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



March 2025



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* Please send your contributions *
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* articles etc.,) *
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Baptisms

Weddings

27th February Lewis Tierney and Laura Gois

Funerals

**10th February Linda Sheldon
28th February Judith Hodgson**

From Your Rector

Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.



With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

Revd Jane



A message from Ailsa



As we turn our thoughts towards the season of spring, I am reminded of the beautiful imagery that accompanies this time of year—particularly the sight of spring lambs frolicking in the fields. These young lambs embody the essence of new life and hope, reminding us that after the cold and grey of winter, brighter days are ahead.



In the coming weeks, we will be entering the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Just as the arrival of spring signifies renewal and rebirth in nature, Lent invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for the transformative message that Easter brings. It is a time for reflection and growth, a time when we can let go of burdens and embrace the possibility of new beginnings.

The practice of a mother sheep giving up a lamb when she has twins speaks volumes about the themes of sacrifice and love that resonate deeply in our faith. This act serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during Lent and the ultimate gift of love we celebrate on Easter Sunday. Just as the mother sheep tends to her remaining lamb while ensuring the other is nurtured, we, too, are called to care for one another during this season of reflection.

As we embark on this Lenten journey together, let us remember the hope that spring brings—the promise of renewal and the joy found in community. May we also take time to reach out and support those who may be feeling lost or grieving in our parish, nurturing our collective spirit with love and compassion.

As we prepare for what lies ahead, let us keep our eyes fixed on the radiant joy of Easter, where despair is transformed into hope, and death gives way to everlasting life. May this season flourish with the grace and warmth of spring, filling our hearts with hope and our lives with purpose.

Blessings to you all,

Ailsa

Your P.C.C. needs you

As we approach our Annual Parish Meeting, I would urge you to consider putting your name forward for election to the Parochial Church Council.

I've said it before and I'm quite happy to say again that the PCC performs a vital function in any parish. Members of our council discuss all matters to do with the running of the parish and its two churches, as well as initiatives put forward by the diocese or national church.

You may have an image in your head, based on some of the comedy sketches on television, of meetings dominated by acrimonious arguments between vicars and egotistical parishioners. Whilst they are good for a laugh, my experience of meetings has been of civilised discussion. People sometimes have different opinions, but we always listen respectfully to each other and seek to arrive at a consensus.

We are a democratic body; it certainly isn't the case that the Rector makes the decisions and tells us what to do. And we are also the Trustees of the Parish, which is registered as a charity.

At the present time we need fresh blood, particularly from those below the age of fifty (and for those **who are worried, I promise that it isn't particularly onerous**). **We also need people with a range of interests and skills and who have had different life experiences.** The PCC also has several committees which report to it, so it is quite easy to find one that matches your experience and particular skill-set and thus to make a valuable contribution. Above all, we need people who are **committed to finding ways of enabling our parish to build God's kingdom here in Irby and Thurstaston.**

Could you be one of those people, especially if you are in the younger age-range? We need your ideas and your vision for the future. How should we reach out to more people and make them aware **of God's love for everyone?**

If you're interested in finding out more or think you could bring new life to the PCC, don't hesitate to have a chat with any of the current members of the PCC. I hope you'll be prepared to bring new life and fresh ideas to the council.

Chris Smale (Lay Chair of PCC)

PCC Member

When it was suggested that I might consider being part of the PCC I almost **laughed. Me! I wasn't even sure what** the PCC did. But, in for a penny, in for a pound I decided to give it a go. So glad I did. I have learned so much about how a church is run. I realised that everyone has something to give to help the smooth running of our church, however little they may think it is. It would be wonderful to see some young faces at these meetings to give new ideas and thoughts for the future. So why not come and join us, we would love to see you.

Pat Neil

Churchwarden

I was a Churchwarden for 6 years in this parish. I was involved in every aspect of church life, from people to buildings. I found my time in office was an extremely worthwhile experience, using skills I had developed in my career and learning new ones. I felt it was an honour and a privilege to serve both the churches in the parish. You really get to see how the church works. Churchwardens are not expected to do everything themselves, but to make sure that there are other people available to carry out the various tasks.

