

Crosstalk


60p



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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

November 2022



**Lord God,
our refuge and strength,
bring near the day
when wars cease,
suffering and pain end
and all the earth knows
the peace of heaven.**

St Bartholomew and St Chad takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

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

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

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Diary Dates

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



Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

30 years since the C of E said 'yes' to women priests

Thirty years ago, on 11th November 1992, the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests. The first women were ordained in March 1994.

This combined with my own 25th Anniversary of ordination as a priest back in June has led me to reflect on how God works in our lives.

As a teenager, I was adamant that women should not be ordained priest. Then in my early twenties I felt God's calling on my life. I wasn't sure exactly what God was asking me to do, but I knew it meant giving up my job as a computer programmer and that I was called to full time ministry. I spoke with my vicar and we explored many options, including missionary work overseas - "but I have never been abroad and I have no desire to go abroad so this doesn't feel right!". In the end I applied to the Church Army (<https://churcharmy.org/>). I had already done several Church Army beach missions in Blackpool and enjoyed telling people about Jesus. With the help of the diocesan vocations advisor, whilst I was going through the Church Army selection process, that I was enabled to stop and think about what it meant to be a woman in ministry, and why did my theology allow me to be a church army sister, but not a priest. Towards the end of the selection conference for the Church Army, I was asked the question "Why the Church Army" to which my reply was something like "I'm not sure, I think God is actually calling me to Ordination but has had to lead me through this route in order to help me to hear and understand that".

God is gentle in his calling, and we need to be ready to listen for his voice even when our response is "God, I think you are saying this, but that is simply not possible" - which was exactly me response when I felt called to Ordination before it was possible!

As we move into Advent and Christmas, we will hear again afresh the words of Mary to the angel "How can this be?" and Mary's response "Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word"

The Bible is also littered with people who on hearing God's call came up with excuses ranging from "I'm too old" to "I'm too young". Moses (Exodus chapters 3 and 4) came up with five different excuses:-

- I'm not good enough
- I don't have all the answers
- People won't believe me
- I'm a terrible public speaker
- I'm not qualified

And yet God called him and gently led him and provided people to be alongside him.

Is God asking you to step out of your comfort zone and do something new for him?

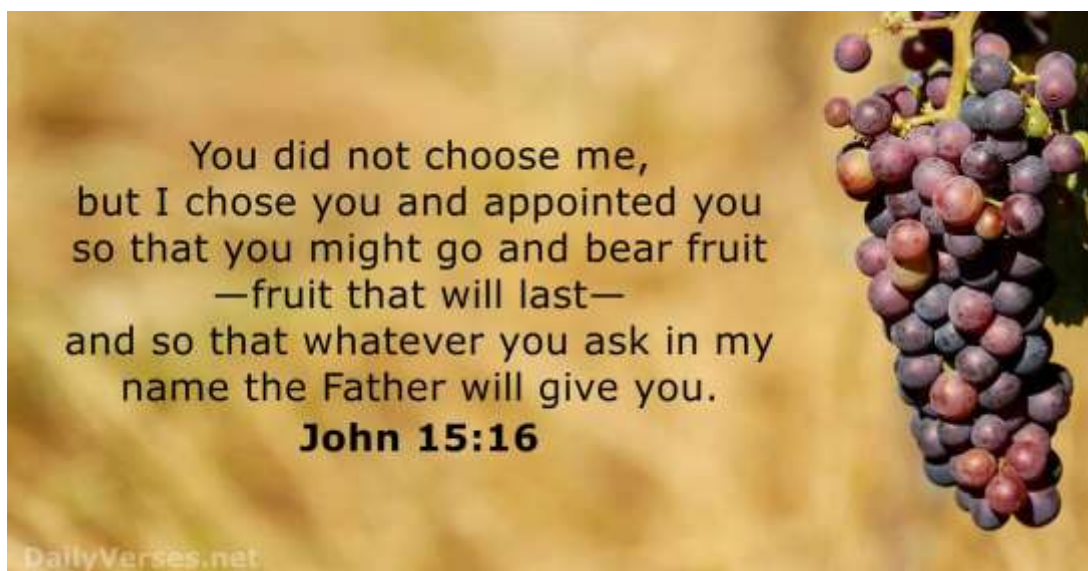
The diocesan website

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/ministry/having-a-vocation/>

has some videos of people who have discovered their vocation as an artist, a poet, in bereavement support, in hospitality, as a youth worker and more.

