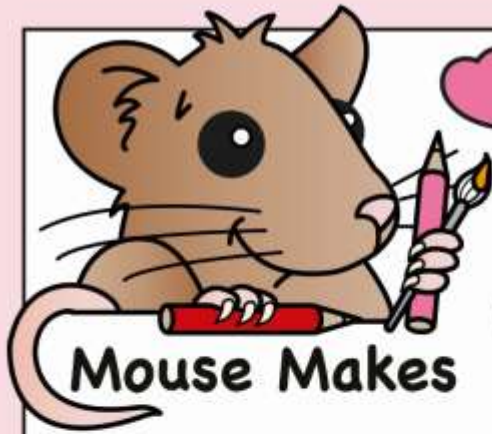
Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

Word search for February

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate, and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romance can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good – unless we accept it!

Valentine
Rose
Romance
Love
Present
Restaurant
Hearts
Kiss
hug
Girlfriend
boyfriend
fiancé
worship
repentance
angels
baby
temple
Mary
Candlemas
presentation





Lord, you are a God who shows _____ and is _____
 ...You have great _____ and _____

Psalm 86:1

Love the Lord your God with all your

_____ with all your

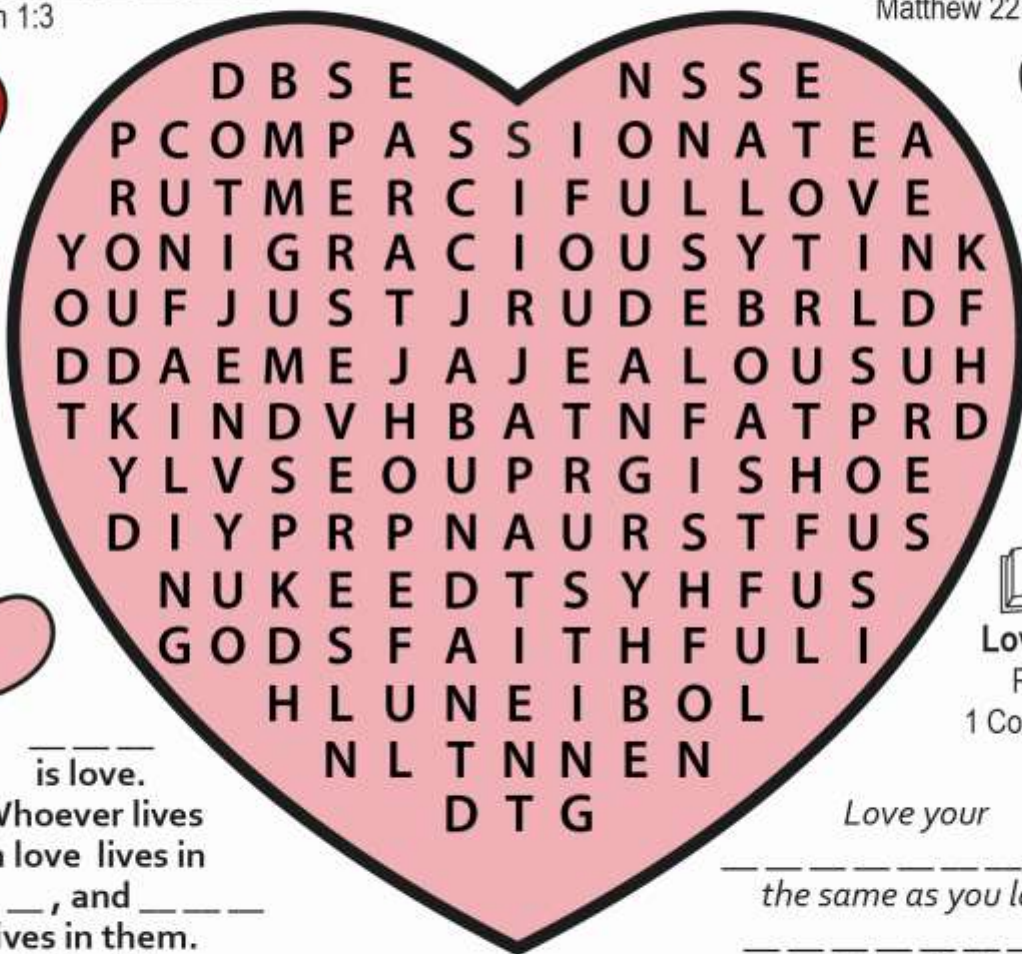
_____ and with all your

_____ Matthew 22:37

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His

1 John 1:3

How did God show He **loved** us?
 Read 1 John 4:9



_____ is love.
 Whoever lives in love lives in _____, and _____ lives in them.

1 John 4:16

Love is ..
 Read 1 Cor 13:4-7

Love your

_____ the same as you love

Matthew 22:39

Love is:

PATIENT • KIND • GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:

JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:

LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE



17 January 2022

The Minister
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Dear Minister and Congregation of St Chads with
St Bartholomew

Re: Thank You!

On behalf of Forum Housing Association and our service users, I would like to thank you for the kind donations that were so gratefully received towards our 2021 Christmas Appeal.

This year, thanks to your gifts, the team here at Forum were able to make up Christmas bags that were distributed out to over 300 residents who live with us.

As you can imagine the Christmas period can be a particularly lonely and isolated time for some of our residents, with many of them spending it alone. As well as extra engagement activities taking place around our projects, your gift helped make Christmas special.

Once again thank you for your generosity, kindness and support.

Kind regards

Debbie

Debbie Thompson (Mrs)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Need a Meeting Room?

At St Chad's we have a large hall
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<https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/hall-and-room-hire/>

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue background, with a white hand cursor icon pointing at the 'o'.

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.

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Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816
or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday
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, Irby, CH61 3UH
Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

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EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

- Sun 6th February** **9.00am BCP HC at St Barts**
10.30am HC at St Bart's
- Sun 13th February** **9.00am BCP HC at St Barts**
10.30am All Age at St Chad's
- Sun 20th February** **9.00am BCP HC at St Bart's**
10.30am MW at St Bart's
- Sun 27th February** **9.00am BCP HC at St Bart's**
10.30am HC at St Chad's

EVERY SUNDAY Zoom Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Joining details from Revd Jane



Review of Service Pattern

The PCC need your Comments

See Page 6 for details

RECTOR: **Revd Jane Turner**

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

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