

Crosstalk

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad

www.thurstaston.org.uk



40p

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September



2012



Diary Dates

Wednesday 12th September

M.U. 'Quiet Afternoon'

St. Bridgets, West Kirby

Thursday 20th September

'Wellspring'

8pm at The Rectory

Saturday 22nd September

M.U. Branch Coffee Morning

St. Chads 10am

Wednesday Evenings starting

26th September

'Christianity Explored'

7.45-9.00pm

St Chad's Church

Saturday 29th September 7.00-9.30pm

HARVEST SUPPER (2 course meal)

Admission by Ticket Only:-

Adults £7.50, Child £4, Concessions £5,

Family £20

Please bring your own glasses and drink

Thursday 4th October

St. Chads. 2.15pm

Mr. David Casement

'The Islands of Samoa'

Saturday 6th October

'Men's Breakfast'

Aroma Café, Irby Village

8.45-9.45am

Notices

The Foresters' Horn Group of Riding for the Disabled are holding a Coffee Morning at 'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road, between 10am and noon on Saturday, 29 September 2012.

Tables include Bring & Buy, Cakes, Cards and Crafts

Tickets cost £3 from Jean Heath



From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the

Lord's family

26th August

Luisa Joan Ann

Fisher

Weddings

We ask for God's

blessing upon the

marriage of

7th July

Michael Heller &

Sarah Akerman

21st July

Philip Finnigan &

Michelle Wild

28th July

Alistair Gilmore &

Jessica Henry

4th August

Samuel Curtis &

Jennifer Clough

11th August

Sebastian Day &

Helene Foulds

24th August

Les Edwards &

Natasha Jones

Funerals

We commend to God's

eternal care

8th August

June Johnson

23rd August

Margaret Cassie

From your rector

Dear Friends,

Ordinary Blessings



'The captains and the kings depart .. .' They've gone: the Jubilee, the European Nations Cup, the Olympics. As a lady said to me at church last Sunday, perhaps one day the television will get back to normal. Well, this is 'normal'. It's also, funnily enough, what the modern Prayer Book calls 'Ordinary Time' - that means the bits in between all the great feast days and penitential seasons and so on. At the moment it's the seemingly endless 'Sundays after Trinity'.

'Ordinary' is such a lovely word, I think. It's root is that reassuring word 'order', and it encompasses ideas like orderliness, well-ordered, in order. It's opposite is strange, unusual, distinctive: extraordinary.

One of the odd things about human behaviour is that most of us most of the time don't want to look strange, unusual or even distinctive. Just look at the way we dress, following fashion, deliberately trying to look like those around us. Think of the teenage uniform, male or female. Their whole ambition is to look exactly like their peers. Or think of guests at a wedding, especially the males, all looking exactly alike in bow ties and tails. Mind you, at times - perhaps at a party - we shall go to the other extreme and try to be as different and distinctive as possible - outrageous colours, pink hair, funny glasses.

Where the Gospels are concerned, our tendency is to remember the extraordinary bits - water turned into wine, storms stilled, lame people dancing and blind people seeing. Yet they are only extraordinary because their context is so utterly ordinary - women preparing meals, men sowing crops, feet being washed and food being eaten. The whole setting is so ordinary that the amazing acts

of power that Jesus did stand out like beacons. But they happened - and this is important - in the ordinary world, to ordinary people, in the ordinary circumstances of life.

In 'Ordinary Time', when nothing special is happening, we have space and time to reflect on some of the wonderfully 'ordinary' events that have taken place in our lives - touches, I reckon, of the love and grace of God. I'm thinking of ordinary acts of kindness, generous words, quietly spoken prayers, memories too precious ever to fade away. I'm thinking of the 'ordinary' love of one human being for another, the 'ordinary' hand on the shoulder in time of need, the 'ordinary' serenity of a life well lived.

Or, perhaps, they're all extraordinary, really.

Revd Jane Turner

P.S. The day that I was preparing this for the magazine, I walked Lily (my dog) past St Chad's garden and saw this!

Very ordinary, and yet speaking of the extraordinary. Thank You to the creative gardener for reminding us, and everyone who passed it, of the love of God in ordinary everyday things!



Mothers' Union



At our July meeting we had a very successful discussion about our way forward as a branch. We agreed from January 2013 for us all to become Diocesan Members and retaining our name 'Thurstaston and Irby Mothers' Union'.