Not everyone is called to "recognized" ministry, but every baptized Christian is called to play a part in the mission of the church and to live out our faith where we are, serving God in the world and the church.

If you would like to explore your vocation, whether locally in our church, or nationally or globally, then feel free to make contact and I'd love to chat with you and help you discover what God is calling you to do, in the same way that others did for me.



God Bless

Revd Jane

Christmas Fair

Saturday

19th November

1pm – 3.30 pm

St Chads, Roslin Rd

Christmas goodies

Tea and cakes



CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday 19th
November 1pm to 3.30pm



We all enjoyed the Christmas Coffee Morning last year as we crept back to some normality. This year I have planned a similar but slightly bigger event.

In the hall will be independent stalls. At the time of writing, Claire House Christmas Cards, Bodyshop Toiletries, W.I. Christmas goodies, Maralyn's Christmas Makes, Dilys' Christmas Crafts and Cheryl's Christmas goods. Church will be running a refreshments, cake stall, book stall and a raffle.

In the extension will be Children's games and crafts.

At this stage the Guides are serving refreshments, so I need volunteers to help on the Raffle, Cakes, Books, Children's games/crafts and volunteers to help set up and clear away. I also need donations of Raffle prizes, cuddly toys and cakes.

If you can help please let me know, THANKS

Julie

Tel: 07599186893

Email : jules2121jule@gmail.com

Autumn



He arrives in a coat of many colours,
Flame, gold, russet and brown,
Autumn appears with dancing feet
Crunching on leaves the wind has blown down.

Rustling and bustling, friend with the wind,
Whistling and blowing and whooshing around,
Creating a carpet of multiple colours,
Teasing the leaves as they fall to the ground.

Mellowing fruits and ripening corn,
Autumn's bounty for us to share,
Our God of provision, providing, sustaining
Whatever the season, His presence is near.

By Megan Carter

November is a wistful month, tinged with sadness and good-byes. The last of the leaves are falling, as the trees go to sleep for winter. It is a month of remembrance, of poppies, of remembering lost loved ones, and of letting go. It is a month of bonfires for the 'Guy', and Thanksgiving for Americans. It is a month of remembering Saints and looking forward to triumph - the church year ends with the joyful Sunday of Christ the King. And then Advent begins...looking forward to a very special Baby!

poppies
remembrance
courage
bravery
flanders

dead
guns
war
peace
afghanistan

iraq
thanksgiving
turkey
all
saints

advent
leaves
sadness
angel
mary

elizabeth
bonfire
gunpowder
guy





Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets:-
One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)

Next event:

Thursday 17th November 8pm: "Little Eye Photography" with
Roger Ellison. Back by popular demand in time for
Christmas

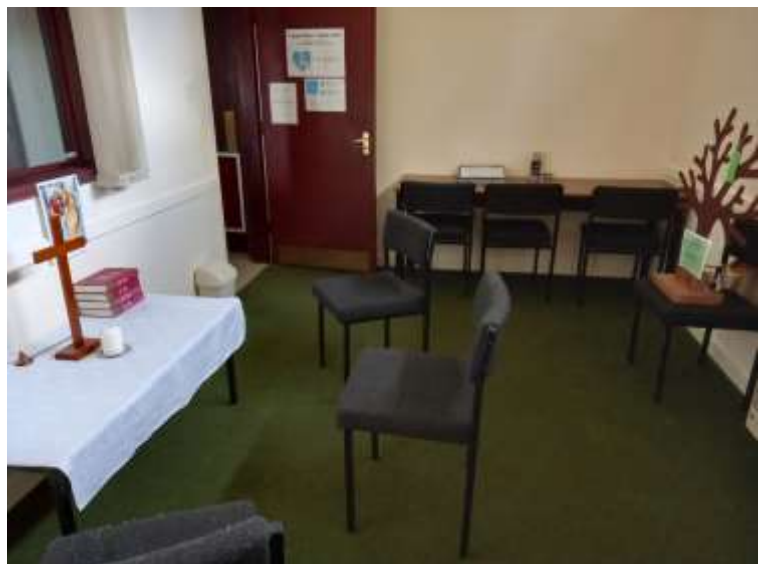
All Welcome, members, non members, family & friends

Prayer Room at St Chad's

This space has been created for anyone to use for prayer.
You are welcome to drop in whenever the parish office is open
(usually Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings).