Liz Whitehead

PCC member

I have been a member of the PCC for many years. I have found the role very rewarding and fulfilling. It has enabled me to serve the parish and the local community. I have been involved in all aspects of church life including new projects. It has enabled me to meet and work with new people.

Liz Whitehead

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 23 March 2025 in St Chad's, starting at 6.00pm

During the two meetings, we will hear reports on the activities and finances of the church during 2024.

We will also appoint members of the congregations as Churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod representatives.

The first meeting is the Meeting of Parishioners and is very brief. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Meeting of Parishioners

The only business during the Meeting of Parishioners is to elect Churchwardens. Churchwardens are appointed for one year, working closely with the Rector and the PCC particularly in relation to the buildings and the church grounds. There is a time limit of six consecutive years on an appointment as churchwarden.

The appointment of churchwardens is important this year as there are not any in the parish. Churchwardens are essential members of the parish team and are one of the links between the congregations and the Rector. They are supported and assisted by the Rector, PCC members and others. Although one churchwarden can cope with all the requirements, it is much better if two churchwardens are appointed to share responsibilities.

If you are on the Electoral Roll and have an interest at all in becoming a Churchwarden, please speak to the Rector as soon as possible.

The Rector must receive nominations for Churchwardens on the proper forms before the meeting begins. The forms will be available in the churches and on the Church website (link given below) for downloading. Nominations for Churchwardens may not be made after the meeting has begun. Anyone who lives in the parish (or who lives outside the parish boundary but is on the Electoral Roll) can vote in the Meeting of Parishioners.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard, the buildings and their contents. With the minister, it steers the life of the church in its mission, witness and service in the parish.

PCC members are elected for three years. We are hoping for new members who can bring new ideas and fresh thoughts to our discussion and decisions. Two members have reached the ends of their term of office and may be re-elected. In total there are five vacancies – one for one year, and four for three years at this APCM.

We also need people to represent us at Deanery Synod meetings. Deanery Synod members are elected for three years (currently 2023-2026) and are automatically members of the PCC. There are three vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives.

Anyone who has any interest in becoming more involved in helping with church activities should speak as soon as possible to the Rector, the PCC Secretary or to any PCC member. Everyone can offer something – **do not be put off just because you think you don't know enough about it.**

During the meeting we shall also receive written reports on what the PCC discussed and decided in 2024, the organisations associated with the church and detail of the church accounts. These will be available on the Parish website for downloading before the meetings.

Notices with more details of the meetings will be displayed on the church website, in both churches and by email, with nominations for PCC members, Deanery Synod representatives and Churchwardens.

Finally if there are any matters that you wish to bring forward for discussion, please inform the Rector or the PCC Secretary before the meeting.

Cheryl Goddard (PCC Secretary)

The link for the nomination forms (copy and paste in browser) is:

<https://thurstaston.org.uk/pcc-information/apcm-annual-parochial-church-meeting/nomination-forms-and-electoral-roll-application-form.php>

St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston and St Chad's, Irby
Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 28 April 2024 at St Chad's

The Rector welcomed everyone at 6.30 pm.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs B Appleyard, Mr M Jones, Ms M Rogers, Dr P Robson & Mrs K Robson, Mr C Smale, Mrs J Trigg, Mr C Turnbull & Mrs S Turnbull and Mrs E Whithead

Fourteen people were present.

Before the meeting Revd Jane read out the following:

"If Graham had retired as PCC Secretary after 40 years of service, we would have thanked him with a gift. The PCC wish to recognise Graham's service, and following conversation with Linda and the family, and recognising Graham's commitment to practical things, we would like to replace the green chairs here in St Chad's. We anticipate that this will cost approximately £2000.00 and are going to open a dedicated fund in memory of Graham to allow us to do this. The fund will close once the new chairs are bought."