This was followed by a very relaxing afternoon tea and chat !

Sadly dear June Johnson died at the end of July. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Betti Alan has passed on a kind invitation for us to attend the Methodist Ladies Fellowship meetings. The programme is on St. Chad's MU notice board.

Please bake, sort out fancy goods, plants, raffle prizes etc.etc. for our Coffee Morning on Saturday 22nd September at St. Chad's. We would like to make a special effort for MU.

Please bring your 20p Boxes to the next meeting or to the coffee morning.

Prayer

Loving Lord,

We pray that by peace and justice the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will have room in the hearts of all people.

To the honour and glory of your name.

Amen.

Diary Dates:

Sept. 6th. St. Chads 2.15pm Mrs. June Lancelyn-Green

'From Spit to Microwave'

Sept. 12th. St. Bridget's, West Kirby 'Quiet Afternoon'

Sept. 22nd. St. Chads 10am Coffee Morning

Oct. 4th. St. Chads. 2.15pm Mr. David Casement

'The Islands of Samoa'

God Bless

Sue Burns

Who is the greatest?

The recent, successful Olympic Games highlighted questions about, *Who is the greatest?* in relation to the many events encompassed within the games. Strangely, it was also a question that seemed to tax the disciples – though not in any sporting sense! According to Luke's account of the last supper in chapter 22 of his gospel, we read of the disciples that:

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

For people of my generation, questions about, *Who is the greatest?* naturally bring to mind the former world boxing champion, Mohamed Ali, who never tired of reminding us that *he* was the greatest.

Just before take off on an airline flight, a stewardess reminded Ali to fasten his seatbelt. 'Superman don't need no seatbelt,' Ali retorted. The stewardess replied, 'Superman don't need no aeroplane either, so get it fastened!' Apparently, Ali meekly complied. Of course today, Ali is the palest shadow of his former self - imprisoned by the restrictions placed upon him by Parkinson's Disease.

Perhaps, the most remarkable thing about this gospel passage is that this discussion on the part of the disciples comes immediately after Jesus' announcement that one of them would betray him and after the institution of the Lord's Supper when Jesus predicted his suffering and death! Their insensitivity appears amazing.

And, if the gospel records are correct, this was not the first time they were obsessed with this question. Mark includes an account of a similar discussion which prompted Jesus to talk about entering the Kingdom of God as a child and there is another story about how the mother of James and John asked Jesus if her sons could have privileged places on his right and left hand sides in heaven.

But aren't we by nature competitive?

Perhaps the disciples were just responding to the naturally competitive streak in all of us – what Darwin would determine as the 'survival of the fittest.'

Apparently, if you take 10 chickens from different sources and put them into a pen together with some feed, within minutes, they will have formed a hierarchy based on dominance – they will have established what we call a pecking order! Through a series of skirmishes, they will determine who is number one, number 2, number 3 and so on – all the way down to number 10. Number 1 will intimidate number 2, without any retaliation, number 2 will take it from number 1 but no other and will intimidate number 3 which in turn will take it from 1 and 2 but intimidate 4 and so on down to the poor unfortunate number 10 which will take it from all of the other 9 and may even be pecked to death.

As humans, we tend to put people into a pecking order, depending, perhaps, on their education, their occupation or profession or the size of their homes. Certainly, young children are acutely aware of a pecking order. They will know who is the oldest in their class, who is the tallest, who can run the fastest and they will probably have a better idea than their teacher about who is cleverer than them and who is less clever than them!

This competitive streak did not just manifest itself among the disciples. It was prevalent throughout the early church. Paul was constantly having problems with the church in Corinth over the ambitions of individuals and he also had to write about this to the church in Philippi. In Philippians 2 he writes,

Make my joy complete, be of the same mind, having the same love, being in one accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

And Paul singles out Timothy as a true example of humility:

I hope in the Lord to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned

for your welfare. All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know.

In his response to the disciples' argument among themselves about their pecking order within the group, Jesus first draws upon the parallel of kings who lord it over others.

The kings of the gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority are called benefactors.

The imputation here is that, although such leaders pretend to serve their people like the Roman Emperors giving their own citizens free corn and entertainment in the arena, they are really just preserving their own interests and status. Their rule is a selfish rule for their own power and fortune rather than as a service to their people.