Revd Jane will be saying morning
prayer usually on Monday;
Wednesday and Friday mornings
at 9.00am and you are welcome to
join her.

Community groups using the hall
will also have access to this
space.



Reflecting Faith: Initials That Talk Our Faith Language

We have started to see the new King's cypher on a variety of items, including post boxes. Look at the way 'they' have entwined the letters C R and the Latin numeral III.

Now think about what you so often see in church buildings - letters entwined together. These are either from the Latin or the Greek languages.

Here's a starter for you:

XP – often joined together so the P is standing halfway behind the X.
This symbol - called the chi rho symbol - was used from earliest times and was often simplified into a six-pointed figure. You can see it on some silver spoons found at Mildenhall, and now in the British Museum dating from about 350 AD.

'X' called 'chi' in Greek is said 'Kh' as in khaki. 'P' called 'rho' in Greek is said 'r'. If you put the two together what do they sound like? Khr

What word connected with being a Christian starts with that sound? Of course – Christ. The original Greek would be 'Christoe'.

Another common set of initials often seen on altar linen and probably the most misunderstood is 'IHC'.

People often suggest it comes from the Latin 'Jesus Hominum Salvator' meaning, 'Jesus, Saviour of the World', or even the English 'In His Service'. But they don't. They are the first three letters of the Greek for JESUS - which in Greek was IHCOYC.

It doesn't help that Greek has two ways of writing the sound 's' as in the middle of Jesus. It can be either a 'C' or what looks like a rather stylised 'E'.

To confuse you more, when you translate the Greek letters IHC into Latin they come out as 'IHS'. So you can see both spellings that mean the same thing.

This month

Have a look around your church building – both inside and outside for initials or even whole words. Would knowing what they represent aid you in your worship, and how much do they reflect your faith?



Christian Basics No 11: How Does God Guide Us?

We are all faced with daily decisions about our jobs, future, money, relationships etc. Yet God promises to guide those who listen to Him: *'My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.'* (John 10:27). There are five key aspects of hearing God's voice.

1. Scripture:

The primary way God guides us is through the Bible: *'Your word is lamp for my feet, and a light on my path'* (Psalm 119: 105). The Scriptures give us general guidance for life eg whether to pay taxes, give or forgive others, as well as what to do in particular situations.

2. Holy Spirit:

'And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem' (Acts 20:22). The Holy Spirit helps us to hear God's voice through Scripture, prayer or pictures, and also by prompting us in particular situations.

3. Common Sense:

We must not abandon common sense: *'Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this'* (2 Tim. 2:7). In making most decisions, God uses our thinking about what to do. *'God's promises of guidance were not given to save us the problem of thinking'* (John Stott).

4. Wise Advice:

'Make plans by seeking advice' (Proverbs 20:18). Although we're responsible for decision making, it's good to talk to others about the choices we are making.

5. Circumstances:

God also guides us through circumstances, *'In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps'* (Proverbs 16:9). He will open or close doors in particular circumstances.

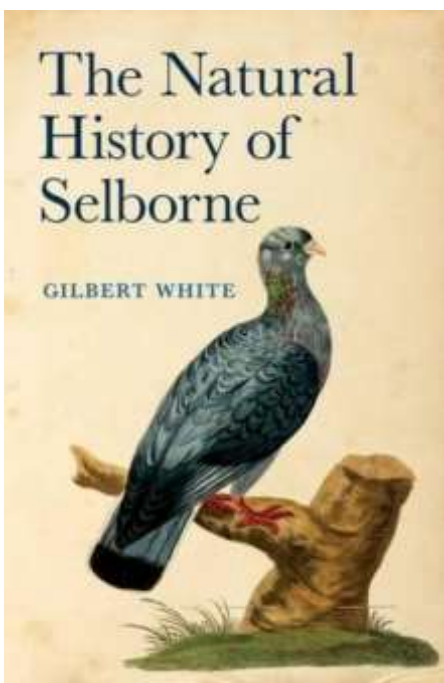
We won't always get it right, but God can include our mistakes in his bigger plan: *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'* (Romans 8:28).



