

Crosstalk

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad

www.thurstaston.org.uk



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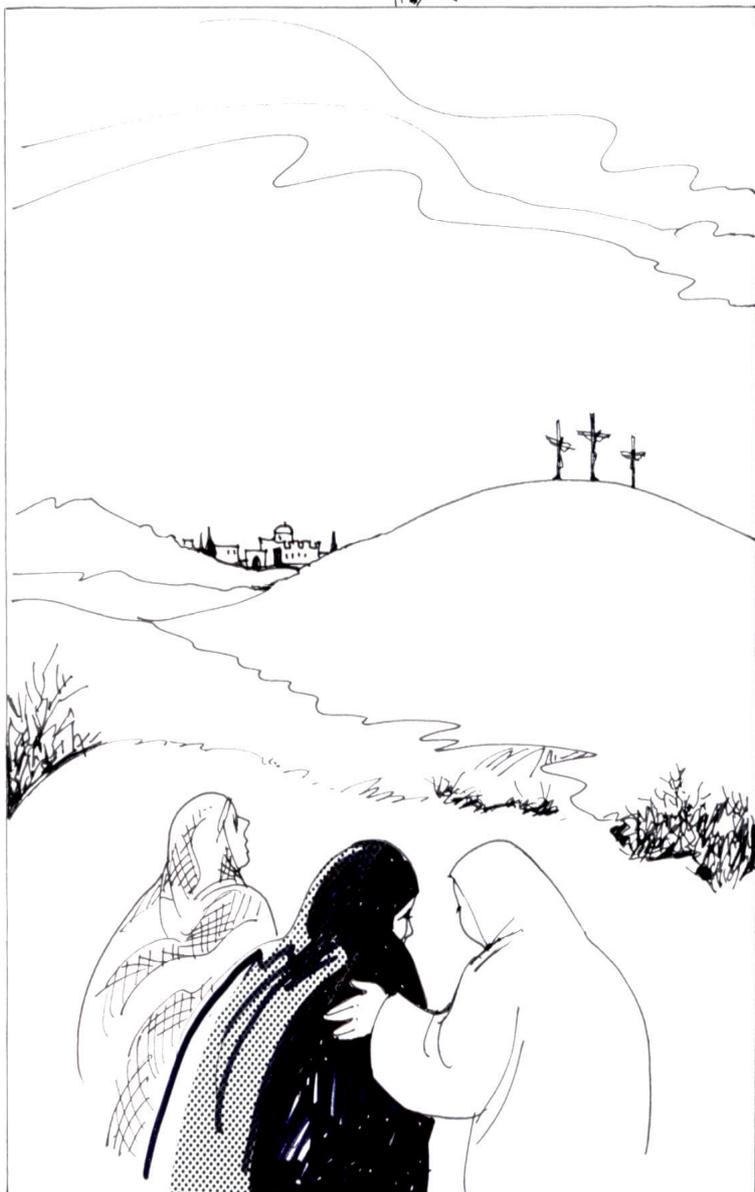
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April



2011



Diary Dates

Thursday 7th April

M.U. Communion with Rev. Jane and
our Prayer Partners from
All Saints, New Brighton
at St. Chads 2.15pm

Saturday 9th April

Children's Easter Workshop
at St Chad's 2.00pm -4.00pm

Wednesday 13th April

EMU 'Prayer Experience'
8pm at St Chad's

Thursday 5th May

M.U. Mrs Penny Vernon
'Quaker Tapestry'
at St Chad's, 2.15pm

Tuesday 10th May

M.U. Deanery Festival
at St John's Meols, 7.30pm

Notices



The soup luncheon for Christian Aid is to be
held at Irby Methodist Church on
Saturday 21st May 12.30 till 2pm.

Tickets will be £3. There will be a cake stall, a raffle and a fair trade stall.