In contrast, Jesus turns to the concept of servant leadership as the only form of leadership to which the disciples must aspire:

But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one who serves.

This is the example that he sets:

But I am among you as the one who serves.

In John's Gospel we see this servant leadership physically enacted when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. Earlier in Luke's gospel Jesus talks about people having to deny themselves, to put themselves truly last in order to become his followers. This is echoed in the epistle to James where we read that:

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

And of course it was in the garden of Gethsemane that Jesus demonstrated no thoughts of self when he declared to God,

Not my will, but thine be done.

An American theologian, Paul Tillich suggested that it was in Jesus' servant nature, his total and absolute humility that we see his unique relationship with God. For Tillich, Jesus opened himself so utterly and completely to the will of God that he became transparent so that God could be seen directly through him.

Jan Pickard used a similar analogy in a prayer he wrote for us as Christians:

Lord, help us to become transparent, opening for the world, windows to Jesus; and may friend and stranger be for us icons of your otherness and love.

Jesus did the unthinkable. He turned the world's value of greatness upside down and wedded authority with loving sacrifice and with selfless service. Authority, without sacrificial love is brutish and self serving. The way of greatness in God's kingdom is the way of sacrifice and humility, putting others first in our care and concern. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice.

We share in God's reign only by laying down our lives in humble service of one another as Jesus did for our sake. The real question the disciples should have asked of themselves and we should ask of ourselves is not, *Are we the greatest?* but, *Are we willing to put others first in our care and concern - and love them with the same merciful love that Jesus has for us?*

Alan Jones



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 7th October

Please bring a non-perishable gift from the following list:

Milk (UHT or powdered), Sugar, Fruit Juice (carton), Soup (Tinned or packet), Pasta Sauces, Sponge Pudding (Tinned), Tomatoes (Tinned), Cereals/jam, Rice/Semolina Pudding (Tinned), Tea Bags/inst coffee, Instant Mash Potato, Rice/Pasta, Tinned Meat/Fish/Veggies Tinned Fruit/Spaghetti/Beans, Biscuits/snack bars, Toiletries/toothpaste

8.00am BCP HC at St Bartholomew's

**9.30am at St Chad's
Family Worship
with Church Parade**

**11.30am at St Bartholomew's
Harvest Communion**

**6.30pm at St Bartholomew's
Harvest Evening Worship**

**Saturday 29th September 7.00-9.30pm
HARVEST SUPPER (2 course meal)**

Admission by Ticket Only:-

Adults £7.50, Child £4, Concessions £5, Family £20

Please bring your own glasses and drink

Please see the details below from Heswall Parents and Friends Association. They are based in the Heswall Centre, 268 Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 7SG, Tel: 342 6402. Please contact the organisation if you think you can be of any assistance.

Heswall Centre Community Support Service

We are a registered charity supporting adults and young people who have learning and physical disabilities. Our charity raises money to run a mini bus, a community garden, and various activities.

We have been asked to take part in Heswall Arts Festival 13th to the 27th October. We are planning to display a 6ft by 4ft tiled mosaic titled Sun, Moon & Stars in front of our building on Telegraph Road. The mosaic will be designed and made by people who attend our centre, our young volunteers and members of the public. There will be an open day Saturday 13th October at the centre for the public to contribute to the final stages of the mosaic. The finished 6ft by 4ft mosaic, all being well, will be finished and on display on the 27th October.

We will also be decorating a tree on Telegraph Rd. The decoration theme is outdoor mobiles and sculptures.

We would appreciate donations to support our project, items we are looking for are:

- 2 x 2ft by 3ft pieces of hardy backer. Glass nuggets, mosaic or broken wall or floor tiles preferably bright colours in any condition.
- Metal kitchen utensils for example: in any condition knives forks spoons, teas pots, pans, tins, whisks, electric fan covers, etc.
- Craft items for example: beads, imitation crystal or items that you feel could be used for our project.

You can drop off items at Heswall Centre Monday to Friday 8am until 6.30pm or on Saturday and Sunday there is a purple shed in the community garden for you to leave your donations.

N.B See following page for more information about Heswall Centre.