There was a minute's silence followed by prayer in remembrance of Graham. A gift had also been purchased for Mrs L Barley, in recognition of her support for Graham throughout his time of being involved in the parish.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24 April 2023)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published in the church magazine in April 2024 and were available at the meeting. Mrs T Samson, seconded by Mrs J DeBoorder, proposed that the minutes should be accepted as a full and accurate record of the meeting. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

2. Election of Churchwardens

No nominations had been received.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (24 April 2023)

Mrs L Worrall, seconded by Mr R Jackson, proposed that the minutes should be accepted as a full and accurate record of the meeting. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

2) Electoral Roll Report

As the draft Annual Report had been circulated prior to the deadline for individuals to sign up to be included on the Electoral roll, the following was read on behalf of Helen Williams (Electoral Roll Officer):

"At the APCM in 2023, the roll contained 151 members from 101 households. During the past year, 1 addition was made (agreed by PCC in May 2023) and 7 members have been deleted from the roll. During recent revisions I added 3 new members who applied to join. The Electoral Roll now has 148 members from 100 households."

3) Approval of the Annual Report

The following reports were considered:

- a. Proceedings of the PCC

- b. Activities of the Parish generally
 - i. Safeguarding
 - ii. Junior Church
 - iii. Bell Ringers
 - iv. Warm Hub
 - v. Tots and Tinies
 - vi. Community Outreach and Social Events
 - vii. Dawpool School
 - viii. Charities
 - ix. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides

Mr J Oliver, seconded by Mr D Reed, proposed that the meeting should accept these reports. This was agreed unanimously.

4. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish during 2023 and the Independently Inspected Annual Accounts for 2023, published in the Annual Report

Mrs J Oliver, seconded by Mrs E Barton, proposed that the report and the accounts should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

5. Appointment of an independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2024

The Rector proposed that Mrs M A Walker should be re-appointed. This was proposed by Mrs J DeBoorder and seconded by Mrs E Barton.

6. Reports on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

A question was raised regarding the installation of the toilet at St Bartholomew's. It was confirmed that this matter was on the PCC agenda, with two options under consideration: whether it would be possible to install a toilet in the old tower depending on the architect's advice regarding the incline from the main path or a portable unit sited behind the church either on the east side near the vestry door or the west side.

The report was accepted unanimously.

7. Report on matters discussed by the Deanery Synod during 2023

The report was received unanimously.

8. Election of three members of the congregations to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod

There were three vacancies for two years until 31 May 2026. These were not filled.

9. Election of up to seven members to serve on the PCC.

The following church members had been proposed and seconded for re-election.

Ms C Goddard Proposed by Mrs L Worrall Seconded by Mr R Jackson

Mr J Oliver Proposed by Mrs P Neil Seconded by Mrs L Worrall

Mr R Jackson Proposed by Mrs L Worrall Seconded by Ms C Goddard

Mr Chris Turnbull Proposed by Mr A Jones Seconded by Mr P Samson

These four individuals will serve on the PCC until 2027.

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 6.50 pm followed by Compline at 7.00pm.

Treasurer Needed

The PCC currently pays a bookkeeper to undertake day to day transactions, banking of money and paying of bills, etc. The PCC finance sub-committee makes decisions based on the information in the parish accounts, but would value and appreciate having someone to act as Treasurer (who does not need to be a member of the PCC) to assist with producing financial reports for the PCC and the annual meeting, as well as interpreting the more complicated aspects of banking decisions e.g. parish share.

Please speak to Revd Jane or the PCC Secretary (Cheryl Goddard) or Chris Smale who chairs the finance committee if you think you could help.

Lost in translation

Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month.

Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation.

I meant, I'm giving up.
Eating chocolate for a month.



Ruth's Reflections

Hello again. It has been a very quiet time since I last wrote, so this might be quite a short piece.

