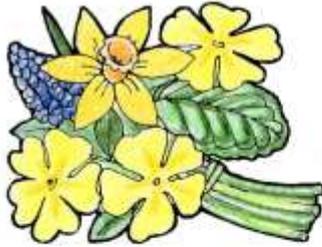


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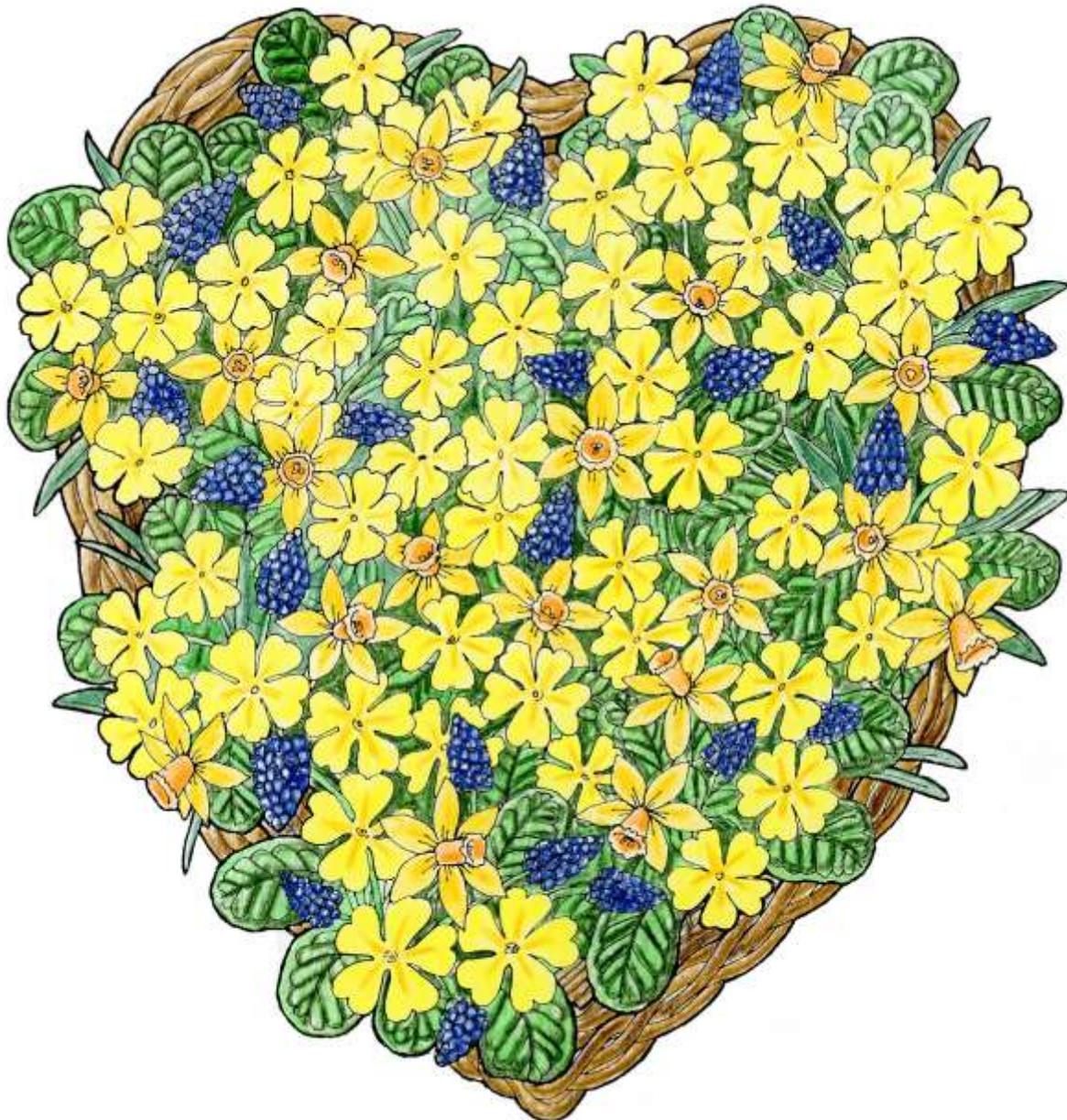
*The Parish Magazine of  
St Bartholomew with St Chad*

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester



March  
2026

# THANK YOU



## "Cross Talk Subscription for 2026 is £6"

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

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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](http://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.  
.....