Diamond Jubilee: A MATTER OF SECURITY

1977 saw the first of a string of Jubilees - albeit stretched out over a period of 35 years - which the Queen would enjoy. This first one, her Silver Jubilee, honoured a mere 25 years on the throne. It was marked with public celebrations, though few, perhaps, would have suspected that we'd be doing it all over again in 2002 and 2012 - and may well be doing it once more in 2022! After all, the Queen's mother lived past her century, so the signs are promising.

The Irish Troubles had highlighted the need for efficient security for all public figures, including the Queen. In fact, she and the Duke of Edinburgh had never paid much attention to it, happily walking through crowds of well-wishers, accepting flowers and presents and generally looking relaxed and at ease. However, during the Trooping of the Colour in 1981 a young man fired six shots at the Queen as she rode her horse, Burmese, down the Mall in London.

Happily, the shots were blanks, but the Queen needed to demonstrate her equestrian skills in controlling the frightened horse. The assailant was arrested, tried and imprisoned, but those responsible for royal security were alerted to the real dangers in the modern world associated with such public appearances.

However, one might have assumed the Queen would be safe in her own home. Yet the next year, during the Falklands Conflict, an intruder, Michael Fagan, managed to make his way into the Queen's bedroom in Buckingham Palace. Despite her two phone calls to the Palace security desk, it took seven minutes for staff to arrive and arrest the intruder. In the meanwhile he sat on the end of her bed and they talked.

The Falklands Conflict saw her son Andrew serving as a helicopter pilot in the battle zone, so safety was also a family issue. The IRA had carried their bombing campaign into the towns and cities of England, and security at every level became a paramount issue. It's interesting to see how the Queen herself responded. Of course she had security officers standing nearby at public events, but she never allowed security issues to erect barriers, physical or psychological, between herself and the public. The impression she gave was of a woman of remarkable personal courage and calmness. And beside her, always, the calm, tall figure of her 'rock', the Duke of Edinburgh.



You don't need to know anything about the Bible.
You won't be asked to read aloud, pray or sing.
You can ask any question you want.

Wednesday Evenings

Starting 26th September 2012

26th Sept, 3rd, 17th, 31st Oct, 7th, 14th, 28th Nov

7.45-9.00pm

St Chad's Church, Roslin Rd, Irby

**For those who decide to be confirmed there will also be
a full day on Saturday 24th Nov and a Passover Meal on
Wed 5th December**

(and three sessions in January for adults only)

If you'd like to come or want to find out more,
please contact rector@thurstaston.org.uk (phone 648 1816)

Third Thursday of each month

this month: Sept 20th

8.00pm 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.

Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson

will be visiting the parish on

Sunday 9th September

at

9.30am at St Chads

and

11.15am at St Bartholomews

He will be sharing in our worship
and enabling us to understand more about
the present financial position of the parish,
by explaining how the parish share scheme works
and how it relates to Thurstaston and Irby.



Men's Breakfast



Saturday 6th October 2012

8.45 – 9.45am

Aroma 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 first Saturday of alternate months. Future dates for 2012 are:

Saturday 1st December

September Recipe - Apple Crisp

This is a quick easy dessert and you don't even have to make pastry.
You will need 27cm/10½inch baking dish. Serves 8.

INGREDIENTS

45g (1½oz) unsalted butter	½tsp ground cinnamon
1kg (2lb) cooking apples, cored and cut into thick slices	1½tsp pure vanilla extract
2 tbs freshly squeezed lemon juice	2 lge eggs at room temperature
	75gm(2½oz) sugar
	250ml (8floz)crème fraiche

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas Mark6
2. Generously butter the bottom and sides of the baking dish then set aside.
3. In a large frying pan, combine the butter, apples, lemon juice and ¼tsp cinnamon and cook until soft, about 7mins. Stir in ½tsp vanilla extract.
4. Transfer the apples to the baking dish, evening them into a single layer with a spatula.
5. In a large bowl combine the eggs & sugar and whisk to blend. When well blended add the crème fraiche, the remaining vanilla extract and cinnamon. Whisk to blend and pour over the apples in the dish.
6. Place the baking dish in the centre of the oven and bake until the top is deep golden brown, 30 to 40mins. Do not under bake or the results will be soggy rather than crisp.
7. Serve cut into wedges accompanied by a good spoonful of crème fraiche or cream. This dessert is best served on the day it is made as the delicate flavour will fade.

If only 4 people are coming for the meal, I use half of these ingredients and it makes four servings.

