

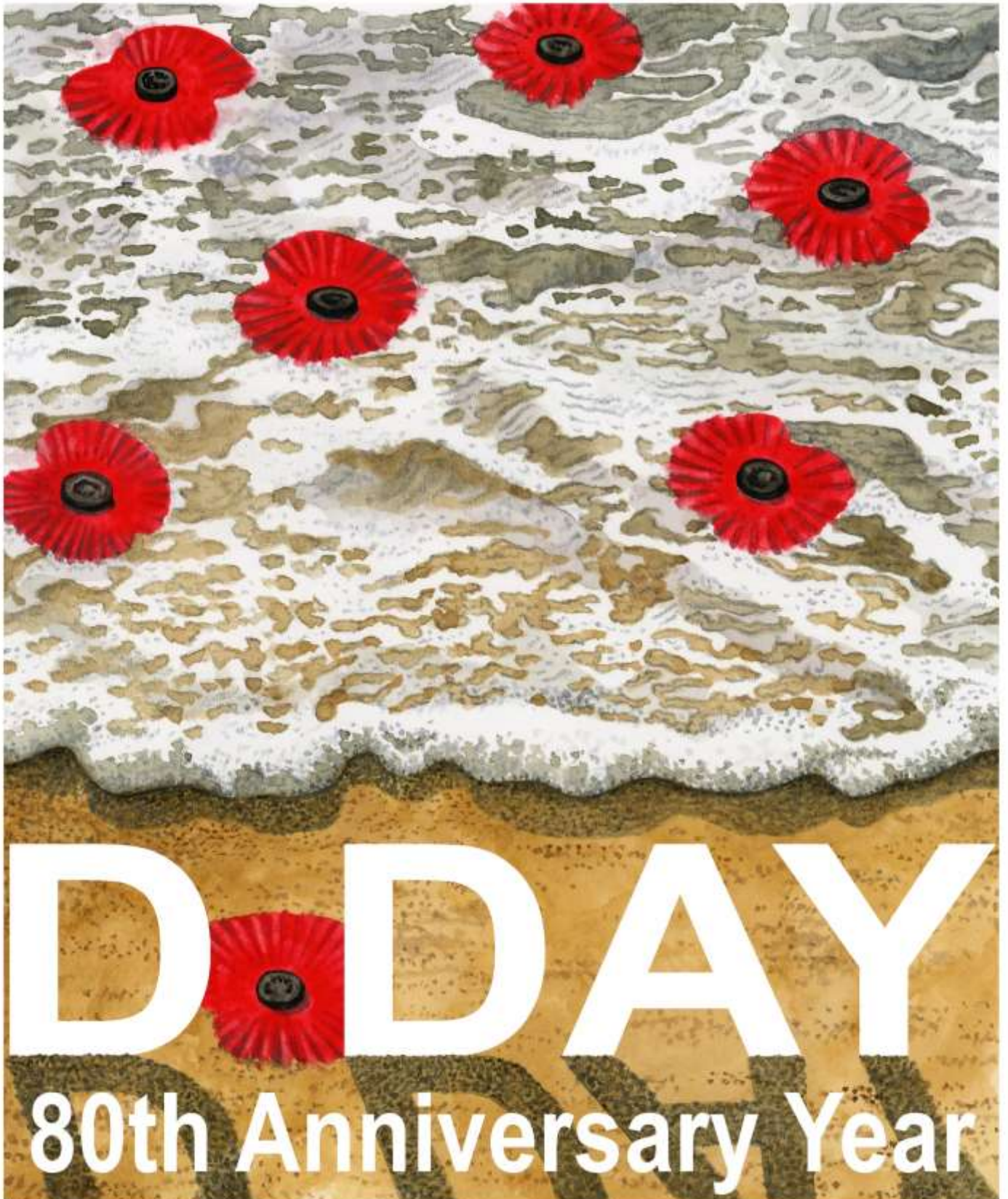
# Crosstalk 60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad  
[www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)



November 2024



## 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.

**The money for your donation should be given to the parish office.**

Your **cash or cheque** donation should be placed in an envelope with your contact details and the date that you have signed up for.

You can donate by **BACS transfer** (followed by email to the office stating the amount you have donated and the date that you have signed up for.) indicating that it is for the Flower Fund.