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### Baptisms

31st Jan: Archer James Thwaites

### Weddings

### Funerals

9th Feb: Rosemary Southwood  
 11th Feb: Muriel McKie  
 18th Feb: Oliver Farrall

Prayer for March 2026

(based on Jn 3:21, Jn 14:6, Jn 8:12, Jn 16:33, Heb 13:5)

Lord,

In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that, *whoever lives by the truth comes into the light.*

Jesus says He is *the Truth*. He also says He is the *Light of the world*. Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – **so we shouldn't be surprised** – but that He has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us – we can live by the real Truth – and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you so much.

In Jesus name. Amen.

## **From Your Rector**

Mothering Sunday – the fourth Sunday of Lent- offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come **together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.**

**In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church** – the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen – a tradition from ages past – with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all **people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it** – it could be yours!

Revd Jane

## From Ailsa

Over these past five months serving as Chaplain at the Army Foundation College, I have had the privilege of accompanying hundreds of Junior Soldiers through the joys, challenges, frustrations, doubts, and triumphs that mark their journey from civilian life into the earliest days of military service. This week, I experienced one of the most moving milestones of all: my first graduation parade.

On 12th February, in *truly* freezing conditions, two companies—Cambrai Company and Peninsula Company—marched onto the parade square for their long-awaited Pass Out. Cambrai Company completed an extraordinary twelve months of training; Peninsula Company completed six. Each has travelled a demanding road, and each individual young person on that square bore the marks of determination and growth that only such a journey can create.

Training at the College is designed to stretch these young men and women not only physically, but emotionally and mentally. They arrive as teenagers—full of potential, but often unsure of themselves—and they are immediately asked to work as a team, to persevere through discomfort, to push beyond self-imposed limits and to learn the discipline and character that military life requires.

There are moments of homesickness. Moments of fatigue. Moments of doubt. There are early mornings, long days, and more ironing, polishing, marching, and running than most of us would dream of attempting in a lifetime. And yet, time and again, they rise to the challenge. They lean on **each other. They discover resilience they didn't know they had. They grow.**

For these Junior Soldiers, Passing Out is not the end but the beginning. Phase 2 training awaits them—a new chapter where they will learn the trade skills they need for their chosen cap badges and specialties. Some will join infantry units; others will head into engineering, logistics, medical roles, or communications. They go forward with both excitement and a little trepidation, aware that another challenging path lies ahead, but buoyed by the knowledge that they have already overcome so much. Despite the icy wind that cut across the parade square, the atmosphere on the day was one of pure warmth. The stands were filled with proud parents, extended family members, younger siblings waving excitedly, and friends who had travelled miles to be there. From the moment the first platoon stepped onto the square, you could feel the energy—anticipation, pride, relief, and immense love.

Platoon Commanders and military instructors marched their Junior Soldiers with evident pride. These staff members have coached, mentored, corrected, encouraged, and sometimes carried these young **people through the hardest months they've known. Their pride was as visible as that of any parent** standing in the stands.

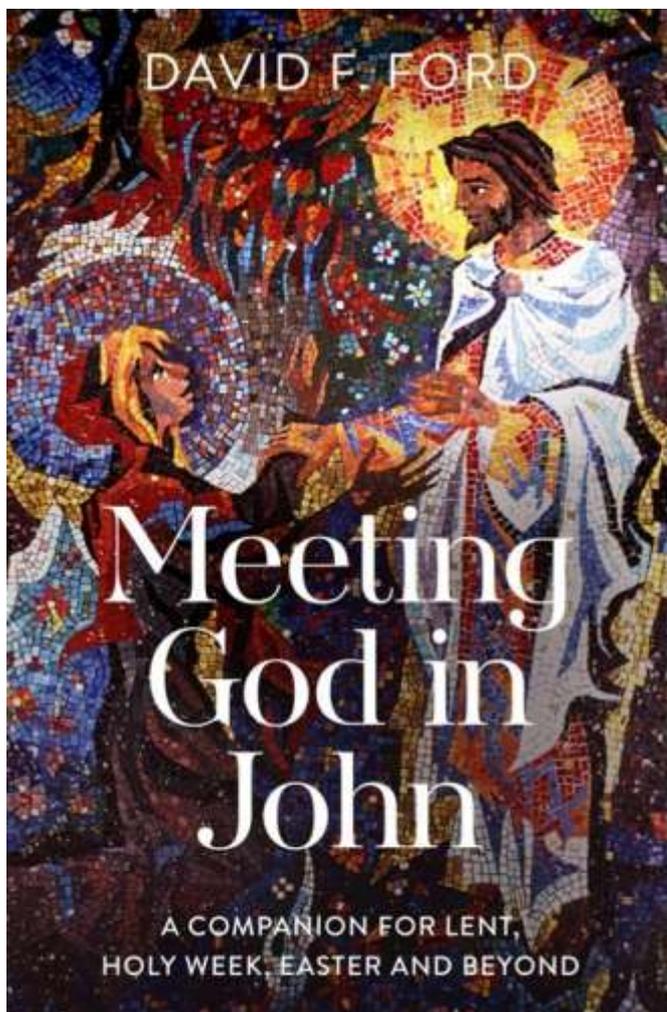
I had the honour of leading the prayers, offering the College Collect, and blessing the parade. Standing before them—faces set with determination, uniforms immaculate, breath misting in the cold air—I felt an overwhelming sense of privilege. These young people choose a life of service, discipline, and sacrifice. To pray for them, and with them, as they mark this turning point is one of the most meaningful parts of my ministry.