I mentioned last time I didn't get to Church because of the snow, well the next time I tried my car wouldn't start and the time after that I overslept!! It turned out the car needed a new battery, it is 9 years old so I shouldn't complain [but I did] I also blame the fact we have to go at 20 mph on most of the roads round here, so I intend to take it for a spin on the motorway at least once a week. This wasn't a good start to 2025.

I have been out with my camera, but only in the back garden, trying to catch the birds on the bird feeders. I did get a couple of nice pictures, not easy as they tended to fly away as soon as I appeared. I also got a few photos of snow-covered trees and a couple of beautiful sunsets.

I can't remember if I mentioned last time that I needed the fence at the bottom of my garden replacing. Well I had someone in to do it, they came when expected but didn't finished the job, promised they would return in a couple of days. well, they didn't come and all efforts to contact them failed. Eventually I had to get someone else in, they had to redo everything as well as finishing the job. It looks really nice now, but having to pay twice really annoyed me.

The W.I. is up and running again after the Christmas break and we have a very interesting programme of talks, events and outings for 2025.

Ringin' is continuing as usual; I don't think I am improving much but I do enjoy it! I still haven't been out in the garden, it, like every garden, is still very wet. Roll on Spring.

My sister is coming to stay next weekend, I haven't seen her for quite a while, so I am really looking forward to it. I have quite a few things lined up to do with the family so hopefully we will have a good time.

I think that is all I have got to say this time, so take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

What's the Big Idea? (Mar)

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament : Psalms

'The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible, because most of the Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us' (Athanasius of Alexandria).

The Book of Psalms contains 150 prayers or songs of praise, the majority (73) attributed to David, although some were composed later. They were mostly composed for liturgical worship. There are songs of praise, in which people joyfully express praise for God's work of creation and sustaining (eg 135 & 136). In others, the psalmist recounts a desperate situation and gives thanks for God's answer to his prayers (eg 30 & 116).

There are a significant number of psalms of lament, both individual (eg 3-7; 22) and communal (eg 44), which begin with a cry for help. Some express deliverance from sin (51 & 130), or point to the certainty that the Lord has heard their prayer (7, but contrast 88). The theme of trust is central in many psalms (23, 62 & 91).

The 'royal psalms' (eg 20, 21 & 72) point to the promised Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus. There are also psalms teaching wisdom (eg 37, 49); 'torah' psalms, focussing on the law of the Lord (eg 1, 19 & 119), and psalms which celebrate the history of Israel and God's faithfulness (eg 78, 105 & 106).

The psalms can help us in our own prayers, by providing us with models



Reflecting Faith: : The Meaning of Baptism

Last month we considered the overall 'look' of a church building and how that often reflects the way faith is celebrated inside.

One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed.

We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person – regardless of their age – into their fellowship.

If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before 'Christianity' came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism 'into Moses in the sea'. This comes from him being a Hillelite rabbi who argued that as 'the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the "promised land" '.

Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the 'group' to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person's inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately).

In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

This month

Have a think about your own Baptism. What value do you place on it? Do you feel it makes you part of the Christian Family, or was it so long ago that for you, it's become an irrelevance?



LIVING HOPE



Lent Groups

11.30am-12.30pm
St Chad's Main Hall

OR

7.30-9.00pm
St Chad's Extension

Please let Revd Jane know if you would like to join one of these groups and she will give you the booklet that we will be using. The booklet offers daily Bible Readings, pictures, short reflections, prayers and practical ideas to help you grow in hope and faith during Lent.

Wed 5th March - Start of Lent: What is hope?

Exploring what hope means in the context of the Christian faith.

Wed 12th March - Week 1: Imperfect

Exploring how we hold on to hope in lives that are messy and a world that is imperfect.

Wed 19th March - Week 2: Together

Exploring the ways joining with others allows us to find hope ourselves and offer hope to those who need it.

Wed 26th March - Week 3: Trusting

Exploring what it means to trust in the hope God promises, even when we feel uncertain about the future.

Wed 2nd April - Week 4: Noticing

Exploring how we can deepen our hope by noticing signs of what God is doing.