Please see page 14 for more information on Christian Aid week

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

27th February

Kaylin Paige

Lamb

27th March

Aimee Louise

Edmondson

Weddings

*We ask for God's blessing upon the
marriage of*

26th March

Paul Weston &

Laura Bruce

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

Ronald Jones

aged 95

From your rector

Dear Friends,

I'd like to share with you this month, something of what I said at the APCM on Sunday 27th March:-

Acts 2v42-47

Last week I was away on a conference at Scargill House in Yorkshire entitled "Leaders learning to Listen." It was led by the Bishop of Bolton, Rt Revd Chris Edmondson. It was an amazingly valuable course for me personally, but I believe also for our ministry together here in Irby and Thurstaston.

We looked at five topics:-

- What is listening, and why it is so important for leaders?
- Barriers and obstacles for leaders learning to listen.
- Silence for the leader - friend or foe?
- Learning to listen to those from whom we differ.
- Creating a listening church.

Part way through the week, I felt that God was saying to me, that I should stop worrying about how to grow the church and where would we find the leaders to re-launch "praise and play", to start a new group for elderly people, to And instead that I should focus on the basics - start a prayer group, take time to see where God is at work in our parish and the growth will follow.

I spent time with God mulling this over, and eventually felt compelled to put some dates in my diary, so randomly chose a Thursday evening and decided that once a month was probably a good starting point.



Wellspring

Third Thursday
of each month
beginning May 17th 2011

8.00pm

Meeting at
the Rectory

**An opportunity
to Listen to God
and to Pray.**

All are Welcome

Together we will seek
God's Vision
for our church communities.

*Give ears and come
to me; listen, so that
you might live.*

Isaiah 55v3

I was amazed to discover that my diary was clear of appointments and meetings on the third Thursday of every month for the next six months. But what do I write in my diary? As I was beginning to write the word "Prayer Group", the word "Wellspring" popped into my mind, and so that's what I've called it.

Jesus "is the water of life" and he calls us to draw from him. I hope that some of you will feel able to make this a priority in your diaries and that you will come and pray with me for the work of God in our parish.

Some of you may have never been to a prayer meeting before, some of you may feel that you are no good at praying. Please don't let that stop you from coming to "Wellspring". The only qualification required is that you desire to see God at work in our Church!

As we were reminded by the reading from Acts:-

At the centre of any growing church is prayer.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Over the past week, God has revitalised my relationship with Him and reminded me just how important it is to keep listening for his voice. I believe that over the next few months God wants all of us to rediscover what it means to have an intimate relationship with Him and that's likely to mean more time when we listen to him in various contexts.

This is God's invitation to each of us:-

Give ears and come to me; listen, so that you might live.

Isaiah 55v3

Rev'd Jane

Treasurer's Report to APCM, March 2011

(with additions from a short film that could not be shown due to a technical fault!)

The Accounts for 2010 show another deficit with corresponding decline in the General Fund Reserve to £11,000. This money is needed for cash flow purposes, bearing in mind our annual claim to HMRC for Gift Aid will be around this figure: in another two months the Reserve will purely consist of a debtor from HMRC. I have covered in the written report how I intend to deal with this situation.

I do not propose to go through the accounts in any detail, but if anyone has a question on the accounts, please ask at the end of this presentation. I would just like to clarify two issues:

Income to the Ismay Charity on page 22 compares £81 in 2010 to £2,491 in 2009. I am not comparing like for like, the 2009 figure representing the introduction of the capital value from the four little pots of charitable funds. Further detail can be found on the Parish Website.

There are rumours abound in the Parish that the PCC supports Playgroup financially. Note 9(ii) in page 27 shows a surplus of £2,208 (i.e. the difference between Incoming and Outgoing Resources) which improves their Restricted Reserve balance to £5,162. I am envious of Playgroup's success, which quite dispels these false rumours.

With regard to the second point, there is also a rumour, without foundation, that Playgroup is to close! This is blatantly not true!

I want to talk to you about the future. If we continue to make losses of the 2010 magnitude, then we will run out of money in mid 2012. Our biggest outgoing is the Parish Share, which we have to pay fully in order to keep our Rector in post. It is not for me to speculate what will happen if we default on any monthly payments. Instead, let's think about what we can do to resolve the issue.

