

Crosstalk

60p



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



February 2025



"Cross Talk Subscription for 2025 is £6"

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

Alternatively either post a cheque for £6.00 payable to Thurstaston PCC, to St Chad's Church Office, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

or pay on-line at 40.52.40 00018674, putting your surname and mag subs as reference.

- I live in the parish and would like (to continue) to have Cross Talk delivered to my house. I enclose £6.00
- I don't live in the parish and would like (to continue) to have Cross Talk posted to my house. I enclose £16.00 (£6.00 subscription + £10.00 postage)
- I would like to pick up my reserved copy of CrossTalk from Church. (Please indicate whether St Chad's or St Bartholomew's). I enclose £6.00
- I no longer wish to have Cross Talk delivered/posted to my house

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. (optional) _____

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

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

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

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.

Contents

4	<i>From your Rector</i>	15	<i>God in the Sciences - February</i>
5	<i>A message from Ailsa</i>	16	<i>God in the Arts - January</i>
6	<i>Parish Outing - Threads through the Bible</i>	17	<i>God in the Arts - February</i>
7	<i>Photography Presentation</i>	18	<i>Mouse Makes</i>
8	<i>Ruth's Reflections</i>	19	<i>Wordsearch</i>
9	<i>Irby Heart Bomb</i>	20	<i>Church Flowers / Tots and Tinies</i>
10	<i>What's the Big Idea - Acts</i>	21	<i>Warm Hub</i>
11	<i>What's the Big Idea - Job</i>	22	<i>Hall Hire/Facebook</i>
12	<i>Reflecting Faith - Taking down decs</i>	23	<i>Irby Artists</i>
13	<i>Reflecting Faith - Church Buildings</i>	24-26	<i>Advertisers</i>
14	<i>God in the sciences - January</i>	27	<i>Contacts List: Who's Who</i>
		28	<i>February Services</i>



Baptisms

Weddings

25th January Laura McCabe and James Leyland

Funerals

From Your Rector

What you have in common with a woodcarving

Woodcarving isn't as straightforward as it seems. You don't begin with a block of wood; you begin with a piece of paper. The first step is to draw a plan of what you want to carve, and only when you've got that right do you start to shape your piece of wood.

The carver then works his block with his plan alongside it. He cuts those bits of wood away that he doesn't want, and shapes what's left until it ever more closely resembles that original plan.

Only when the design on the wood and the paper plan *are identical* has the carver finished his job. He's then made exactly what he'd hoped for, while working all along from that original plan.

It's the same for our lives. God is the master carpenter. He has a unique plan for each one of us, which is a blueprint of what He hopes we will become.

As we go through life, God shapes us, cutting away those bits of us that He doesn't want and which would spoil what He hopes we'll come to look like. He then gradually moulds what's left until we look ever more like that original blueprint. Only when the two are identical will God's work be over.

But there's one big difference between a human being and a block of wood. A block of wood sits impassively on the carver's bench while he works at it. The wood cannot help the process along and has no idea what's happening to it.



God very much hopes that we'll help Him in the process of being moulded and shaped into His pattern. That's why we read the Bible and worship and pray: to find out just what His plan is for each one of us. Only when we have some idea of what He wants us to be can we help Him in the process.

God Bless

Revd Jane



A message from Ailsa



Greetings from a very chilly Norfolk!

Not as cold as in Poland where C Squadron continue to shiver having spent Christmas and New Year there; some separated from their families and loved ones in temperatures dropping below -17! Please do hold the troops and their families in your prayers. They are on the home stretch now but January will be a very long month for them.

And how is January for you? I loved the quote "The month of a thousand days" I saw on one of my friends social media posts and I wondered if it resonated? It does always seem like a very long month!

The heaviness of winter has truly settled in and we have had some shocking weather with biting cold and of course, snow and ice which I know the children will have at least enjoyed! But the recent cold spell we have experienced has left many of us shivering in our homes and navigating icy roads.

But it is the shorter days (even in this long month!) I tend to struggle with more - the days are short, and the nights long. As we venture out for warmth, we may find ourselves yearning for community and connection more than ever. This is a fitting time to reach out to one another, extending the warmth of fellowship and kindness to those who may feel especially cold and alone during this season. Remember our Warm Hub at church - please do use it!