Betty Rimmer



Giving Sunday

30th September 2012

at

9.30 am St Chads (for all the family)

and

11.15 am St Bartholomews

Join us for either of these special services to give thanks for all the generous donations we receive.





Dear All

I would like to thank you for your support for our churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad. As I'm sure you are aware the parish continues to be under increasing financial pressure. In 2011, for the first time the parish was unable to pay its parish share, which is a levy paid to the diocese for among other things the provision of our rector. If this continues there is a real possibility that in the future we will find ourselves merged with an adjacent parish.

Just over 66% of our income comes from regular donations given on a Sunday. We do not receive a grant from the Church of England. The generosity and nature of this income is a blessing but being so dependent on this source of income provides challenges. We all lead busy lives and increasingly choose not to attend church every Sunday and an increasing number of our congregation pick and choose which services to attend. Some enjoy the monthly family services while others attend specifically to receive communion. This national change in trend of church attendances has a significant impact on the financial viability of our parish. This is highlighted by the fact that in a busy month, such as December we receive almost £6000, while in a quiet month, such as August, we received just over £4000. It costs approximately £1600/week to run our churches, 52 weeks of the year.

A significant number of our members give to the church via standing order or by placing their donation in planned giving envelopes. This enables us to claim back 25p in every £1 as gift aid. Last year approximately £3200 was given as cash in the offertory plate. Whilst we are very grateful for this giving, if this money was given via standing order or in a planned giving envelope we could claim back an extra £800/year which would make a big difference to our finances.

In order to address these two challenges we would ask you to not only consider how much you give to the church, but when and how you give it. We would encourage you to complete the enclosed standing order and return it to the parish office (The Treasurer, c/o The Parish Office, St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH). There is no amount too small that will help with the running of the parish, please just give what you can afford. Also be assured that the financial details of your giving will only be known to the treasurer, who is currently Mr Chris Eden, and the Planned Giving Officer, who is currently Mr John Roberts. The Rector does not have any details about your personal giving. We know that some people give as a couple or a family and if you do that, this is not a request to give separately. Nevertheless, we believe it is important for everyone to be fully aware of the predicament that we are facing.

The parish is currently facing significant challenges and without your support there is a real possibility that it will be unable to exist in its present format. With your support we hope to continue our mission to serve Christ in Thurstaston and Irby.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew James

on behalf of the planned giving committee and the PCC

St Bartholomew's and St Chad's FINANCIAL CRISIS

Bruno St Bear is not a happy bunny! All he can see is a parish sinking into the red.

£1,000 A WEEK OR MORE JUST TO PAY OUR PARISH SHARE, AND THEN THERE'S WHAT WE STILL OWE FROM LAST YEAR, AND THEN THERE'S THE GAS BILL AND THE WATER BILL AND ALL THE REST!

WHERE'S IT ALL GOING TO END IF WE CAN'T SORT IT OUT? IT'S ALL GOT TO COME FROM THE COLLEGATIONS.

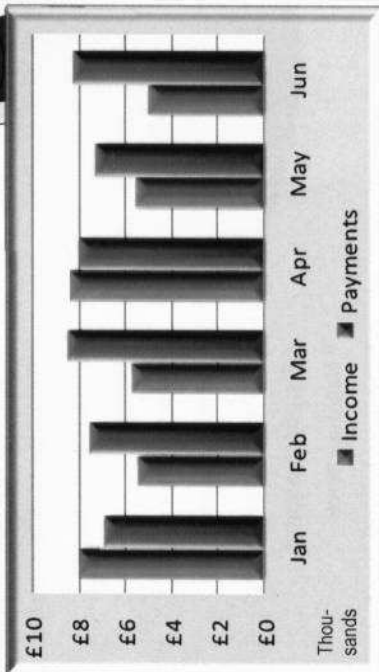
IF WE CAN'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, THEY SAY WE MIGHT JUST HAVE A PART-TIME RECTOR OR LOSE THE RECTOR AND BE MERGED WITH ANOTHER PARISH. THEY MIGHT SPLIT US UP AND MERGE US WITH TWO OTHER PARISHES.

SAVE OUR CHURCHES

LOOK AT THIS! NEARLY EVERY MONTH WE HAVE TO PAY OUT MORE THAN WE GET IN!