As a priest both here in the parish and up at the Army Foundation College, I continue to be grateful for the ways these two communities enrich each other. The support, kindness, and prayers of our parishioners mean more than you know—not only to me, but to the young people who so often stand in need of encouragement and spiritual grounding.

Please continue to hold these newly graduated Junior Soldiers in your prayers as they move forward into the next stage of their service. And if you ever see an opportunity to support military families or serving personnel within our parish, I know it will be met with the same grace and generosity that characterises our church family.

With every blessing,, Ailsa





## Lent Group - Everyone Welcome

You will need to purchase this book  
ISBN: 978-0-28108-963-5

**Wednesdays at St Chad's 7.30-9.00pm**

**25th Feb** Chapter 1  
The Big Picture: Meaning, love, Jesus

**4th March** Chapter 2  
Identity: "Who are you?"

**11th March** Chapter 3  
Desire: "What are you looking for?"

**18th March** Chapter 4  
Home: "Where are you staying?"

**25th March** Chapter 5  
Glory: Meeting God in John

## Meeting God in John - a Companion for Lent, Holy Week, Easter & Beyond

**By David F. Ford, SPCK, £10.99**

Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, this book offers an accessible and absorbing introduction to the main message of John's Gospel, packed with compelling observations into the personality and impact of Jesus, both in the first century and today.

It will leave you with a renewed appreciation of and enthusiasm for John's writing. Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion.

Scargill House,  
Kettlewell, Skipton,  
North Yorkshire,  
BD23 5HU



## Scargill Movement

**Revd Jane has booked on this weekend in the beautiful setting of Scargill House.**

**You are invited to make your own booking (for either of the options - both on the same weekend) giving those who book the opportunity to spend a weekend together.**

**Revd Jane would have space in her car for two other people. If more than that book in, others will need to be able and willing to drive.**

**Scargill tends to book up quite quickly, so Revd Jane suggests that you book sooner rather than later.**

**If you do book, please let Revd Jane know.**

### **Renew, refresh, restore**

**22-24 May 2026 (Fri-Sun)  
with Scargill Community**

**Phew! Just when you thought you couldn't go on, along comes a weekend at Scargill designed just for you! Drop everything and book in for a rest and a treat. The community would love to look after you and make your time with us enjoyable and fruitful.**

**Worship and teaching will be optional: do as much or as little as suits you. We will also celebrate Pentecost this weekend – a chance to touch base with joy and receive a blessing.**

**To book, go to:-**

**<https://scargillmovement.org/visitevent/renew-refresh-restore-pentecost/>**

**£174.50**

**House full board**

### **Living Waters**

**22-24 May 2026 (Fri-Sun)  
with Naomi Heywood**

**An outdoor retreat – gentle water-themed walks in the Wharfe Valley will provide you space and time to reflect with God. Connect with the Creator through His creation and develop your ability to hear God to speak into your life through your everyday experiences. Walks will be fairly easy but footpaths may be uneven in places.**

**Naomi Heywood is a freelance Mountain Leader who loves the way God reveals Himself through His world. You can get a taste for her retreats by exploring [@walkthewalk\\_retreats](#) on Instagram.**

**Further information from Naomi:**

**An outdoor retreat – gentle water-themed walks in the Wharfe Valley will provide you space and time to reflect with God.**