Troops opening donated gifts in Poland



So does January offer us anything? Post Christmas blues? Cold; darkness? Well - the days are getting longer - and, yes, I have seen the first daffodils in shops (and Easter Eggs - always hope in chocolate!) as well as daffodils poking their shoots up through the cold hard ground. Signs of spring. It is coming. Hope is all around us - and as Christians we know hope is always all around us through our loving God in Christ Jesus.

May this January inspire us to kindle the light of hope within our hearts, even as the world around us may seem dark and cold. Let us lean on our faith, support one another, and look forward—before we know it, spring will emerge, reminding us of the beauty that follows even the iciest of winters.

Revd Ailsa

Threads through the Bible

Parish Outing - 17 Feb. at Liverpool Cathedral

Revd Jane is going to book a table in the Welsford Bistro (café in the cathedral) for 12.30pm and then visit this exhibition after lunch. (The exhibition is free and no need to book). [Anyone who would like to join Revd Jane for lunch will need to let her know by Friday 7th February.](#)

Full details of the exhibition and dates can be seen here:-

<https://liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/plan-your-visit/threads-through-the-bible/>

Engage and immerse yourself in the biblical story like never before with the spectacular silk works of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.

Threads through the Bible is a breathtaking culmination of ten years' dedication and passion, showcasing three extraordinary exhibitions: Threads through Creation, Threads through the Cross, and Threads through Revelation. Across a stunning display of 38 silk panels, stretching 80 meters and featuring over 25 million intricate stitches, this exhibit is a visual storytelling masterpiece.

Previously, Threads through Revelation captivated audiences at cathedrals across the UK from 2016 to 2018, as did Threads through Creation from 2021 to 2024. Now, Liverpool Cathedral proudly brings these works together to tell the overarching story of the Bible—from the “all is initially good” of Genesis, through the life and sacrifice of Jesus, to the “all is good again” of Revelation. This unique and celebratory exhibition offers a transformative encounter with one of the world's greatest stories.

Join us for this powerful and moving display of faith, art, and storytelling. Don't miss your chance to witness this exceptional journey through the Bible's narrative in silk artistry.



[Any families wishing to come may like to book their child\(ren\) into the workshop at 2.00pm. This arts and crafts session is Free but you must book: -<https://liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/events/half-term-family-activities/2025-02-17/3/>](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION

Thursday 6 Feb 8pm



ROGER
ELLISON

LITTLE eye
PHOTOGRAPHY

Landscape scenes and wildlife from my travels, some unusual and unexpected...!

Admission £2 which includes refreshments

Cards and prints will also be on sale

St Chad's Church Hall, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH

Ruth's Reflections

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a good time at Christmas. I had a lovely day with my eldest daughter and her family. she cooked a beautiful Christmas dinner and I have to admit I ate far too much. I couldn't have anything to drink as I was driving. Going there the traffic was much heavier than I had anticipated, but coming home there was hardly any and the big bonus was that the Tunnel was free! The next two days were very quiet then on the Saturday I went to my other daughters and had another lovely day. I had friends round on New Year's Eve, there was a lot of food, talking and laughter, but very little drink as people were driving. I had my first drink of the whole Christmas period.

I managed to get to Church a couple of times, first to the Carol Service, for which we also rang the Bells, and then the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve. I do like that service as it, to me, is the start of Christmas. I didn't get to church last Sunday, the snow defeated me!

Talking of snow, isn't the weather awful, When I was a child I couldn't wait for it to snow I lived in Shropshire and we regularly had a foot or more of snow. It didn't stop us doing everything and the schools never closed. Now, however, I have changed and I don't like it anymore. I haven't been out, I am quite capable of falling without ice and I would rather be safe than sorry.

Most of the activities I do have restarted, although a couple were cancelled due to the weather. With staying in so much I have become quite lazy, staying warm and watching television, although I have done some sorting out of drawers, I was quite amazed at how much rubbish I had, considering I only moved three years ago and had a big sort out then. I don't know where it all came from, surely I didn't bring it with me!