Wed 9th April - Week 5: Courage

Exploring how being rooted in hope can give us courage to face difficulties and seek change.

Wed 16th April - Holy Week: Transformed

Exploring how God can transform even the most broken situations.

RDA



It's what you **can** do
that counts

Hear ALL ABOUT IT



BRING & BUY



REFRESHMENTS

Friday 21 March

7.30pm St Chad's hall

ALL PROCEEDS TO RDA

St Chad's Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH

God in the Sciences : Science and a sense of the Transcendent

What is the difference between a cathedral and a physics lab? Are they not both saying: 'Hello'? - Annie Dillard

Scientists often speak of a reality beyond the objects they are studying, and for some this is encountered in powerful – if rare – episodes of wonder and awe. The Christian writer J.W. Sire quotes this line from Annie Dillard in his book *Echoes of a Voice*, which explores spiritual or ‘transcendent’ experiences.

In his analysis of these experiences Sire describes moments that are “emotional, intellectual, highly charged, usually sudden, unannounced, often odd, some weird, others glorious”, and places them on three different levels:

A material object that points beyond the material reality. For example, someone might develop a sense of what is good and evil, based on the actions of others.

Experience of “something personal...just behind the surface of what we are directly experiencing, often something with which one feels at peace or even at one, or, perhaps, as dangerous or threatening.”

A felt presence that has a specific character or presence, e.g., holiness, or inspiring humility, fearful awe or wonder.

According to Sire, level 1-2 experiences are fairly common but level 3 is rare. He gives a wide range of examples, including scientists. Some of these people are religious or interested in spirituality, others are atheists. Some of their moments of transcendence carried a particular meaning, others simply sparked curiosity.

The famous geneticist Francis Collins described several significant moments when he was young: “being transported by the experience of looking through a telescope”, or “a Christmas Eve where the descant on a particularly beautiful Christmas carol...left me with a sense of unexpected awe and a longing for something I could not name”.

These experiences meant that when Collins was faced with the question of belief in God, “all [his] arguments seemed very thin”. Now, as a fully-fledged scientist and a believer in God, he is able to say that “for a scientist who occasionally is given the remarkable privilege of discovering something not previously known by man, there is a special kind of joy associated with such flashes of insight.”

Most of us are not scientists, but we may well have had experiences like this in different contexts. How can we, in our engagement with scientifically minded individuals, make connections through our shared experience of the transcendent? Can we listen as well as explain, finding some common points of connection?

God in the Arts: : 'Menorah' by Roger Wagner

In the midst of the dreaming spires and Gothic splendour of Oxford stands the Ashmolean Museum. Its classic proportions are a contrast to the buildings around. Within, the addition of thirty new galleries has doubled the exhibition space, and the visitor to the museum will discover a wealth of beautiful and impressive works – Renaissance drawings, Eastern art and British paintings. The last category includes this month's work: 'Menorah' by Roger Wagner. It was painted in 1993 and at that time it was the largest contemporary painting acquired by the Ashmolean. It is now on loan to St Giles' Church at the northern end of the city.

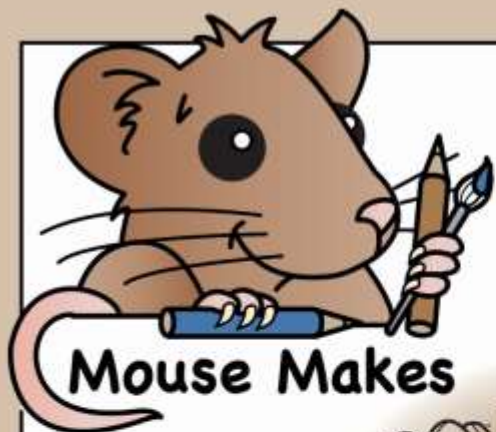


Roger Wagner was born in 1957. He graduated from Oxford and now worships at the Romanesque church of Iffley. He works on a small scale with book illustrations, but also creates large canvases that juxtapose traditional religious images with contemporary symbols in a startling and arresting way. The background of 'Menorah' is Didcot Power Station, which can be seen from the windows of the Oxford-London train. The central chimney and the cooling towers around form the shape of the seven-branched candlestick of Judaism. In front of them are the three crosses of Calvary. Around the scene of crucifixion we can see a couple consoling each other in the foreground and isolated individuals wandering in the mud in grief and perplexity. They are dressed in Hasidic robes.