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**

27th October

Evelyn Florence Janet Creedon

### **Weddings**

### **Funerals**

## From Your Rector

John Lennon wrote: *'Imagine there's no countries, It isn't hard to do, Nothing to kill or die for And no religion too Imagine all the people living life in peace.'* But on Remembrance Sunday, we should reflect on war past and present and consider the real way to peace.

**The way of war:** *'What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill.'* (James 4:1-2). James reminds us that war has its basis in our own hearts, with the selfish desires that exploit, bully and kill others to get our own way. Sadly, when nations allow these inner selfish attitudes to determine their policy the result is war. Only God can establish true peace.

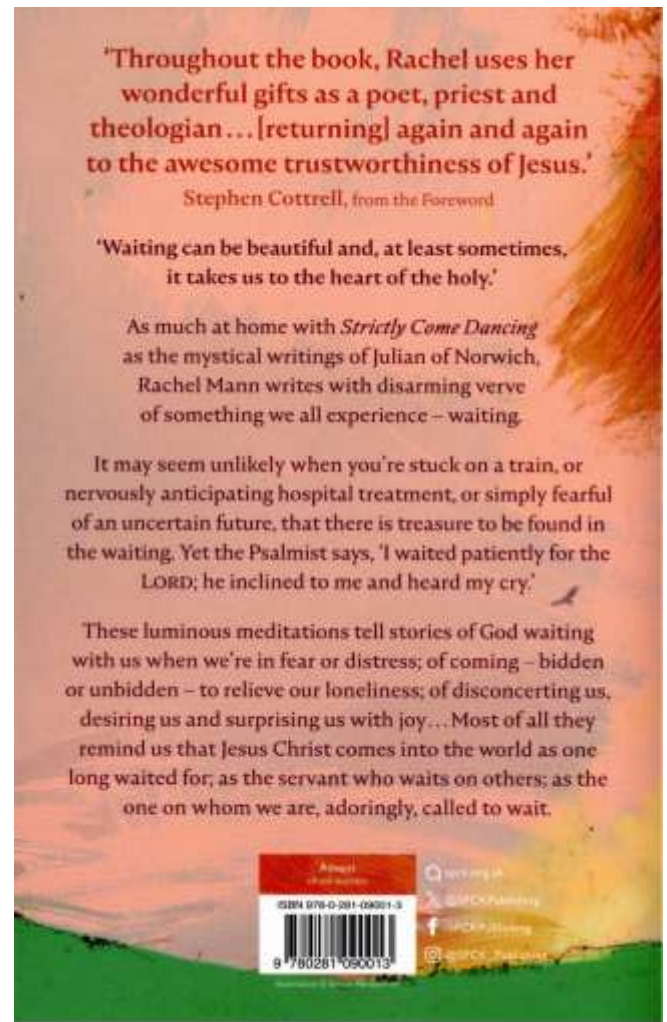
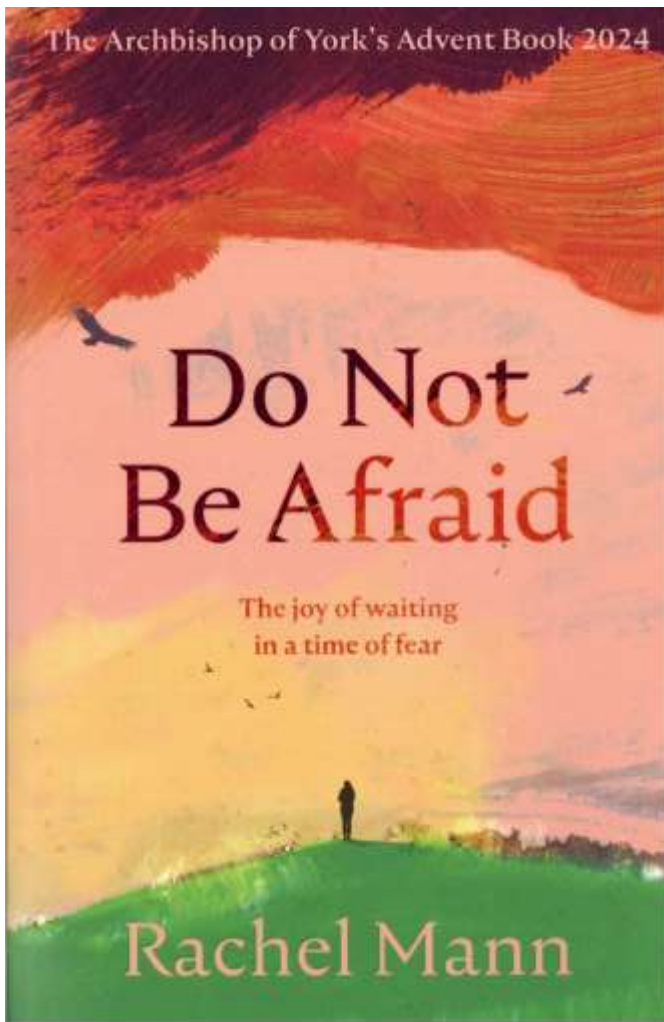
**The way of peace:** Isaiah, 2,700 years before John Lennon, also imagined a future of peace without any war: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Isaiah 2:4).