I am looking forward to some warmer weather and getting out into the garden and with my camera. Ringing has continued as usual and I really enjoy it, not only the physical exercise ,it also helps keep my brain working!

I don't think I have any more news , so I will say Goodbye.

Take extra care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

Love in Action!

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

It is self-giving: are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

It takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

It is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.



Irby Heart Bomb

Hearts for everyone

Hang Hearts everywhere

Join in the Joy

Everyone is Loved

February 8th – 8th March



What's the Big Idea? (Jan)

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defense. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8-12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8-11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.



'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

Can you see the big axe? Reminding you of Axe of the Apostles! The carved model is the 'Church' and there are no splinter groups yet ...

Acts is three books in one – accurately recorded by Luke as he did with his Gospel. First we have the establishing of the church amongst mainly Jews in Jerusalem under Peter. This is related in the first seven chapters.

Next we have five chapters recording the transition of the church from the Jews to the half Jewish Samaritans. This bridges a massive cultural chasm.

Thirdly the greatest church planter of all, Paul, takes the Gospel to the Gentile world. His adventures dominate the final sixteen chapters of Acts.

In this book is recorded the spread of the church from Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria and into the rest of the world - and it's still spreading.

What's the Big Idea? (Feb)

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Job

'Why does God allow suffering?' This is a frequently asked question of Christians, because we believe in a God who is both good and powerful and it is explored in the book of Job. This book is part of the wisdom literature, along with Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Job was both wealthy and righteous, yet he experienced catastrophic suffering, losing all his wealth, children and health. This is portrayed as a result of Satan's challenge to God, testing whether Job's devotion to God was dependent on his circumstances or not.

The main body of the book (3:1-42:6) consists of dialogues between Job, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar) and God. Job and his friends assume that God is almighty and just, and that no human being is wholly innocent. In the three cycles of speeches they wrestle with the reasons for Job's suffering, remembering his morally upright character.

Finally, all are silenced by God, as He speaks Himself (chs 38-42). He points out that Job knows very little about the universe when he reflects on God's power. Job confesses his lack of understanding and weakness, but then goes on to confess his confidence and trust in God. This puts suffering in a right perspective. Job is not condemned, and the book ends with the restoration of his family and possessions.



Ask most people what this book is about and they are likely to tell you, 'The Patience of Job' but our picture gives you a more accurate answer, 'The **'Sovereignty'** of God'. He is totally in control! To aid your memory you can see Job resting on a gold sovereign but with a fly hovering too to remind us that he spent a lot of time on a rubbish dump too! We know it's Job because he is holding a P45 that is always closely linked to our job!

It is thought by many that Job is the oldest part of our Bible pre-dating Moses. Job could have been a contemporary of Abraham. When you read Job you begin to appreciate your friends more! His friends may have been described as Job's comforters but they offer little in the way of comfort as Job loses all that he values including his family and his friends are useless!

Job's big question is, 'Why do good people suffer?' He never receives a complete answer but in the end resolves to trust God anyway!

Reflecting Faith: Taking down the Christmas Tree Decorations (Jan)

Last month we considered the decorations we put on our Christmas trees, both at home and in our churches.

Many churches keep their decorations – or at least their nativity scene – in place until Candlemas at the beginning of February, but most of us take our domestic ones down around Epiphany, on 6th January, when we recall the arrival of the Three Kings.

But how do we manage them for the rest of the year, after we have taken them down?

Our Christmas 'baubles' come in all colours, in matt and shiny, in all shapes and sizes. They can remind us of people, who also come in all shapes and sizes, colours and tones. Baubles are very fragile, like we are sometimes.

This year as you take down your decorations, have a good look at them and think about the care that you take to store them safely, so that they will not break.

How much more care do you take in looking after the people who make up your life? Your family, friends, neighbours, church, colleagues, local shop keepers, and so on?

It's quick and easy to pick up the decorations and just drop them in a box, but without some gentle care, will they be okay for next year?