GOD IN THE SCIENCES: – .Wonder and Worship

“I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea”.

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.



White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to “pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation”. His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White’s book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there’s even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it’s easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them” (NIV).

*(White’s book can be downloaded for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)

GOD IN THE ARTS : Thank you, Lord, for food to eat

There is a character in a Russian novel who says, 'Ladies and gentlemen, let us assume that man is not stupid...but if he isn't stupid, he is monstrously ungrateful all the same – a creature that has two legs and no sense of gratitude.' That is certainly true in a world where carping and criticising come more easily than praise and thanksgiving. It is an attitude which rubs off on all of us, and is like Aesop's fable of the donkey, who was never happy with his lot, whatever the weather, whatever the season.

Aesop told the story to remind us of the need to cultivate a spirit of gratitude – not to put blinkers on our eyes and be negative about life, but to open both eyes and hearts in thanksgiving for the world in which we live. We do that each time we celebrate the eucharist together. We do it when we say grace before meals. This month's painting, 'An Old Woman Saying Grace' by Nicholas Maes brings this truth to mind.

Maes was a pupil of Rembrandt and he lived from 1632 to 1693. He spent most of his life in Dordrecht in Holland, and, apart from portraits, he delighted in painting women – women spinning or reading the Bible or preparing meals. Here the woman is sitting down to a simple meal of soup, bread, butter and fish. But before she enjoys this food, she puts her hands together and, as simply as the food in front of her, mouths a prayer of thanks to God.

The artist tells us that this offering of prayer was a daily pattern for the woman. For on the ledge at her side lie an open Bible, a lamp and an hour-glass, and on a nail some keys. Signs that such prayer can be a light to illuminate the days of our lives and the key to open our hearts to the kingdom, just like the woman in the painting.

It is a tender moment, both concentrated and intimate. At first glance, there is a tinge of sadness for the table is set just for her. She will eat alone. And then our eyes catch sight of the cat's paw reaching up to enjoy the food as well. Who knows? – something may spill over the edge of the table for the cat to enjoy. Simplicity and humour go hand in hand to remind us all of the need to be thankful. And thankfulness for food can spill over into thanksgiving for all the mercies and gifts that come our way in life.



Thinking of Guy Fawkes

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Guy Fawkes Night used to be much more popular than it is now, and many homes had bonfire parties and made 'Guys'. Until the 19th century the law even said that you had to go to church on that day for a special service, and no doubt the day ended with bonfires and celebration.

The Observance of 5th November Act 1605 was also known as the Thanksgiving Act, as it was a response to the deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot. It required church ministers to hold a special service of thanksgiving annually on 5th November, during which the act was to be read out loud in church. The act required that all "Ministers in every Cathedral and Parish Church... shall always upon the fifth Day of November have a service which all persons had to "diligently and faithfully" attend.

The introduction to the act described the "inhuman, barbarous and cruel" terrorist plot to murder the king and his government, which was prevented by the miraculous discovery just in time. The legislation said the country should always be thankful and have a "joyful day of deliverance".

The law was repealed on 25th March 1859 by the Anniversary Days Observance Act, when other special commemorative days dating from the Seventeenth Century were also being abolished. People probably wanted to move away from some of these commemorations which were anti-Roman Catholic.

Thankfully we live in a more tolerant era, but sadly, are we less grateful for our blessings? How often do we have thanksgiving services in church? Now, more than ever, we need to pray for our nation and show our gratitude for the many blessings God has given us and our nation.