Only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring true peace to our lives and world. Jesus did not experience the horror of battle, but He did die an horrific death at the hand of the Romans. He gave His life sacrificially, as He took God's anger at our sin on Himself and went on to conquer death in His resurrection. He did this out of love for us and calls us to love others in the same way: *'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'* (John 15:13).

How can we demonstrate such love ourselves? We can be confident in God's plan to bring an end to all wars when Jesus returns.

Rev'd Jane





## A Book for Advent "Do Not be afraid" by Rachel Mann

ISBN:978-0-281-09001-3

Daily Readings from Advent Sunday (this year 1st December) until Christmas day. Why not treat yourself to a few minutes space each day in the busyness of December to stop and reflect?

If anyone would like the opportunity to discuss the book and hear reflections from others as they read it too, you would be welcome to join us at St Chad's on Wednesday's 7.30-9.00pm

4th Dec - to look at days 1-4  
11th Dec - to look at days 5-11  
18th Dec - to look at days 12-18

You should be able to purchase the book from any good bookshop - online or physical



## A message from Ailsa



### **Discovering Spiritual Renewal at Iona Abbey: A Retreat Experience**

#### **Iona, Scotland - October 2024**



Nestled off the west coast of Scotland, the island of Iona has long been a sacred haven for those seeking spiritual rejuvenation and connection with the divine. Known as the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland, Iona Abbey stands as a testament to centuries of faith, community, and reflection. The Iona Community, a movement dedicated to

promoting peace and social justice, invites you to join their community on retreat where the serene landscapes and rich spiritual heritage create the perfect environment for introspection and growth, and I took up this invitation last month to spend time with the community which allowed me to restore and refresh myself spiritually.

#### **The Iona Community: A Legacy of Faith and Action**

Founded in 1938, the Iona Community has devoted itself to making a tangible difference in the world. With its roots in the Christian tradition, the community seeks to live out the gospel through action, prayer, and shared life. Inspired by the monastic practices of early Celtic Christians, the Iona Community emphasises the importance of community living, sustainability, and inclusivity, welcoming individuals from all walks of life.

Retreats at Iona Abbey provide a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in this vibrant community, offering a blend of guided spiritual practice and personal reflection. Participants can engage in daily worship, explore the stunning island landscapes, and participate in meaningful discussions about faith and social justice. I loved being able to spend time with others as well as being alone; to take part in worship and to enjoy stillness – to be still and know God.



## **A Place Apart: The Beauty of Iona**

The island of Iona is renowned for its breathtaking beauty—golden beaches, tranquil waves, and lush green hills create a serene backdrop for contemplation. But my expectations of its beauty were exceeded over and over. I took long walks, and we were so blessed with the weather, I even swam in the sea which was of hues of blue and aquamarine sparkling in the warmth of the autumn sunshine. The sand was soft and pure white and friends and family to whom I sent photos thought I was somewhere exotic – the Caribbean and Mauritius where mentioned. And I was, of course, somewhere exotic – an island paradise in Scotland!



As I walked the island's paths, I found historic sites, such as St. Oran's Chapel, the nunnery and the Reilig Odhrain, the burial place of many Scottish kings. The atmosphere is infused with a sense of peace, making it easy to step away from the noise of daily life and focus on spiritual growth.