**Connect with the Creator through His creation. The exact programme will depend on our group and the weather, but riverside, waterfalls, reservoirs and possibly even stepping stones are all options as we explore together what Jesus meant when he declared that if we believe in Him then streams of living water will well up within us (John 7:38). Walks are likely to be 4-5 miles long, and won't include much ascent. All walks offered are optional, and are designed to be accessible to people of an average level of fitness.**

**Hear God's voice: come away and develop your ability to hear God to speak into your life through your everyday experiences. We will take time out on our walks to reflect on our environment and our experiences. A retreat room with prayer stations, reflections and other ways to spend time with God will also be available throughout the retreat.**

**Naomi Heywood is a fulltime freelance Mountain Leader who loves the way God reveals Himself through His world. You can get a taste for her retreats by exploring [@walkthewalk\\_retreats](#) on Instagram.**

**\*My prayer for you as you set time aside for retreat in the beautiful surrounds of Scargill is that not only will you receive the refreshment and inspiration from God that will reenergise your return to everyday life, but that you will also look forward to hearing Him in and amongst the more mundane moments and environments of your 'normal'!**

**To book go to:-**

**<https://scargillmovement.org/visitevent/living-waters/>**

**£174.50**

**House full board**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
**SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026 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 2025. 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 form 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. Three members have reached the end of their term of office and may be re-elected. In total there are six vacancies – two vacancies for two years, 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 2026-2029) and are automatically members of the PCC. One member has reached the end of their term of office and may be re-elected. 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 2025, 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.

C F 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>

## **YOUR PCC NEEDS YOU**

**Encouragement from  
existing PCC members:-**



A PCC member is similar to being a shareholder of a company, (without the remuneration). PCC members make decisions on how the church is run and it gives a person an insight into a wide range of topics on which decisions have to be made. They include financial affairs, when the lightning conductors have to be checked, maintenance of church buildings, church service patterns and many more.

It is not time consuming as we only meet about 5 or 6 times each year, sometimes there are similarities to “the Vicar of Dibley” at times, we don't always agree but generally we conduct business in a civilised and courteous manner, respectful of each other's opinions and views. There is an urgent need for fresh members, maybe younger members who wish to guide the Thurstaston and Irby parishes to grow God's church and swell our churches again.

You may not have done this before, but it is very rewarding and you will be guided by those around you. If you feel you have the skills or want to learn more, please contact any PCC member to discuss what is involved.

**Malcolm Studholme**

I have been a member of the PCC for over 15 years, and I thoroughly enjoy the experience. Of course, it was with some trepidation when first joining; I thought it would be extremely serious and quite “highbrow” and thus I questioned my abilities, and what I would be able to offer. However, of course the meetings do have a serious element to them, after all it is the operation of the church that we review and decide upon, but there is an excellent camaraderie between the members and everyone’s opinion matters and is listened to. There are the sub-committees that people are invited to attend that have themes, such as finance, and peoples’ skills set are matched towards these. The sub committees report into the main PCC and can influence the decisions made there.

Do I make this sound very time consuming and particularly demanding? It isn’t, but I find being a PCC member both very informative and enjoyable. Please do join us if you are able.

**Janet Trigg**

### **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**

### **Deanery Synod member**

Like quite a lot of the language used within the Church of England, Deanery Synod sounds rather arcane and may therefore discourage you from wanting to be part of it. However, all it is in fact is a grouping of parishes within a particular geographical area. Thurstaston belongs to the Wirral North Deanery and the synod usually meets three times a year, in different churches in the area.

It gives people from the different parishes an opportunity to meet, to participate in a short act of worship together and to discuss various issues affecting the local parishes, as well as the broader Church. There is nearly always an outside speaker who gives a presentation that leads into questions and general discussion. It’s a valuable way of picking up ideas which can be tried out in our own parish, but it’s also reassuring to know that we are part of a much bigger church family and that we are able to give each other encouragement. Meetings are open to any parishioner to attend, so, if you would like to find out more, don’t hesitate to have a word with me. If you are interested in becoming a Deanery Synod representative it involves attending the three synod meetings and automatically becoming a PCC Member which involves six meetings per annum.

**Chris Smale**

## Could you help with making Gift Aid Claims on behalf of the Church Council

We are looking for someone who can take over the Thurstaston PCC Gift Aid Secretary position from Chris Turnbull who says:-



I have been making gift aid and GASDS (gift aid small donations scheme) claims on behalf of Thurstaston PCC since 2014. Due to my health concerns it maybe that before long I become unable to continue as gift aid secretary and it is my intention to stand down in the tax year 2026-2027.