Our chief source of income is from you, the members of this Parish. Planned Giving receipts in 2010 were £45,863 which was up by £2,316 in 2009. Add to this Gift Aid of £11,062 and Open Plate Collections of £3,787 and we covered our Parish Share of £50,527 plus a good chunk of overhead costs. We also get investment income, fees from weddings and funerals, donations and hall lettings. However, we needed another £7,000 to balance the books.

So let's think about Planned Giving, Not untypically, we lost some good givers last year due to death or moving from home, perhaps away from the Wirral or into nursing homes. New people have come on board and they are most welcome. However, the loss from someone giving £30 or £40 per week takes a lot of making up to do from quite modest giving of just a couple of pounds .

One of our problems is that many people only give when they come to church. A good proportion of these set money aside each week, and bring several envelopes with them. That's great and thank you! Many others do not, however, and I am sure that is contrary to your Pledge made, whenever that was.

We base giving in terms of families, not individuals. 28% of those family groups give less than £2 per week. Half of those give less than £1 per week. If you give £2 or less per week and are either unemployed or in receipt of minimum State pension, that is terrific, thank you.

However, if your income is above these minimum levels, and you give less than £2 per week, this really is not good enough.

To those in receipt of higher incomes, please consider what £2 will buy you each week. Only four copies of the Daily Mail. Or two copies of the Telegraph! If you drive a car, £2 only buys one third of a gallon of petrol. Surely God is worth more than £2 per week!

Our average giving is £6.98 per family per week. Three years ago the Chester Diocesan average was £10.41 so we have an uphill battle to get anywhere near the 2008 figure.

More importantly, we should all give 5% of our after tax income to the Church, and ideally another 5% for the furtherance of God's work throughout the World.

Do you know that there are some people committed to this parish through the PCC or officers of church groups who have no family involvement with Planned Giving? Our Rector is so committed to this parish she gives more than the weekly average by standing order each month. She believes in leading by example. To those who have just been elected to the PCC, if you or your family are not in Planned Giving, I will soon know who you are! Please contact me privately by letter, phone or email.

One other statistic for you. Last year's Planned Giving campaign only brought responses from one third of our members. I admit I am one of those 80 or more who did not renew my pledge. If we all gave an extra £1.70 per week then we would have covered the deficit!

OK, so what are we going to do? Please, please set up a standing order with your bank to give most of your giving in this way.

Consider if you can meet the 5% challenge, then set up a regular standing order. If this is not possible, instead of setting aside a weekly amount set up a standing order for a date in each month which suits you. Then use your envelopes for some loose change when you come to church. An extra 50p or £1 on top of your monthly commitment will make a terrific difference. If your budgets are based upon 4-weekly incomes, set a standing order up every 28 days, or weekly if you prefer.

You can download a standing order from the Parish Website, and also a Gift Aid form if you are a tax payer and have not advised us previously. Both forms can be completed online - in this way you can save a digital copy. Please print off, sign them, and either place them in the offertory plate or deliver to the Parish Office. It will be helpful if you can add your envelope number to the standing order form. Alternatively, I can always give you a paper copy to complete.

Also, please re-evaluate the Pledge you made, whenever that was; compare everyday living costs with what you want to give to God, and make a real worthwhile and regular commitment to this church.

There is also a unique way you can make a real difference, by giving a lump sum to the Church through your Will. A legacy is a very tax-efficient way of giving from your estate. Further information can be found at www.churchlegacy.co.uk

Together, we can reverse the decline in our financial fortunes, to enable our Parish to prosper in the years to come.

Thank you.

Chris Eden
treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

Your Church

Your opportunity to Help

Topics from the Church
Council Meeting
March 2011

St Bartholomew's

We've been looking at the cleaning at St Bartholomew's, to see if we can arrange an annual "deep-clean" for the whole church. We could also supplement the weekly work of our volunteer cleaners with some professional input.

We also know that it can be very cold and draughty there in winter. Recent tests and expert advice showed what causes the draughts. Cold air that comes in when the door is opened sets off convection currents as it warms up and rises. A new heating system would cost £25,000 but would not be a lot better and would not reduce draughts. A door on the outside of the porch would help but would not be permitted. The Open Door project should control the entry of cold air much better and should reduce draughts.