It's too easy to pass folk by, and get on with what we are doing for ourselves, our own plans and goals; but aren't people worth more than that?

Who do we know that would greatly benefit if we gave them just a bit more time, a bit more consideration?

This month: Have a look at your decorations and see if any of them need a bit of refreshing, some TLC, (tender loving care), just as we all do.



Reflecting Faith: Church Buildings (Feb)

We have been thinking about different aspects of church buildings. But what about 'the whole thing'? - the impression you have when you first see a church building?

Most of us have visited many church buildings, either to worship or as a tourist: to enjoy the splendour, the colours, the style and the architecture, with or without necessarily a time of prayer or worship.

There are some amazingly staggering designs around the world – one only has to think of the complex and intricate stone carving of Gaudi's catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain (due to be completed next year!) and then compare that to the sleekness of the Lutheran (Church of Iceland) parish church in Reykjavík, Iceland.

How about the grandeur of St Peter's in Rome, full of baroque gold and rich colours? Or what about St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, Moscow – now a museum but topped with amazingly coloured onion domes?

Just looking at the outside of a building tells you a lot about what it is likely to be like inside, the purpose of the building and the style of worship to expect there.

It's not just about the condition of the fabric, or the tidiness of the grounds but rather the architecture itself.

When we see a contemporary modern building, we will expect the worship to match it: whether that is Protestant, Catholic or any other denomination.

This month:

If you were designing a brand-new church building today, what would you put into it and therefore what would the exterior look like? What would you want on the outside, to express your faith? Would you include any specific Christian symbols, or be more all-encompassing?



God in the Sciences : Just breathe (Jan)

*You show your majesty
In every star that shines,
And every time we breathe.
Your glory, God revealed
From distant galaxies
To here, beneath our skin.*

These words from the song *Magnificent* by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin speak volumes to me as a scientist. Redman is an astronomy geek who has ‘an appreciation for the universe that surrounds us, particularly its unique ability to lift our hearts to see how massive and mysterious God truly is’.*



The microscopic level on the other hand – what goes on ‘beneath our skin’ – is less available to ordinary people. I have had the privilege of exploring this world to my heart’s content, and what I’ve seen has given me such a sense of awe that I want to share with others.

Every time you breathe, a series of air pockets with a combined surface area the size of a tennis court is bathed with oxygen. These minute air pockets are covered with blood vessels. The boundary between air and blood is so thin that oxygen and carbon dioxide can diffuse freely from one to the other.

When your heart beats at a normal rate, a single red blood cell takes about three quarters of a second to travel through the small blood vessels in your lungs. But in just one third of that time, a quarter of a second, that cell has already received all the oxygen it needs from the air. So, when you exercise, causing your heart rate to increase and the blood to flow faster, you’re still getting plenty of oxygen, as long as you keep breathing!

Redman and Myrin wrote in their song, “*You are higher than we ever could imagine, And closer than our eyes could ever see.*” The universe demonstrates God’s awesome power. This is a place made by a Being whose imagination is not limited by time and space.

Biology, on the other hand, helps to remind me of God’s creativity and closeness. I am a product of a long and painstaking process of continued development over aeons of time. Beneath my skin are incredibly detailed, beautifully regulated processes that give me life. Jesus said that ‘even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.’ The knowledge that God intentionally made me and knows every detail of my physiology is both amazing and humbling.

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 50 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.

God in the Arts: 'The Annunciation' - by Domenico Veneziano (Jan)

During this year, we shall be 'visiting' different art galleries and museums in England to explore their treasures. Our first visit is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.

Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke's Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano's work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. 'A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed' we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano's painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary's words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God's guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.



God in the Arts : 'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais (Feb)

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month's painting, *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999,

having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.



When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of 'the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.'

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us 'out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.'

Wordsearch for February 2025

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

naming
 Christ
 Candlemas
 Simeon
 Anna
 temple
 love
 Valentine
 romance
 Matthias
 Fairtrade
 Fortnight
 coffee
 bananas
 chocolate
 justice
 poverty
 nest box
 marriage
 wedding
 Holocaust
 leprosy
 education
 sunday



Donations of Flowers for Church

You can make a donation
“in memory of”, “in celebration of”
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 25th February

Helen Parkinson

"Nursing an a war zone"

*(Helen is also a bee keeper and she will be
selling honey and bee products)*



**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/>



facebook

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](https://twitter.com/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

billy hill curtains ltd.