An earlier work of Roger Wagner's is 'The Burning Furnace' where angels are painted in the setting of a Victorian iron works. It is the same contrast of ancient and modern in this painting: the Good Friday of 2000 years ago and an industrial, bleak landscape of today. The artist is also contrasting the menorah of Judaism and the cross of Christianity – the suffering of the Holocaust and the suffering of the Saviour.

The menorah would burn in front of the Holy of Holies as a sign of God's invisible presence. In the book of Revelation, St John describes his vision of Jesus the Lamb in the midst of the same seven flaming torches, moving with grace and glory. Here in 'Menorah' the figure of Jesus is insignificant against the immense scale of industrial buildings spewing out pollution into the bright sky.

But it is that figure of Jesus on the Cross who draws us this month in Holy Week and draws us in this painting. The mourners around look like figures in a concentration camp: victims of man's inhumanity to man. The cooling towers are a vivid reminder of our violation and destruction of mother earth. And in the centre we see our crucified Lord. We hear Isaiah's song of the suffering servant that there is no sorrow like this sorrow. We also hear Jesus crying 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And we can ponder this painting as we ask, Is it a sign of the absence of God, or, like the Menorah lit in the temple, a sign of the presence of God? There is human chemistry creating the destruction of life and earth as depicted by Roger Wagner. Can we proclaim a divine chemistry at work which will transform suffering and death into the new life of Easter in the power of the Resurrection?



Mouse Makes

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

 Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

 Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

 Luke 4:8



READ
 the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

 Luke 4:12



What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

 Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
 see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED
 WILDERNESS
 DESERT
 TEMPTATIONS
 DAYS • DEVIL
 HUNGRY • SON
 STONE • ROCK
 KINGDOMS
 WORLD • GLORY
 WRITTEN
 SCRIPTURE
 WORSHIP • ONLY
 SERVE • LORD
 JERUSALEM
 HIGH • TEMPLE
 THROW • DOWN
 JUMP • ANGELS
 HANDS • HOLD
 LIFT • FOOT

R	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	H	A	N	D	S	D
L	I	F	T	W	P	A	H	D	J	U	M	P	A
E	L	O	R	D	K	I	O	E	D	O	S	E	Y
D	D	O	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	K	T	M	S
F	E	H	U	N	G	R	Y	E	B	R	O	C	K
O	R	E	J	E	S	U	S	R	Y	O	N	L	Y
R	N	S	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	U	H
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	G	T	S
Y	S	T	D	S	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
B	S	H	O	E	H	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S
R	F	R	W	R	I	T	T	E	N	E	R	P	O
E	O	O	N	V	G	G	O	C	E	V	Y	L	N
A	O	W	V	E	H	O	L	D	K	I	W	E	
D	T	E	S	T	V	D	W	O	R	L	D		



Find the words from the questions too!

Wordsearch for March 2025

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

Lent
spiritual
easter
preparation

fasting
prayer
desert
selfdenial

repentance
seeking
finding
growing

mothers
love
care
nurture

learning
teaching
disciples
worldwide

flowers
thankyou
nursing
family



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 March

**Ken Pye
"Wirral Anecdotes"**



**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 McMahan, Text:07889 404917

Or Email: almac48@virginmedia.com

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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**

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 throughout the year for RNIB
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 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

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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.

March 2025 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sun 2nd March	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 9th March	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's
Sun 16th March	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
Sun 23rd March	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's with Junior Church
Sun 30th March Mothering Sunday	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 6th April	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Prayer for March 2025

Dear Lord,

In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.

Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives. We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. Amen.