Someone who can take over is essential as **in the past the income to the PCC from this work amounts to about £10000 per annum** - though this will reduce considerably as fortunately joining the parish giving scheme (see page 22) has meant that most Gift Aid claims are handled directly by them, thereby reducing the number of gift aid claims the gift aid secretary has to make. I would help to train up someone who is not up to date with gift aid and GASDS.

This is a volunteer role and we would need the person to be willing to complete a Basic DBS check as part of the recruitment process.

There is a job description available.

Please contact Chris for an informal conversation if you want to know more.

[turnbullcj@gmail.com](mailto:turnbullcj@gmail.com) Or 07768 636 202

## 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 eg 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.

## Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. **And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one** that transported her was probably there at the birth; where else would it have been?



On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the King of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled **Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.**

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

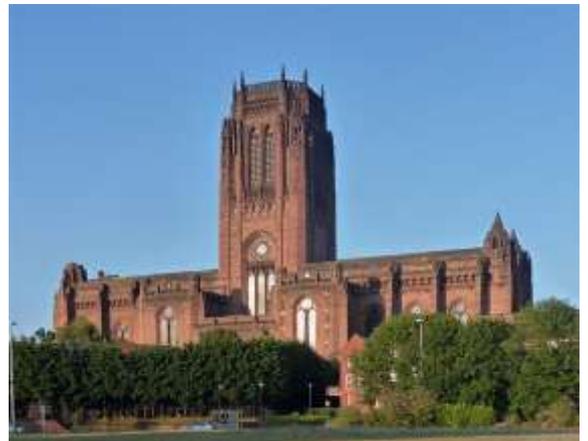
The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

## Ruths Reflections

Hello everyone, at last the weather seems to have picked up a bit! I haven't been able to get out in the garden yet but I plan to try and jet wash my patio later today, it has started to turn a rather nasty shade of green! Various plants have started to grow and bloom, especially the daffodils. Aren't the various patches of them around Irby glorious and really gives a glimpse of things to come

I have been very busy lately, I had a big birthday a couple of weeks ago, and the celebrations tended to go on for about 3 weeks! I am now having to address the inevitable weight gain. My family and I went to The Ivy in Liverpool on my actual birthday for Lunch. we had a lovely time, the food was superb and the atmosphere there was wonderful. I had a few other meals out with friends, some of whom had birthdays at a similar date to mine. My sister came up for a few days as well which was great as it is not often that the whole family can get together. Now everything is over life does seem rather quiet!

I have been out with the W.I., last week we went on a guided tour of Liverpool Cathedral. I have been there many times, when I was a student it was my Parish Church and I often went to the Sunday service there, but it was really interesting to learn more of the history of the building. We have a list of monthly outings for the rest of the year and I am looking forward to going on them. Being in The W.I. does have enormous benefits especially if you are on your own.



I have been ringing , as usual, but I have to admit I am finding it more difficult as I get older, but as long as I can get up the Tower steps I will keep going.

Well, I can't think of anything else to write about, so I will say Goodbye. Take care and stay safe everyone..

Ruth

## Debt Awareness Week 2026 – 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Everybody seems to be in debt these days, from households across the UK, right up to the public sector.

Our household debt is a burden to us. As of April 2024, the total debt per household (including mortgages) averaged £65,143. Many households struggle with 'problem debt', ominously relying more and more on credit cards and payday loans to simply meet essential living expenses. This bleak situation, often called a 'debt trap', can ruin lives.

At the same time, our national public debt is at record levels and rising. According to Goldman Sachs, it now stands at 101% of GDP. At the end of 2024, our national debt was the third highest of European countries. And high interest rates and inflation have only increased the cost of servicing this enormous debt, which in turn puts pressure on public finances.

While the government struggles, hundreds of thousands of households are seeking personal help. Debt advice charities like StepChange, Citizens Advice and CAP (Christians Against Poverty) have reported a record-high demand for help. The strain of living with unmanageable debt can affect your mental health, reduce your productivity, and increase your reliance on public services.

**So this year's Debt Awareness Week will encourage people to not be ashamed of their debt, but instead to seek free, confidential, and professional advice on dealing with it.**

More info at:

CAP - <https://capuk.org>

Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

StepChange - <https://www.stepchange.org/debt-awareness-week.aspx>



To All of Muriel's friends at Church.