Whilst on retreat I was able to fully embrace the rich history of Iona Abbey, a site founded by St. Columba in the 6th century. The Abbey's stunning architecture and powerful atmosphere make it a place where faith and history intertwine, inviting participants to reflect on their spiritual journeys amid the whispers of the past. It is simply stunning.

### **A Call to Retreat**

I found the retreat a transformative journey in that I was able to stop and breathe and simply enjoy, so much, the beauty of God's creation; and whether folk were seeking healing, renewal, or a deeper understanding of faith, the Iona Community stood ready to welcome everyone into its fold allowing all the opportunity to embrace the chance to nurture their own spirits amidst the splendour of Iona's landscapes and the warmth of a thriving Christian community.

I feel so very privileged to have been able to have experienced the profound joy and peace that come from stepping away from the everyday, and rediscover what it means to walk with faith I do hope to return someday to the place where the community say that "every moment is an invitation to renewal and every sunset paints hope across the sky".



**Every blessing,**

Ailsa



# Season of REMEMBERING

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

8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

I am writing to invite you (and any extended family members or friends) to our All Souls Day Service which will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6.30pm at St Chad's Church, Roslin Rd, Irby, CH61 3UB. The service will be quiet and reflective. It will be a time to remember those who have died over the past year and in previous years, and an opportunity to say thank you to God for the good times we shared with them throughout their lives.

During the service we will be reading out a list of names of those we would like to remember. If you would like someone (or people) to be mentioned by name, please fill out the form below and bring it with you to the service.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Jane Turner

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## All Souls' Day Service 2024

Person/People to be Remembered (First name/s and Surname/s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Date/s they died \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email/phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Loss AND HOPE**



**CHRISTMAS**

**BAZAAR**

**Sat 16 Nov**

**1 – 3.30pm**

**SANTA'S GROTTTO**

**Trade/charity stalls**

**St Chad's Church**

**Roslin Rd CH61 3UH**

The **Christmas Bazaar** this year is on

**Saturday 16 November 1 – 3.30pm.**

It is planned to have trade and charity stalls selling all sorts of Christmas goodies and gifts, a grotto, children's stalls, cakes, refreshments, raffle and Handmade craft stall (knitted goods and table decorations ).

Please collect any children's soft toys and raffle prizes and drop off inside St Chad's outside the church office.

If you can help set up/clear away or can help on a stall please let me know your name and contact details

Thanks ,

Julie DeBoorder

07599186893 [Jules2121jule@gmail.com](mailto:Jules2121jule@gmail.com)

# We're Supporting:



**forum**  
It's all about you

**Christmas Appeal  
2024**

Forum Housing Association provides supported accommodation to single young people and vulnerable adults, who are homeless or seeking independence.

We offer a range of accommodation in Wirral and Cheshire.



## How you can help...

### Gift Bags

Items UNWRAPPED can include: a hand towel, facecloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, shaving gel, deodorant, socks, mug, body spray, chocolate, sweets, gloves, hats, scarves, novelty gifts such as puzzles, pens etc

Please note that Forum Housing are usually supporting more males than females.

Any items which you wish to donate (a single item is fine, as together we can make whole gift bags) need to be dropped off at church or the parish office **by Sunday 17th November** so that they can be delivered to Forum Housing in time to be included in the gifts for the Forum Housing Residents.

If you prefer to make a financial donation, the details can be obtained from the parish office, along with a Gift Aid form (if appropriate).

**Any Donations can be brought to St Chad's by Sun 1st Dec.  
Don't feel you have to donate for every day, we can make a communal Church Box**

Make someone's Christmas a happy one

NOVEMBER 2024



**HOW TO USE THIS CALENDAR**

Find a sturdy container large enough to hold the 30 items as listed below.

Each day of November, check the date square on the calendar and place the named item into your box.

Drop your filled container off at our warehouse (address below) by the 2nd week of December. We are open Mon - Thur from 10am to 1.30pm. We close for Christmas at 1.30pm on Monday 23 December

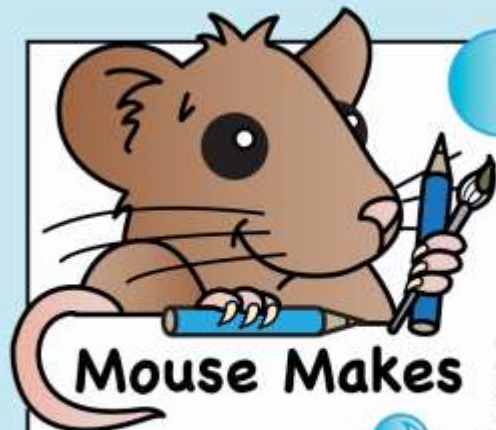
You can also donate money if you wish by visiting our Give As You Live Page (details below).