Several people including the church architect had a close look at the roof of St Bartholomew's recently and found it to be in reasonable condition. However, the brackets holding the gutters have corroded and require replacement at a cost of over £4,000. This must be done because of the risk of serious injury if one falls.

Growing our Congregations— Improving our Communications

As part of our Growth Action Plan, we are trying to improve our welcome to newcomers. We need to be good at identifying newcomers and making them feel at home. Ideally this will involve a team of welcomers, the whole congregation and welcome packs. We also want to watch for "For Sale" signs, so we can leave a leaflet when the new people move in.

Alan Jones has formed a Pastoral Care Committee, to help make sure we keep in touch with people who are ill or who have other commitments that stop them coming to church for a while. We are improving our general communications. We issued 150 free copies of the parish magazine recently, introduced an electronic version and have reviewed the website.

Lay Conference coming up

The Lay Conference, at Swanwick in Derbyshire, is a great weekend with a very wide selection of workshops to meet all interests and very good entertainment in the evenings, as well as opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. It's from 20-22 May this year and if you'd like to go, please speak to the rector. No qualifications required!

St Chad's

St Chad's will close from 15th-26th August for maintenance work.

We've received a huge bill for water at St Chad's. We are apparently using 98m³ a month. That's approximately 12 baths full to the brim every day or 400-500 flushes of a toilet cistern. We are trying to find out exactly where it's all going.

The Looming Financial Crisis

Even without the water bill, our deficit was £5,000 for the year. We are struggling to meet our Parish Share—£1,000 a week that must be covered by the collections at services. That's before we make any repairs or buy anything. The weekly giving is vital—without it we simply couldn't continue. The Treasurer said that the immediate problem would be overcome for the present if all members of the scheme who did not renew their pledges last year increased giving by £1.70 a week.

Parish Share will go up by £50 a week next year and we have already started to meet cash flow problems, so we really need more than that. This is a sensitive subject—many people can't afford to contribute more, but there may be some who can and who don't realise how important their giving is. The best way to manage your giving is to pay by standing order. If anyone wants a form for that, please ask.

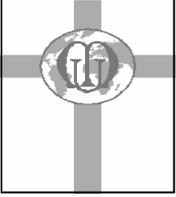
Playgroup

Great news from the Playgroup - Ofsted have just given them a "good" rating, which is the second highest. One area that we want to sort out quickly is the committee that supports it - there is an urgent need to find new committee members. Playgroup is our only outreach and we want it to be a success.

Baptisms

Because so many parents want their children baptised at St Bartholomew's, we are going to offer 6.30 baptisms there once a month. St Chad's also hosts an increasing number of baptisms.

Mothers' Union



March is one of the busy months in the M.U. year. On the 3rd we had our monthly meeting when we had a 'Physiotherapy Afternoon'.

Alison Thursby, Superintendent Physiotherapist from St Catherine's Hospital and Julie Griffiths from the management team, gave a very interesting talk illustrated with slides on the history, development, the present system and the future plans for the Physiotherapy service.

We also had our own exercise class led by Alison - but nothing too strenuous! I think we will all be heading for St Caths when the aches and pains appear. Our thanks to Alison and Julie for stepping in at short notice and giving us an enlightening afternoon.

On the 4th the Women's World Day of Prayer evening service was held at St Chad's and led by Jane. This year it was compiled by the ladies in Chile.

The M.U. Wave of Prayer was on 11th March with the theme 'Faithful Relationship'. Thank you to all who attended and took part in the two prayer services.

Several of us went to Jeanette's 'Big Knit-In' at St Michael's Newton. She has a one-off commission for the Maternity Unit and District Midwives - and how we laughed as we struggled with the patterns! She wants us to knit 160 by the end of March - that is the Deanery and not our branch!

O God, the creator of all things, who made us in your own image so that we should seek joy in creative work, we give thanks for your creation and for those whose work brings joy to others.