Over half our annual income comes from the collections at services. We don't receive any support from the diocese or the national church — in fact, we must support them. Over half our annual costs are the Parish Share that we give to the diocese. The increases in Parish Share have well outstripped our increases in giving. This needs to be changed.

How much would it worry us if we lost our Rector and there were only occasional services here?



£8,000 A YEAR DEFICIT—AND GETTING WORSE!

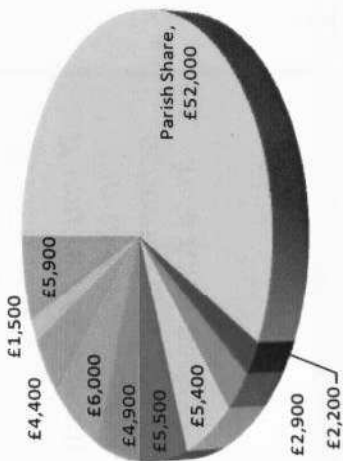
Please turn the page over

I REALLY NEED A REST NOW!

Not an easy problem. We all need to think about what we value about the church. What do we think it's worth every week? £1, £5, £10? What do we pay for other things that we do?

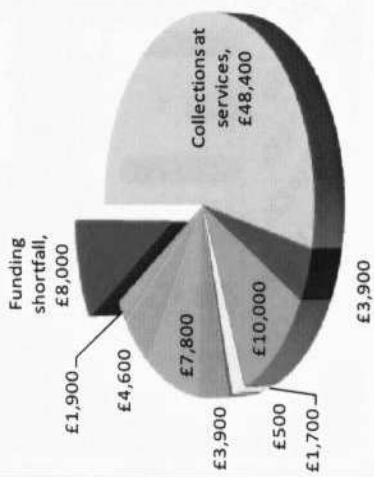
COSTS

- Parish Share
- Pastoral expenses, gifts, donations
- Rectory and Rector's Office
- Services, assistant clergy, licences
- Insurance
- Fuel
- Buildings and Grounds maintenance
- St Chad's Cleaning
- St Chad's Water Rates
- Office and admin costs



INCOME

- Collections at services
- Donations and Grants
- Gift Aid recovered
- Christmas Fair
- Other Social Events
- Investment Income
- Hall Hire
- Fees and overheads contributions received
- Magazine, Insurance Claims, photocopying etc
- Funding shortfall

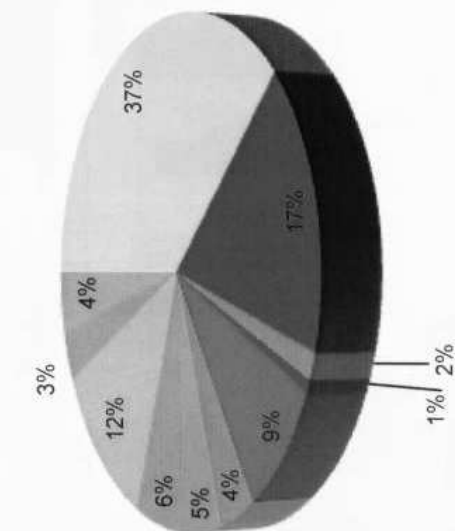


Source: Church Accounts for 2011

The chart below shows how the Parish Share is used by the Diocese. The July/August magazine has more details.

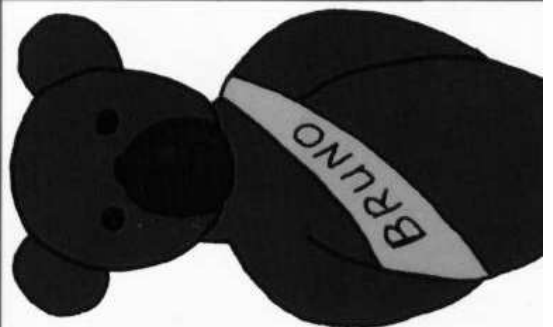
How the Diocese Uses the Parish Share

- Clergy salaries
- Pension, NI, retirement housing
- Removals, resettlements etc
- Professional support
- Housing
- Selection & training
- Other ministry support
- Shared costs of training
- Support to parishes
- National church
- Provision for underpaid Parish Share



Source: Parish Magazine July/August 2012

Most of our Parish Share is used to pay for ministry in this Parish



The costs of running the parish this year will be around £91,000. This is over £10 every hour, day and night, 365 days a year. **Could you pay for an hour a week, or half an hour, to help keep the parish going?**

Take a look at this!
If you're not already in the envelope scheme, can you fill in a form today?