Church and 'her Church family' meant a great deal to Muriel.

Thank you for supporting her in so many different ways over the years.

Thank you for coming to the funeral if you were able to join us. It was lovely meeting you all and putting faces to the names that we have heard over the years.

Love and best wishes,

Adele, Alastair and Alicia

x

## Social Events

**Saturday 7th March  
2-4pm, St Chads Hall**



**Coffee afternoon in aid of  
Celandine Wood and Leprosy Mission**

**Friday 20th March  
7.30pm, St Chads Hall**

**The  
Samaritans**

**Listening  
without  
judgement**



**\*Thursday 16th April Bodnant Gardens and Betws-y-coed**  
[timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8428-bodnant-gardens-and-betws-y-coed](http://timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8428-bodnant-gardens-and-betws-y-coed)

**\*Saturday 25th April Harrogate Spring Flower Show**  
[timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8358-harrogate-flower-show](http://timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8358-harrogate-flower-show)

\* These are both day trips with "Timewells" to book your place call 0151 526 3209 or [www.timewells.co.uk](http://www.timewells.co.uk), pick up is from Hamilton Square. Can you let Julie know if you have booked on and she can possibly arrange lifts to Hamilton Square

The **Earth Hour 2026** takes place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>



## Reflected Faith Series: Togetherness

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; soon we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Such a relatively short time for so great a distance. I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services:

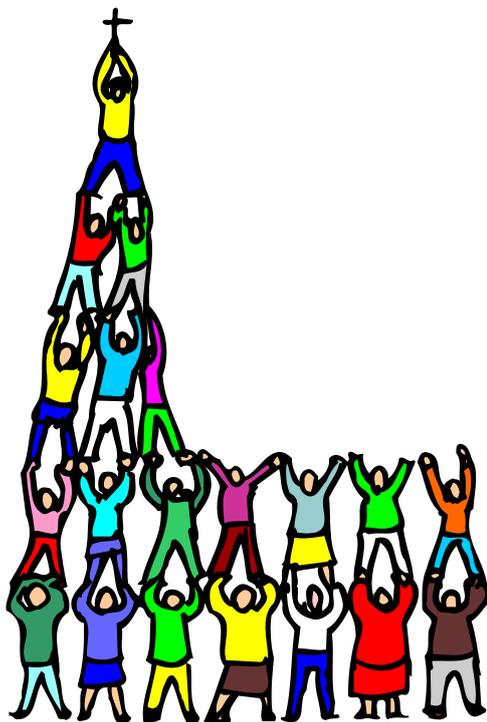
*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life.*

It's all about togetherness. Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' Church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally it will be a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

*This month*

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging.



We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows.

It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Eastertide!

## God in the Sciences: A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science



When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

## God in the Arts

**This month we visit St Nicholas' Church, Compton in Surrey. It is a very fine building with an unusual double sanctuary on two floors at the east end.**

Our eyes look up to see a gallery and an altar, and then at ground level is another altar surrounded by a glorious Norman arch with Jacobean railings and kneelers. As we enter this church, we realise with T S Eliot in *Little Gidding* **that we are here 'to kneel where prayer has been valid.'**

With the liturgical reform of the last century, it is customary in many churches to stand to receive Holy Communion. Sitting and standing seem the norms now for worship, in spite of all the beautifully embroidered kneelers that many churches boast. But open the *Book of Common Prayer*, and there is a multitude of rubrics on kneeling, whenever people gather for services. It is a posture that takes us **back to those vivid images of Jesus praying on His knees in St Luke's Gospel, Peter kneeling to pray in Lydda, and the people kneeling on the beach with Paul in Acts 21.**

The Psalmist invites us to kneel before the Lord our Maker, and Paul wrote to **the Philippians, 'At the name of Jesus every knee should bend.'** **As we kneel** at the Jacobean railings of St Nicholas, Compton or in our own churches, we are heirs to that tradition.