We pray that we may continue to learn from you, to serve you and to be constant in prayer.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Diary Dates:

Thursday 7th April St Chad's, 2.15pm. Rev'd Jane

Communion and Afternoon Tea with our Prayer Partners.

Everyone welcome.

Thursday 5th May St Chad's, 2.15pm Mrs Penny Vernon

'Quaker Tapestry'.

Tuesday 10th May St John's Meols, 7.30pm

Deanery Festival.

God Bless

Sue Burns

You are invited to join one of our Two Lent Study Groups:-

You've Got the Time
Wednesdays
8.15-9.30pm
at St Chad's

March 16th, 23rd, 30th
April 6th, 13th, 20th



Can you find 28 minutes a day during Lent (beginning on Ash Wed. - 9th March) to listen to the whole New Testament?

The Bible Society in conjunction with Riding Lights Theatre Group have recorded 40 mp3 files which can be downloaded from:- http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/products/1359/49/you_ve_got_the_time_audio_files/

Each week
we will meet to discuss what
we have been listening to.
The meetings will be informal

**'A Rich Inheritance: The
Legacy of Jesus'.
8.00pm Thursdays
at 8 Edgemoor Drive**

March 17th, 24th, 31st
April 7th, 14th

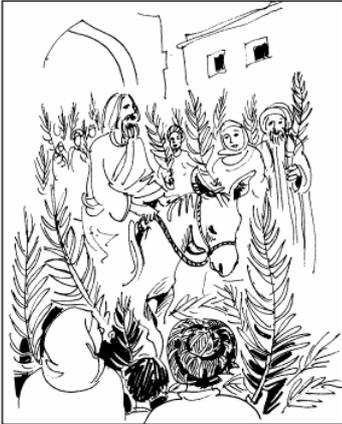
Jesus did not write a will. He left no written instructions. He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on a cross, almost all of his followers abandoned him. By most world estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, Jesus' message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind - what is his legacy of love? This course addresses these questions.

Week 1: An empty tomb
Week 2: A group of people
Week 3: A story
Week 4: A power
Week 5: A meal



Holy Week and Easter

This is obviously a very special time in the Christian Year. So that you don't miss out, here are details of all of our services during this week:-



Palm Sunday 17th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Bart's

9.30am Morning Worship at St Chad's

11.15am NO SERVICE due to EGG RUN!

6.30pm Evening Worship at St Bart's

Maundy Thursday 21st April

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Bart's

There is also a service at 11.00am at Chester Cathedral

Good Friday 22nd April



10.00am Walk of Witness followed by Hot Cross Buns. Start and Finish at St Chad's

2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" Meditative Service at St. Bartholomew's

Easter Day 24th April

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Bart's

9.30am Family Communion at St Chad's

11.15am Holy Communion at St Bart's

6.30pm Easter Praise at Irby Methodist

*Easter...
Christ is risen!*



Looking at the Church

Why does the date for Easter move about so?

When's Easter in any given year? Easy – find the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20 or 21). *What?* If it all sounds a bit confusing, well, here's the history behind it all....

It all began with the ancient Hebrews. They based their calendars upon the rhythms of the moon. These lunar calendars worked well for them, and everything was fine.

Then Christianity arrived – in the Holy Land, where the first century Jews were still using the lunar calendar. Fine. But then Christianity moved on to Rome, which was using a different calendar – one based upon the sun. (The Gregorian calendar, which we use today, and which is in widest use throughout the world, is based on the Roman sun calendar.)

Now establishing certain days in the year became difficult. Especially Easter. The results were often confusing. Early church leaders, both Jewish and Roman, agreed that everything to do with the coming of Jesus Christ had been prepared, even the position of the sun, the moon and the stars. They could not agree, however, on how to fix the day for the yearly celebration of Easter.

It was not until the fourth century, with the help of astronomers who took into account the position of both the moon and the sun in relation to the earth, that a decision was finally made. At last it was accepted that Easter would always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20 or 21). That is why Easter falls anytime between 22 March and 25 April.

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World Malaria Day – 25 April 2011

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged people to remember the threat of malaria that hangs over roughly half of the world's population, and to support World Malaria Day, which is on 25 April.