24 Custard	9 Toothpaste/ Toothbrush
20 Washing Up Liquid	7 Tinned Meat
2 Tinned Vegetables	18 Washing Powder Tablets
22 Shampoo	17 Tinned Spaghetti
11 Rice	27 Soap
3 Tinned Tomatoes	8 Cereal Bars
29 Squash	1 Rice Pudding
15 Tinned Fruit	28 UHT Milk
13 Coffee	23 Christmas Treat
25 Pasta Sauce	12 Jam
4 Tinned Fish	21 Deodorant
10 Shower Gel	26 Biscuits
14 Toilet Rolls	19 Tinned Soup
6 Chocolate Bars	30 Tinned Potatoes
16 Packet Soup	5 Cereal

**Warehouse Address**  
Unit 14, Wirral Business Centre, Dock Road, Birkenhead CH41 1JW

**To Donate**  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/reverse-advent-calendar-2024>



## Mouse Makes

**"DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."**

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.



Then Jesus said:

*"Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."*



**READ**

the story in  
**John 13:1-17**



By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.



JESUS  
DISCIPLES  
PASSOVER  
FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER  
SCRIPTURES  
LORD • TEACHER  
SERVANT • MASTER

GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE  
CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED

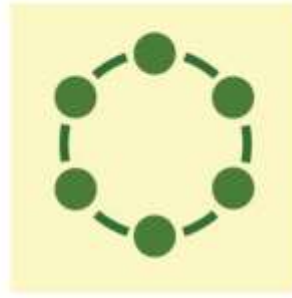
Remembrance Day this year has a special significance – it was 80 years ago this June that the D-Day Landings of the Second World War took place.

Those D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy led to the liberation of France and Europe. And this year the Normandy region has been celebrating – with events including synchronized fireworks at the major D-Day sites, a giant picnic on Omaha Beach, Liberation balls, bagpipe parades, and international parachuting of hundreds of soldiers above Sainte-Mère-Église.

It has been estimated that between 15 and 20 million people died in Europe alone during the Second World War. Worldwide, an estimated 75 million people died.

fireworks  
 Remembrance  
 Day  
 Landings  
 Second  
  
 World  
 War  
 Normandy  
 Liberation  
 France  
  
 Europe  
 Picnic  
 Beach  
 Omaha  
 Bagpipe  
  
 Parades  
 Parachute  
 Millions  
 Soldiers  
 died





# PARISH GIVING SCHEME

## EASY & SECURE GIVING

One of the really important ways that each of us lives our faith and participates in the mission of the Church, is through the act of giving.

Regular giving can be a prayerful expression of faith in action, and it is vital to sustain our church, helping us to plan for the future.

We are members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which provides the simplest and most secure way for everyone to give to our church. By making a gift through PGS, they manage all the admin on our behalf, which makes a big difference to the church staff and volunteers.

In fact, if you already give regularly through a Standing Order, please consider moving across to PGS. It's quite straight forward to make the change (you just cancel the standing order with your bank and set up a new gift with PGS) and you'll be lightening the load of our church team!

When you set up a regular gift by Direct Debit with PGS, you can choose the frequency and amount of your gift and opt in to Gift Aid, if you are eligible. Through Gift Aid, we receive an extra 25p for every pound you give which makes a significant impact across the year.

There's also an option for you to increase your gift annually, with the peace of mind that you can adjust your gift at any time. One of the most important aspects of our choice to partner PGS to process gifts on behalf of this church, is that the giver always remains in control.

The quickest and easiest way to set up and manage your regular gift is online, through the PGS website.

It is also possible to make a one-off gift online, using a debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

To set up a regular or one-off gift online, scan the QR code next to this article.

Or visit [parishgiving.org.uk](http://parishgiving.org.uk), find your church using the easy search tool, and follow a few simple steps to set up your gift securely.