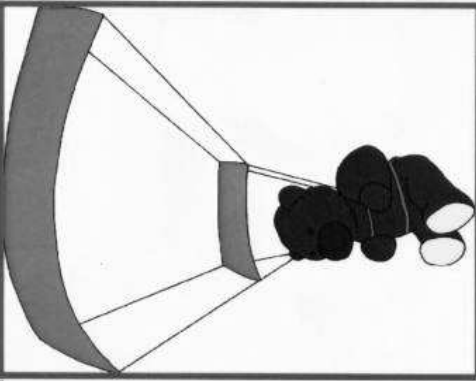
Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.' Mark 12: 41-44.

108 people or households use the planned envelope scheme. Over half give over £5 a week, which adds up to 85% of giving through the scheme. The other half give 15% of the total. To make Bruno happy, we need another 30 people giving £5 a week each. If everyone who gives under £5 a week could increase to £5, we'd be almost there!

By far the best way to give is to use a standing order for most of your giving and to use the envelopes for a smaller weekly gift.

We all have different circumstances and we know from the Bible (see blue box below) that we cannot ask for a particular amount—just that you look into your heart (and your purse or wallet!) and think whether you could give more.

Numbers of Planned Giving Envelopes per Week for All Services



EfM (Exploring faith Matters) is a unique learning programme linking Faith and Life. It is primarily for lay people.



Every baptised person is called to ministry. The EfM programme provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. EfM offers an opportunity to explore with others the richness of our Christian heritage in order to discover our own way of living and working to God's praise and glory. Lay people face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need the kind of theological education which supports their faith and which also trains them to express this in day-to-day living. In addition, as emphasis on lay ministry grows, EfM can be an important part of that growth by providing a programme that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

Many people think that a person must be ordained in order to be a 'minister'. The fact is that all baptised Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This total ministry is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of his Word to all people.

A group consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year.

Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom.

Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Students are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the group members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them.

Through discussion and guided reflection, the groups furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.

More important is the development of skills in theological reflection. The goal is to learn to think theologically. By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants can learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

Fees are not payable to the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance but to EfM.

The cost of the course is: Annual fees for a standard student are £195: this can be paid in full at the outset or by a deposit of £50.00 and 10 monthly standing orders of £14.50. EfM is a registered charity (No 1061962)

Two new groups will be starting on:

Monday 1 October with Gary O'Neill in Helsby

**Wednesday 3 October with Julie Withers in
Knutsford.**

To register your interest please contact

Jane Hood 01244 681973 ext 257



(The Christian Centre in the heart of the Lake District)

<http://www.rydalahall.org/>

Rydal Hall is owned and operated by the Diocese of Carlisle. Their main aim is to promote and support the Christian Faith through conferences, events and retreats in and beyond the Diocese. The hall may be booked for holidays and there is a distinctively Christian ethos which underpins the provision of excellent service and hospitality to all. Rydal Hall offers a warm and friendly home from home in the heart of the English Lake District. There is a choice of 30 ensuite bedrooms inside the main house. The home cooked meals are excellent, with a three course evening meal offering meat, fish and vegetarian options each evening.

Peter has been going to Rydal for a summer holiday, on alternate years, since he was eleven years old. His family parish, Guisborough, has rented the hall for a parish holiday every other year since 1968. We have been going as a family since Amy was born (even though we don't live in Guisborough). Over the last few years, it has become more difficult to fill the hall from Guisborough parish alone and other friends have joined us.

It is a relaxing holiday in a beautiful hall situated between Ambleside and Grasemere. It offers the freedom to do as you please, or to join others in some serious and not so serious walking, a visit to the theatre in Keswick, exploring shops, or swimming in the lake for the very brave. The age range varies from very young children to the 80's. There are many families, couples and single adults. It is a very friendly holiday, with the security and comfort of being in a Christian environment, making new friends, being with old friends and knowing that there will always be someone to talk to. There are a number of communal rooms that offer company or quietness and a small 'pub' within the building.

If you would like to join us, 23rd - 30th August 2014, or would like further information, please give us a call.

The cost will be approx. £470 (prices to be confirmed) for dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch on the first day and then dinner, bed, breakfast for the rest of the week.