Malaria infects more than 500 million people per year and kills more than 1 million. The burden of malaria is heaviest in sub-Saharan Africa but the disease also afflicts Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and even parts of Europe.

World Malaria Day - which was instituted by the World Health Assembly at its 60th session in May 2007 - is a day for recognizing the global effort to provide effective control of malaria. The goal has been set for getting rid of malaria deaths by 2015.

£5 will buy, deliver and hang a bed net to cover a mother and baby, or two children in Africa, for up to five years.

Details: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/malaria/en/index.html>

**

More churches for the UK

The number of churches in the UK has hovered around the 48,000 or 49,000 mark for the last 30 years. New churches open while others close. In broad terms, these two movements have balanced each other, meaning that the total number of churches and congregations has remained static. In this context, not all churches are actual church buildings. Some churches meet in schools, some in homes, some in village halls and some in other places.

Some are extra congregations meeting in an afternoon, perhaps in a church with a regular morning service, but an entirely different congregation. Many Anglican churches are happy to see their building used for a Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tamil group or whatever immigrant group they happen to be. Many such immigrant congregations have started in this way, sometimes outgrowing the church they initially met in. There are many such immigrant congregations in and around London.

Moreover, the growth of the West Indian and African churches over the past few years has exceeded the rate of closure across all denominations put together! Also, over the past few years Fresh Expressions has started in many churches. Put these two movements together and some 4,000 new congregations have started, offsetting the decline of about 1,000 churches elsewhere, giving a new total of about 51,000 churches in the UK. This growth is vibrant and exciting.

Why are these churches starting? Largely because of evangelism and outreach, though sometimes because a black church splits into two separate congregations. The Fresh Expressions usually come from the creative energy of younger or middle-aged people and often attract families with their children. Church life is changing, and we have to be prepared to change too!

Christian Aid Week
15th-21st May 2011



Join us for a United Service
4pm at St Chad's
Sunday 15th May 2011
to learn more and to pray for
The work of Christian Aid



The Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection is a vital part of the movement to end poverty. Every May for more than 50 years, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have taken the issues of poverty and injustice into their own communities. This vital work not only connects individuals, neighbours, streets and whole communities, it also serves to bring home the issues facing our neighbours in the developing world.

If you would be willing to help with the house-to-house collection in Irby and Thurstaston this year, please contact Wendy Wolstencroft either via St Chad's Parish Office, Roslin Rd, Irby (Tel 648 8169, e-mail: thurstaston.parish@btinternet.com) or on 9295778 or email at wwolstencroft@msn.com

Each collector will have a Christian Aid bag for life provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance. They have also offered to donate 50p for every person who lets them know the date their home insurance is due for renewal. This can be done at www.ecclesiastical.com/caw or 0800 9174154 or Wendy has coupons that can be returned to a Freepost address.



The people of Los Alpes have, with the support of Soppexcca and Christian Aid, transformed their community and made dreams they once thought were impossible into realities. With your help, other communities around the world will be transformed over the coming years.

April Recipe - Crispy Salmon with Leek and Courgettes

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons oil

4x125g (4oz) salmon fillets

1 medium leek, finely sliced

2 medium courgettes, finely sliced

100g bag baby spinach leaves

2 tablespoons each capers and flat leafed parsley, finely chopped

4 tablespoons crème fraiche

Method

Heat 1 tbsp oil in a frying pan. Fry salmon for 4 mins. each side until crisp. Meanwhile heat the remaining oil in a separate pan and add the leek and courgettes. Cook for 3-4 mins. until soft and golden. Add the spinach, capers, parsley and crème fraiche. Season and cook for 2-3 mins until the spinach is wilted. Serve with the salmon and mashed potatoes.



Fatless Tea Bread

Which in my family is called "Wet Bread" and I can only guess that is because it is so nice and moist!

INGREDIENTS

275 g (10oz) self raising flour

15fl oz ($\frac{3}{4}$ pint) cold tea

110g (4oz) soft brown sugar

350g (12oz) mixed dried fruit

1 egg

1 teaspoon mixed spice

Method

Soak the fruit overnight in the tea. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well.