If you're not connected to the internet, don't worry. You can set up your regular gift by phoning the PGS team on 0333 002 1271 and quoting our church code - 090609164, Monday to Friday, 9-5, or completing a paper gift form.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with our church PGS Project Leader - Ms Cheryl Goddard, [pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is responsible for my personal information?

Although PGS has been set up to help us manage gifts, it is a separate legal entity from our parish and must comply with data protection law. By returning the gift form you consent to PGS using your information for the purposes of the Parish Giving Scheme. For more information please see PGS's privacy notice available on the PGS website [www.paritygiving.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.paritygiving.org.uk/privacy-policy). Alternatively, please call PGS on 0333 002 1260 for a copy of the privacy notice.

## Why can't our parish offer Direct Debit?

Direct Debiting is a highly regulated system, and is only offered by Banks for established businesses or organisations who are considered financially sound and reputable with proven internal control systems.

## Will our parish be charged for this scheme?

There is no direct charge to us for using the Parish Giving Scheme or processing your gift. The annual running cost of the scheme is met by the National Church Institution of the Church of England.

## Why am I giving to PGS?

In order to claim Gift Aid and manage your gift on behalf of our parish, it is necessary that your gift is legally given to PGS who are handling all the administration on our behalf. The gift is restricted to our parish and cannot be used by PGS for any other purposes.

## Can I choose the day my gift is collected?

Unfortunately not. In minimising costs it is important that all gifts are collected on the same day each month, which has been agreed as the 1st.

## What rate of inflation will be used?

If you opt-in to increase your gift annually, we will use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as an independent and well known measure of inflation. As your giving anniversary approaches, we will calculate your increased gift using the most recently published monthly CPI data.

## What if I say yes to an inflationary increase, but my circumstances change?

We fully understand that circumstances can change; please rest assured that you will be written to 30 days in advance of any increase with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it simply let us know.



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"

## What's the Big Idea? An Introduction into the Gospel of Luke

Luke is the third of the synoptic gospels. The gospel and Acts were both written for Theophilus, a Roman official, who acted as Luke's patron to ensure that his gospel was copied and distributed. It was intended for a wider audience, to help both Gentile believers and unbelievers understand who Jesus is and that the gospel is intended for the whole world.

Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry can be divided into 4 main sections: the coming and early life of Jesus (1:1-4:13); Jesus' ministry in and around Galilee (4:14-9:50); His ministry (mainly teaching) *on the road* to Jerusalem (9:51-24:53) and His final week in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53).

For Luke, the key focus is how God's plan of salvation for the world is fulfilled in Jesus. Therefore, he writes an orderly account ranging from the birth of Jesus to His ascension. He is a strong champion of the outsider. As an outsider himself (a Gentile writer in the NT) he shows how Jesus includes those who are typically seen as outsiders by the religious establishment of His day. This includes women, the poor and *sinner*s (incl. tax collectors, prostitutes and shepherds!), as well as showing how Gentiles, Samaritans and Jews are all included in God's plan of salvation. Luke also emphasises the importance of prayer in Jesus' ministry and the role of the Holy Spirit.

A key verse which reflects this perspective is found when Jesus encounters the tax collector Zacchaeus, '*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*' (19:10). Whenever we find ourselves on the outside of God's life and love, as Zacchaeus, Jesus comes to find us and welcome us afresh into His kingdom.



# 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**

***Guest speaker  
on 4th Tuesday of the month  
Talks start at 10.30a.m.***

***Tuesday 26th November***

***Jill and Peter Nicholson***

***"History of Gordale"***

***Jill and Peter the owners of Gordale  
will be talking about the history of the  
Garden Centre***



**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.

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers how things work

The remarkable usefulness of Allen keys

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We all need practical skills, and they are not always easily gained.

I seem to spend a lot of time assembling flat pack furniture of one type or another. The trick is to look and sound as though you know what you are doing, even though any skills are gained through trial and error. It is surprising how many household projects require an Allen key, which if you have not seen one, is an L shaped rod with a hexagon end which fits into an identical sized recess in the top of a screw. You can use the longer or shorter arm depending on the job needs extra force or speed.

The idea of a hexagon socket screw was probably thought of as early as the 1860s to 1890s, but such screws were not widely manufactured until around 1910. In 1909–1910, William G. Allen also patented a method of screw heads which had a *hexagonal* recessed die. The key that he lent his name to fits nicely into the head of the screw, is cheap and easy to use.