**Brother Andrew,
the founder of Open Doors,
died on 27th September, aged 94.**

Famous around the world as 'God's smuggler', he began his ministry in 1957 by smuggling Bibles across the Iron Curtain in a blue Volkswagen Beetle. That trip was the beginning of Open Doors which, more than 65 years later, is now supporting persecuted Christians around the world.

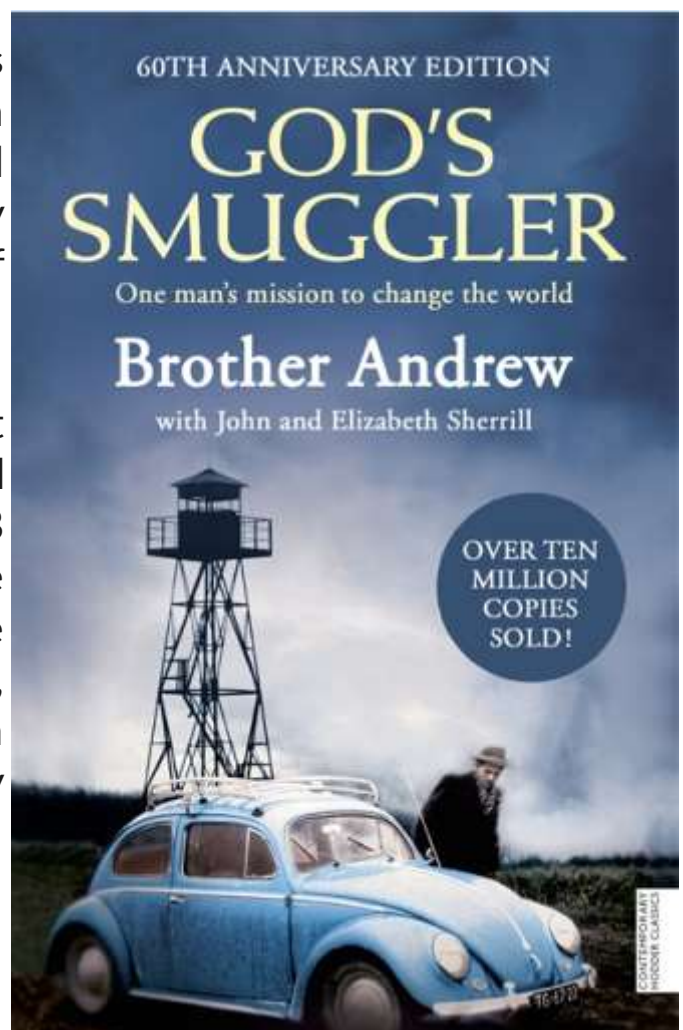
The remarkable story of his Bible 'smuggling' was told in his best-selling autobiography *God's Smuggler*.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Brother Andrew turned his attention to the Islamic World, saying that the rapid spread of Islam posed the greatest challenge yet to the Christian church worldwide. He travelled to the Middle East and South Asia and had private meetings with leaders of several Islamic fundamentalist groups. However, Brother Andrew preached against retaliation – repeatedly declaring 'I sincerely love all Muslims' as a counter to the rising Islamophobia in the west.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands knighted Brother Andrew in 1993. In 1997, he received the World Evangelical Alliance's Religious Liberty Award, recognising his lifetime of service to suffering Christians.

But Open Doors UK reveals that "perhaps the recognition that pleased him most was the copies of KGB reports, which he obtained after the fall of the Iron Curtain. There were more than 150 pages about him, detailing his work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Despite this, they were still unable to stop his work."

More at www.opendoorsuk.org.





THE COMING OF A KING

The birth of Jesus is fortold



God sent a messenger to Mary
What was the angel's name?

— — — — —
Luke 1:26-28

Mary was frightened,
what did the angel say?
Luke 1:30

What was Mary to
name her child?

— — — — —
Luke 1:31

What is her son
going to be?
Luke 1:32-33



READ
the story
in *Luke*
1:26-55



What does the angel
say about God?
Luke 1:37
(LEARN this verse)

Mary praises God, what does
she say God has done?
Luke 1:46-55



Find the words
in the word
search and
the ___
words too.