Divide between two 450g (1 lb) tins or in one larger 900g (2 lb) tin and cook for 1 hour at 180C/160C fan/Gas 4.



Betty Rimmer



Men's Breakfast



Saturday 21st May 2011

9 – 10am

Maluca Cafe, Irby Village

Eat, chat and share in fellowship.

Contact Matthew James on 07817625122 or
mjames@doctors.org.uk for further details.

Dates for your diary: Where possible Men's Breakfasts will take place on the fourth Saturday of alternate months. Future dates for 2011 are:

Saturday 16th July

Saturday 24th September

Saturday 26th November

Looking at your Community

Royal promises - and no escape clauses!

Probably not since the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 will so many people be watching a Christian wedding ceremony as will doubtless be on April 29th. The future heir to the throne, Prince William, will marry Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey.

The solemn and moving words of the service will echo around the world: 'to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part'. As one groom - a lawyer, needless to say - remarked to me, 'Not many escape clauses there!'

The exchanging of rings is equally uncompromising: 'all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you'. *All* that I am? *All* that I have? My car, my laptop, my precious handbag . . . and my aching heart? *All*? It's such a comprehensive word; it leaves nothing outside its limits.

Marriage is, on these terms, the total giving of one person to another, for life. It's both wonderful and awesome. No matter how many weddings you attend, those vows still move you. This is what love, as God understands it, is all about. It's not 'I love you and I want you and I'm going to have you' (which is how modern culture sometimes portrays it) but about the total giving of one human being to another. It mirrors the self-giving love of God as we see it in the life of Jesus - which may be why St Paul compares the love of a husband for his wife to Christ's love for his people (Ephesians 5:25).

You may notice, as the service proceeds, just how often the word 'love' occurs in it. Indeed, the opening words sum it all up: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' This is the great sacrament of love. On April 29th we can - wherever we are - share in its joy.





Children's EASTER WORKSHOP

Saturday 9th April

2-4pm

at St Chad's Church

Roslin Road

Irby

Fun things to make

& to take home too

crafts, competition,

refreshments

To cover costs there will be a suggested
donation of £1 per family

Looking at You – daily life in the 21st century

Visiting the Sick - 1: The Patient

You don't actually want to be there. Nobody would *choose* to spend a week or a fortnight in hospital. Yet sooner or later most of us will, and when we do we shall be 'visited'. Family and friends, and possibly the dutiful vicar or pastor, will come and sit at our bedside. It's nice to see them, of course, but in a way they are like messengers from another world.

In hospital - and it's no criticism to say this - everything is strange and alien. You are woken very early. Meals come and go. Pills are administered. Our most intimate functions are no longer private. There's the strange ritual of the doctor's rounds. And at night, when you are used to peace and quiet, there is none. Your fellow patients cough, or snore, or push the buzzer for the nurse. The staff flit to and fro. Lights go on and off. Although you seem to have spent half of the day dozing, by some strange contradiction you can't get to sleep at night.

Into this alien world come your visitors. Some come bearing gifts - grapes, perhaps, or if you're lucky chocolate or a news paper. Some sit and look sympathetically at us, sighing slightly and asking with heavy emphasis how we are. Some ask about our symptoms, or when we expect to go home. And some, the very worst, insist on telling us about their own experience of just the same problem, or even about someone they know who died of it.

Truthfully, patients in hospital don't particularly want sympathy, or a cross-examination about their illness and its treatment. What they principally want from their visitors is a whiff of normality, a reminder that there is a world outside, of which they are still a part. They want to know all the gossip, to feel connected to the familiar world of home and church and club.

The beloved is permitted to hold one's hand and even look anxious (we rather like that). For the rest, come in, sit down, regale us with a few stories and then - after about forty minutes maximum - please go. That's really the secret of being a good hospital visitor.



How to get children to eat more vegetables

Children and vegetables don't always seem to get along. But if you encourage them to grow their own fruit and veg, you will have much better success.

The National Trust poll of 1,000 children found that 42 percent of 8 to 12 year-olds try to hide the vegetables under other food on their plates. Almost a third throw them in the bin when their parents are not looking. A fifth feed greens to the family dog.