When you are called on to do some DIY, especially after someone has had a go, the best thing is to refer to the instructions and keep all your Allen keys together in one place so you can easily find them. They come in different sizes.

Bibles come in different sizes, languages, modern and old. They also fit into the hand nicely, are easy to use and contain important instructions on how any and all of us should live.

## 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

## Reflecting Faith: Wall paintings

Prior to the Reformation, English churches were highly decorated with interior wall paintings. As one author wrote, 'They were aglow with colour and images covering every flat surface'.

Painting pictures seems to be a basic part of people. We see that in newly discovered caves where people from the distant past have made sketches and created art works.

Pictures are more than just communicating a 'flat' story.

Just as we all have our preferred ways of learning – listening, watching, reading, practising – so I suspect we also have for explaining. How much more so, then, when we want to get across really important information; and it doesn't get much more serious than telling others about God.

Of course, we know the Early Church, at the very beginning, followed the Jewish tradition of not drawing a likeness of God and hence they used signs and symbols. But that didn't stop them from drawing pictures about everything else: stories from the Bible, lives of the saints, and so on. There was no shortage of pictures to be drawn.

There are not many English churches which still have wall paintings, but if you visit an Orthodox church in the UK or if you get the opportunity to enter one when on the Continent, you will see that every inch (centimetre) of the inside plaster is likely to be covered in wall paintings. Quite literally, painting on the wall!

Today, instead of painting on the wall in the UK, we seem to be increasing the number of banners that hang on them, and changing them often, to match the church calendar.

This month: Have a look at the wall paintings or banners in your own or a different church. What do you think the designers were trying to say? What message do they give you that words alone could not have accomplished?



## God in the Sciences: Should We Have Faith in Science?

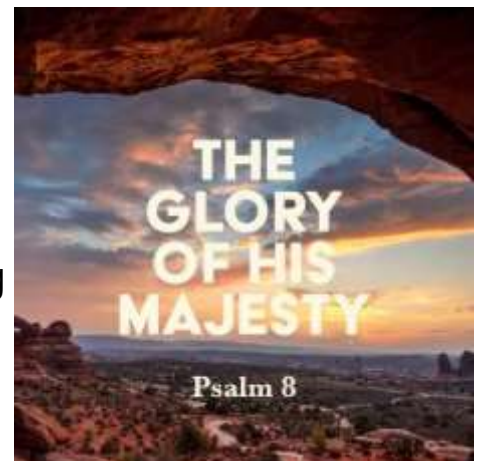
How do you feel about science after all the grief of the recent pandemic? Are you tired or interested, impressed or cynical – or a bit of everything? The response to COVID-19 over the past few years has demonstrated how ideology or worldview are hugely influential in our interpretation and use of scientific data – and at times in the process of experimentation itself. Should we trial a vaccine in Spain or South Africa? Is this treatment safe enough to administer to the general public? Should vaccination be made **compulsory? The data doesn't tell us what to do.**

**So, when we are encouraged to 'trust the science' in our ongoing response to the pandemic, or in our response to climate change, how can the Church respond?** The whole biblical story affirms that God is the only one in whom we can have complete faith. On the other hand, I do put a certain amount of trust in other things. I can have faith in a plane, a body of knowledge, or a person. This trust is within limits because I know that air travel involves hazards, a body of knowledge will contain some mistakes, and every ordinary human is fallible.

I trust science to some extent because it involves careful observation and measurement, collecting different kinds of evidence. Data is interpreted, and competing interpretations are tried out. We summarise our findings in general principles or mathematical **equations. Scientists keep each other accountable by looking critically at each other's work. Our knowledge is always provisional. You can't prove anything scientifically** because we only deal in evidence, not proof.

**On the other hand, there must always be the potential to disprove a theory or it's not science.** Our aim is to keep getting nearer to the truth about the way the world is. Overall, I believe this method is reliable and worth supporting, but that only God is completely trustworthy.