Cranmer in the Prayer Book said that kneeling was a sign of gratitude for benefits received. But it is more than that. Buildings like Compton church bring us to our knees quite



## What's the Big Idea? March

### An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament : Jeremiah

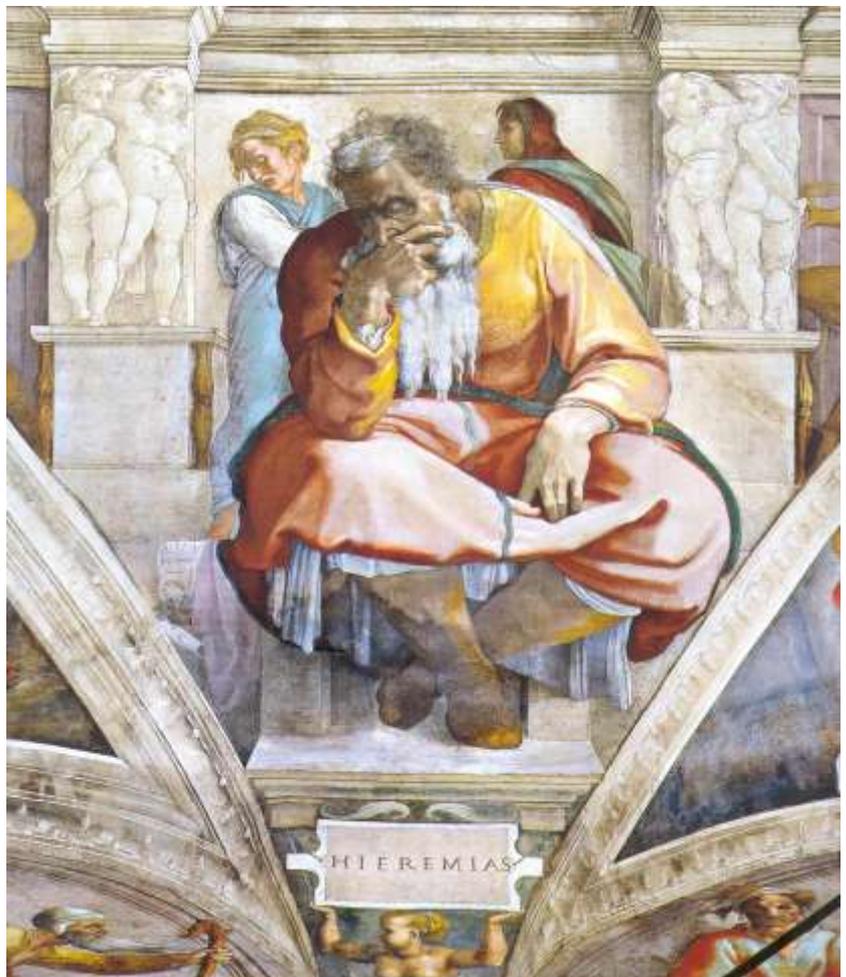
Jeremiah is described as *'a true, honest, and God-revealing companion for the worst of times.'* (Eugene Peterson). He was a priest from the village of Anathoth, near Jerusalem. His ministry to Judah began in 626 B.C. and continued until after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Jeremiah brought a message of judgment and hope: *'See, I have set you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.'* (1:10).

During Jeremiah's ministry, Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13). They claimed to be God's people, yet they refused to heed God's word by refusing to be corrected and following false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear. Therefore, Jeremiah was the prophet of judgement. He called Judah to repent, but they refused (6:16-17). However, he also brought a message of hope. He preached that they should trust God (9:23-24) and that a faithful remnant would be restored to the land (23:3; 31:7-9).

Jeremiah was a reluctant prophet, who felt compelled to speak God's word (20:9). His life was characterised by sorrow, *'O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me.'* (8: 18). His people continually refused to listen to him, rewarding his labour with rejection and persecution.

Much of Jeremiah's message remains relevant today, because we still fall into idolatry, whether it is wealth, talents or social standing. Sin requires repentance and restoration; obedience brings blessings and joy with it. However, Jeremiah also points to Christ, as the one who makes this possible. He showed great compassion for His people and shed tears for them. He suffered their ingratitude, but still forgave them.



## The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

*'Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.'* (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at *anger* (or *wrath*).

It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: *'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.'* (Matt 5:22).



Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such *righteous anger* is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance.

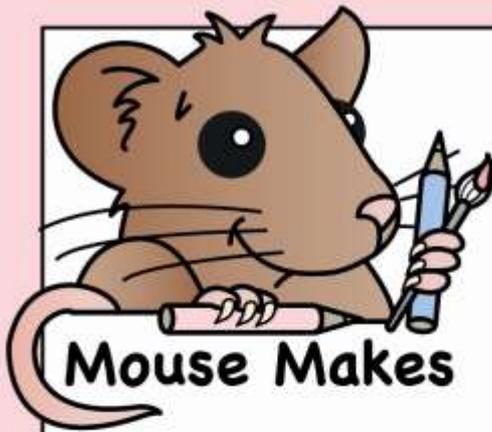
However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: *'In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.'* (Ephesians 4:26,27). What practical steps can we take to do this?