What happened
to Elizabeth
when Mary
went to
visit her?
Luke 1:41



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

ANGEL • MESSAGE • GOD • JOSEPH • MARY • BABY • SON • BORN
CHILD • THRONE • KING • REIGN • KINGDOM • HOLY SPIRIT • LORD
HOLY • WORD • ELIZABETH • BLESSED • SAVIOUR • REJOICE • PRAISE

Ruth's Reflections

Hello everyone. I have been silent lately and not written anything due to an extremely painful neck and shoulder. This meant I was unable to do hardly anything at all. Any movement caused severe pain so obviously I avoided any unnecessary movements. I couldn't even lift a cup of tea up with my right hand, doing house work impossible and getting dressed and trying to dry my hair reduced me to tears and I don't cry easily!

Physiotherapy helped a lot and an x-ray revealed the cause of the pain. Very strong painkillers from the GP have meant I can function again. I am so bored with daytime TV, although I am now an expert on Stonehenge and the Pyramids!

I have been out a bit, a few of us went to Erddig, we had a great day and the weather was perfect and I had a lovely day out with a friend in Chester with an excellent lunch in the Cathedral Refectory.

I am unable to ring at the moment although I still meet up with the ringers, I need the company and can manage to try and ring handbells.

I haven't managed to get to Church much. Getting up and dressed takes so long that I would have to get up very early to get to the 9.00 am service, which is the one I prefer. My conversations with God have increased during this time and have definitely been a comfort.

Luckily the garden hasn't needed much doing to it, having moved to somewhere with a small garden was definitely the right thing to do. I managed to weed the front and back, it took about 20 minutes! The lawn takes about 10 minutes, including the edges.

Well, enough of my moaning, I must admit I am getting quite good at it!

Take care and stay safe and warm, everyone.

Ruth.



We Remember

The Somme, Dunkirk and Passchendaele
Cause us to think of times of war,
When men and boys went bravely out
They fought, some died and returned no more.

They gave their all that we should live,
We never should forget such cost,
Remembering with thankful hearts
Our freedom gained as lives were lost.

Another Man gave up His life,
Another war, another fight,
With all mankind held fast in chains
As darkness fell as black as night.

The cost was high, a sinless life
To break the chains and set us free,
The Lamb of God on Calvary's cross
Paid that price for you, for me.

By Megan Carter



St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am
(Term Time Only)

£1.50 per child - All Welcome



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

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

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Birkenhead CH42 9PZ

On

October 4th and 18th

November 1st, 15th and 28th

Website www.wirraltalks.co.uk

All Welcome



*...love the new notice board, Vicar...
...just not quite so sure about the wording...*

Did you know.....

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact the Chair:

Alan McMahon, Text:07889 404917

Or Email: almac48@virginmedia.com

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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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.

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We also have a Twitter Feed:-

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www: <https://www.onlineestateagents.org.uk/>

I can't tell you how impressed my boyfriend and I were to buy our house through Alan at Open House in February. They offered such a personal and efficient service at what was such a busy time in our lives, having just had our baby daughter in December! They were understanding, flexible with viewings & their communication was excellent. We are enjoying our new house so much & Alan even gave have us a lovely bottle of champagne as a moving in present. Thanks again X"



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 envelope at the back of St Bart's.

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Vacant

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Revd Ray Dent

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Flower Guild (St Chad's)
Mrs Dawn Rudd

Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)
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Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)
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Mrs Julie Deboorder

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Freephone

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Christian Aid Representative
Vacant

Children's Society Representative
Mrs Jean Heath

Leprosy Mission Representative
Vacant

Adoption Society Representative
Mrs Chris Rostock

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.

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

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

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

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

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

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

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

November 2022 SERVICES

Morning Prayer St Chad's Prayer Room 9.00am MOST Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
(check with Revd Jane for cancellations due to other meetings or commitments)

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

- Sun 6th November** **9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**
 10.30am Communion at St Chad's
- Sun 13th November** **9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**
Remembrance **10.15am Traditional Service at St Barts**
 10.55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
 11.05am All-Age Service at St Barts
- Sun 20th November** **9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**
 10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
- Sun 27th November** **9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**
 10.30am Communion at St Chad's (with Junior Church)
- Sun 4th December** **9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's**
 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

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