**Psalm 8 reminds us both of the splendour of God's creation, and that He has placed us in a position of responsibility over it.** Scientific knowledge can be part of what helps us to rule well. The process of doing science can be a bit like a blurry image coming into focus. **The more we learn, the better we can usually see what's going on, and hopefully the easier it is to decide on a course of action. So, in answer to the question 'Should we have faith in science?' I would say yes, when used wisely and within its proper limits.**



## **God in the Arts : ‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: ‘Valiant-for-Truth’**

“What a composer has to do is to find out the real message he has to convey to the community and say it directly and without equivocation...if the roots of your art are firmly planted in your own soil, and that soil has anything individual to give you, you may still gain the whole world and not lose your own souls.” Those are words of the composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, from a lecture of 1932.

Over 90 years later, we rejoice that the message of his music still speaks to us from those deep roots, which included folksong, poetry and the heritage of Tudor composers, that nourished his own compositions. It is difficult to imagine church life and worship without his glowing hymn tunes of *Down Ampney* (‘Come down, O Love divine) and *Sine Nomine* (‘For all the saints’), without his rapturous settings of George Herbert and the mass, and without the Oxford Book of Carols, Songs of Praise and the English Hymnal of which he was the musical editor.

Vaughan Williams was born in 1872, the son of Margaret and Arthur, the vicar of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. He began collecting folk songs and composing after studying in London. Although he made such an important contribution to Christian music, he remained an agnostic throughout his life, albeit an agnostic of great visionary fervour. Poetry and prose were powerful sources of inspiration, and he set Shakespeare, J M Synge, Edmund Spenser, Walt Whitman, and, for this month’s article, John Bunyan.

Bunyan was imprisoned in Bedford gaol in 1660 for his preaching. Confined to a cell for 12 years, he wrote a powerful allegory on the Christian journey, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. It prompted several works by Vaughan Williams: a cantata, a large opera, and a short, but intense choral work, *Valiant-for-Truth*. The opera took more than 40 years to complete, and Vaughan Williams used the name Pilgrim for the hero, rather than Bunyan’s Christian, for he wanted the work to speak to people of all beliefs. Within that long period of germination, he focussed on one particular pilgrim, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, in a motet composed in 1940 on the death of a friend, Dorothy Longman.

The motet is certainly not as well-known and well-loved as one of his more popular works, *The Lark Ascending* of 1914. There the music traces the journey of the bird as its flight weaves ever higher and higher, dissolving into the shimmering skies above. The motet is a much surer pilgrimage that arrives at the Eternal City. It is a glorious piece of word painting. We hear the hero telling his friends that the final stage of the journey has arrived. He gives away his sword, his courage and his skill, but he keeps the scars of life to witness to his discipleship. As he crosses the river of death, the music moves magically from major to minor. The trumpets begin to sound, quietly and distantly to begin with, but growing louder and louder, as they welcome him to the other side, when the fanfares in Bb major move triumphantly to the final G major.

In this month of All Souls, we remember with thanksgiving all those who like Mr Valiant-for-Truth, have crossed that river to reach the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray for that quality of valour for truth in our own pilgrimage, and we give thanks for the remarkable vision of truth, and its companions, beauty and goodness, that we find in the music of Vaughan Williams.

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

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*For more information, contact the Chair:*

*Alan McMahan, Text:07889 404917*

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)  
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**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

c/o parish office

### PCC Treasurer

Vacant

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

### Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Williams

**07956621731**

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

### 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

**648 6331**

### Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

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Freephone

**0800 1 69 59 01**

## CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

### Christian Aid Representative

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### 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.

# NOVEMBER 2024 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 3rd November 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Communion at St Chad's  
6.30pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving  
See Page 8 for more details

Sun 10th November 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
Remembrance Sun. 10.15am Traditional Service at St Barts  
10.55am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial  
11.05am All-Age Service at St Barts (primarily for  
uniformed organisations—others welcome if there is  
space in the building!)

*These three acts of worship all stand alone and follow on directly from one another. You are welcome to come to any one part or any combination of them.*

Sun 17th November 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's

Sun 24th November 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Communion at St Chad's with Junior Church

Sun 1st December 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's  
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

## Prayer for November 2024

Dear Lord,

November can be a dreary month. Even the first syllable is negative and reminds us of all the things we are missing; the long light days, summer breaks, blossom and fresh green leaves.

As we walk through the dark days, help us to remember that You brought light into this dark world. You sent Jesus, who is that light in person, Your positive who overcame all negatives by His death on the cross.

November leads us closer to the time of celebration of His coming. Lord, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for November!

In Jesus' name. Amen.