**Acknowledge your anger:** What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings, like fear, inadequacy or the desire to control.

**Control your anger:** Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19,20).

**Seek to forgive:** Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or holding grudges, will enable us to overcoming anger: *'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.'* (Colossians 3:12,13). Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.

*'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing'* (Will Rogers).



The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

A crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are placed in the top-left corner of the starting squares for each word.

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?  
Genesis 17:19



**Across**

- 3. **Obed's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 4. **John's** mother  
*Luke 1:57-60*
- 7. **Reuben's** mother  
*Genesis 29:32*
- 8. **Joseph's** mother  
*Genesis 30:22-24*
- 9. **Jesus'** mother  
*Acts 1:14*

**Down**

- 1. **Boaz's** mother  
*Matthew 1:5*
- 2. **Solomon's** mother  
*1 Kings 1:11*
- 4. **Timothy's** mother  
*2 Timothy 1:5*
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother  
*Genesis 16:15*
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother  
*Genesis 25:21-26*

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?  
*Genesis 4:1-2*



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

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## Love and serve one another

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to his disciples before his death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed his disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy  
Thursday  
Final  
Command  
Jesus  
Disciples  
Death  
Last  
Supper  
Washed  
Feet  
Astonishing  
Purpose  
Teacher  
As  
Loved  
you  
Must  
One  
Another  
Service  
Domination  
Latin  
Ceremony  
Medieval  
Humility  
Obedience

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

## 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

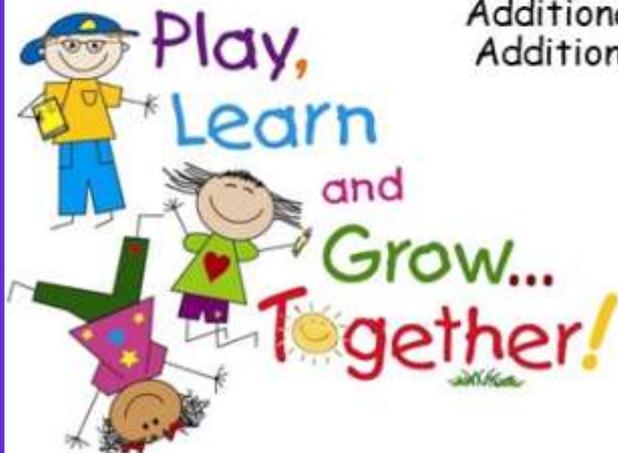
St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

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  
24th March 2026**

***Riding for the Disabled***



**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/>



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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](mailto: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!**

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[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby](http://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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If you would like to purchase advertising space  
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St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or  
**E-mail: [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)

### Churchwardens

Vacant

[churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Curate

Revd Gaynor Kydd

[revdgaynor@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:revdgaynor@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Associate Minister

Revd Ailsa Whorton CF

(Chaplain to the Forces, Army).

[revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk)

### PCC Treasurer

Vacant

[pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Team

Peter & Karen Robson and Janet Trigg

[safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk)

**648 6691**

### Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

**648 8169**

### St Chad's Hall Booking

[hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto: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

**07599286893**

### Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://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**

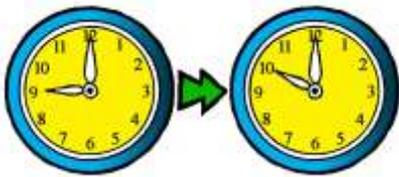
## Baptisms and Weddings

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 2026 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

- Sun 1st March**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 8th March**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am All Age at St Chad's
- Sun 15th March**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
**Mothers' Sunday**      10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 22nd March**      9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's  
with Junior Church



Don't forget the clocks go forward at 1.00am on Sunday 29th March

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- Sunday 29th March      **PALM SUNDAY**  
9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's
- Thursday 2nd April      **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
7.00pm Communion at St Chad's
- Friday 3rd April      **GOOD FRIDAY**  
10.00-11.00 MESSY EASTER at St Chad's  
- crafts for children and their families,  
with Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Egg Hunt  
FREE - but you will need to book a place so we  
have enough crafts and treats to go around.
- 2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" at St Bartholomew's
- Sunday 5th April      **EASTER DAY**  
9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's