**Still going strong in
BIRKENHEAD MARKET
after 75 years!**



**Nets • Roller Blinds
Wooden Venetian Blinds
Curtains • Curtain Poles & Tracks
Pelmets • Roman Blinds**

**Visit us in
BIRKENHEAD MARKET
- Open 6 Days A Week -**

*Free Measuring &
Expert Fitting Service Available
1000's of **Clearance Fabrics**
Starting from £1mtr.*

**If you can't
come to us,
we will come to you!**

Home visits available

Please call **0151 647 8604** or
Mike on 07792 009505

billyhillcurtains@yahoo.com 
www.billyhillcurtains.co.uk 

Help St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby raise FREE funds when you shop online!



Every time you shop, you'll raise a donation for us and **it won't cost you a penny extra!**

1. Sign up to easyfundraising

Got to

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby and follow the simple steps to sign up.

2. Hit the shops

When you shop online, visit easyfundraising first, click through to the retailer and shop as normal. Everything costs exactly the same

3. Earn donations

With every purchase you make you'll raise a donation from the retailer. Your donations are then transferred to **St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby**

**OVER 2,700
RETAILERS TO
CHOOSE FROM...**

TESCO



Argos

amazon.co.uk

John Lewis
johnlewis.com

M&S

Viking

ASDA

Expedia.co.uk

easyfundraising
.org.uk



Visit: easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby



Gary Furlong
Tree and Hedge Services
07759284091

Accounts Un Limited
 Patricia Brady ACMA

Personal Tax Returns .
 Company Accounts . VAT Returns

Home Visits . Friendly &
 Confidential Service
 648 4379 or 07968 908779

BIRKENHEAD MONUMENTAL LTD

QUALITY MEMORIALS, RENOVATIONS,
 ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS ETC.

CALL FOR FULL COLOUR BROCHURE,
 PERSONAL ATTENTION OFFERED.

Telephone: 0151 608 2578

IRBY MOTOR COMPANY

CARS BOUGHT AND SOLD
 SERVICE & REPAIR - FREE LOAN CAR

SERVICE: 0151 648 0200

SALES: 0151 648 5488

RNIB 

See differently

Please collect your Postage Stamps
 throughout the year for RNIB
 (Royal National Institute Blind).

A Big Thankyou for all the stamps
 that have been collected this year,
 there has been a huge response

If you would like to purchase advertising space
 in this magazine please telephone

St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or
E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

Advertising space is sold in good faith.
 The Parochial Church Council and/or Editor can take no responsibility for the quality
 of goods or services offered.

Contacts

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

Churchwardens

Vacant

churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk

Curate

Revd Gaynor Kydd

revdgaynor@thurstaston.org.uk

Associate Minister

Revd Ailsa Whorton CF

(Chaplain to the Forces, Army).

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 on to Ailsa via her husband Derek)

Reader Emeritus

Mr Alan Jones

648 1400

PCC Secretary

Cheryl Goddard

pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk

PCC Treasurer

Vacant

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Williams

07956621731

safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

648 8169

St Chad's Hall Booking

hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk

Verger

Mr Jon Oliver

648 1754

Organist

Mr Craig Vickers

648 7405

Bellringing - Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson

648 6691

Flowers for both Churches

Team Co-ordinator Dawn Rudd

648 0209

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16)

Mrs Julie Deboorder

648 6331

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

www.girlguiding.org.uk or

Freephone

0800 1 69 59 01

CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Aid Representative

Vacant

Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath

648 6015

Leprosy Mission Representative

Julie DeBoorder

648 6331

Adoption Society Representative

Mrs Chris Rostock

648 1112

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.

February 2025 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

- Sun 2nd February** 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 9th February** 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's
- Sun 16th February** 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 23rd February** 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's
- Sun 2nd March** 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Prayer for February 2025

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