But it seems that more than half of children would indeed risk actually eating a vegetable – *if they had grown it themselves*. And nearly three quarters of youngster would like to have their own growing space. So, think about it this month. Spring is at hand!

Pilgrimages Holidays Conferences

Celtic Journey announced

The increasing attraction of the Celtic saints and the emergence of Celtic Christianity will feature at a major course at St Chad's College, Durham starting on 18th July for 7 nights.

Details of the course have been released this week with BBC Radio 4 *Thought for the Day* presenter Revd Rob Marshall, who is also Media Adviser to the Diocese of Derby, once again leading the popular summer school.

The week will run from 18th-25th July and costs £448 (half board) in a university standard room.

Celtic Summer is open to everyone from this region. Participants register at the Durham College before a week of Christian pilgrimage and teaching focussing on the Celtic saints of Hilda, Aidan, Cuthbert and Cedd.

Those taking part visit Holy Island and Bamburgh as well as taking in Bede's World, Whitby, Lastingham and Durham Cathedral.

"Each day consists of talks, services and many of the day include a trip out to a well know site including a highly memorable pilgrimage to Lindisfarne itself," said Marshall this week.

"The Celtic saints have so much to tell us about the way in which we face up to the challenges of mission today," Marshall added.

Brochures are available on 01482 562455

For further information please contact

Dean on 01482 01482 562455

www.ukltg.com

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Contacts

Churchwardens

Mr J Roberts **342 2149**
23 Riverbank Road Lower Heswall CH60 4SQ

Mr R Jackson **648 0365**
13 Norton Drive Irby CH61 4XP

Reader

Mr Alan Jones **648 1400**
8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT

Retired Clergy

Rev'd J Edwardson **648 2661**
38 Hazel Grove Irby CH61 4UZ

Rev'd S Beckley **648 7767**
162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG

Rev'd I Morris **625 8474**
43 Abbots Way West Kirby CH48 6EH

PCC Secretary

Mr G Barley **648 1867**
5 Sherwood Avenue Irby CH61 4XB

PCC Treasurer

Mr C Eden **648 9517**
8a Woodlands Road, Irby, CH61 2XD

Verger

Mrs J Ratcliffe **648 6171**
135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD

Organist

Mr C Vickers **648 7405**
34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office **648 8169**

St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

Mothers' Union, Branch Leader

Mrs S Burns **648 1022**

Evening Mothers' Union (EMU)

Mrs C Rostock (Secretary) **6481112**

Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs E Jones **648 1400**

Flower Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs J Ratcliffe **648 6171**

Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs J Bibby **678 8124**

Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs M Reid **648 1766**

Bellringers Tower Captain

Mr R Turner **648 1742**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday School Junior Church

Mrs J Deboorder **648 6331**

St Chad's Seniors (11-14) & Youth Group

Mrs K Robson **648 6691**

St Chad's Playgroup

Mrs Ceri James **648 3355**
Mrs S Newton
(during playgroup hours) 0783 5096171

Rainbows

Karen Fearn **648 9833**

Brownies (Brown Owl)

Mrs Linda Churchill **07860239422**

Guides

Revd J Turner **648 1816**

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Mrs W Wolstencroft **929 5778**

Children's Society Representative

Mrs J Heath **648 6015**

Leprosy Mission Representative

Mrs P Hulme **648 1827**

Adoption Society Representative

Mrs C Rostock **648 1112**

Church Services

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am **No Service due to Egg Run**
6.30pm Evening Worship

7.30pm Holy Communion

2.00pm Hour at the Cross

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Easter Praise at Irby Methodist

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

3rd April
Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

10th April
Lent 5

17th April
Palm Sunday

21st April
Maundy Thursday

22nd April
Good Friday

24th April
Easter Day

1st May
Easter 2

St Chad's

9.30am Family Service

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

10.00am Service & Walk
of Witness

9.30am Family Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

**Holy Communion celebrated at St Chad's
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ALL WELCOME**

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - **Tuesday**

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB
Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

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