Children under 5 are free, and children's discounts apply up to the age of 17.

We need to reserve rooms before the end of this September in order to book the whole hall, after September Rydal will allow other outside bookings. £50 deposit is required per person.

Peter and Karen Robson 648 6691



Being Green

1st Thurstaston Guides have just completed their Olympic Challenge Badge and as one of the Olympic values is 'Respect' (both for each other and for their environment) we set about cleaning up our environment.

At the end of June we all went down to Thurstaston Country Park to help our Rangers by picking up litter and clearing the beach. We were provided with litter pickers and a massive green bin bag; and had a competition to see which team could collect the most and a prize given to that team. We were all quite disgusted with how much rubbish we collected. When we got down to the beach it was windy and cold but seeing a beautiful rainbow made it worthwhile!

It felt really good afterwards as we had helped the environment and we had done a good turn as it says we should in our Guiding Promise and led us to thinking about other ways that we can care for our environment:

Clean your litter up

Litter is bad so don't drop it!

Everyone needs to put litter into a bin.

Always use bins.

Never drop litter!



Northern Women's Convention 2012

Saturday, 13 October 2012

Time: Doors open at 9:15am

Venue: [The Armitage Centre, University of Manchester Fallowfield Campus, Moseley Road Satnav M14 6ZT](#)

Organising body: NWC Committee



About:

After two sold out years and in response to what women have asked, we are holding two conventions: one in the North and one in the Midlands. We are thrilled that even more women can benefit from taking a day out for great Bible teaching and encouragement in the gospel. Kathleen Neilson is coming over from America to help us launch this new event and share her love of God and His word.

Our society is increasingly ignorant of God's word; most around us view it as irrelevant and out-dated. Even we as Christians can struggle to read it and when we do it can seem difficult to understand and a long way from impacting our lives. Kathleen will help us to see the way God has put His word together so that we can read it more effectively and rediscover its treasures. Our prayer is that we will be encouraged to be women of the word.

As well as our main sessions we will have a choice of six seminars to help us think through our topic for the day: to work out together how we can plumb the depths of scripture so that the word of Christ may dwell in us richly in whatever we do.

Whether we are starting out in faith or have been walking with the Lord for many years I believe that this day will be a great encouragement as we rejoice in the amazing gift God has given us in Scripture.

For more information and to book your place:-
www.thegoodbook.co.uk/nwc

Exploring Prayer and Spirituality

Evening Course
Mondays 7-9pm

8th October 2012 – 18th March 2013

Loyola Hall, Warrington Rd, Rainhill, L35 6NZ

A 6 month evening course in prayer and spiritual development. This weekly course, on a Monday evening, will offer participants the opportunity to deepen their experience and understanding of prayer and relationship with God. Drawing mainly from the riches of Ignatian Spirituality, we will also explore insights from the wider spiritual tradition of Christianity. Each evening will offer some input, space for prayer and reflection.

To book or for further information please contact us (0151 426 4137 or mail@loyolahall.co.uk).

Suggested Donation for the whole course £135 (reduced rates available)

Barnabas for Children, in conjunction with Parish Pump, ran a poetry competition for children this summer. Here are the two winning poems, and we wish to congratulate both Emily and Natasha.

!MY LIFE!

My life is good,
And so is my childhood.
My life is bad,
Which is quite sad.
My life is happy,
I used to wear a nappy.
My life is funny,
I didn't wear a dummy.

By Emily of Bristol, age 9

**

The Peaceful Park

Slowly, the sun rises,
It's glorious glow that makes the water shine.
Vibrant flowers, purple, pink, yellow and blue,
Bold green leaves rustle in the gentle breeze
Overlooking the pond that ripples as the fish swim by,
Golden scales on the fish's delicate body
Shimmering in the water as it glides past.
Black bugs scuttling away
Thinking 'we are elephants
That are so tall, we reach to sky'.
Beautiful butterflies fluttering by,
Being careful not to ruin their wonderful wings.
Now the sun's glow is set steadily on the park
The peaceful park is always silent.

*By Natasha of Upton-upon-Severn,
Age 10*

The bifocals

A preacher went into the pulpit one Sunday morning wearing a pair of new bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He explained to the congregation that the new glasses were causing problems. "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses," he said. "You see when I look down I can see fine, but when I look at you, it makes me feel sick."

**

Correct diagnosis

A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

**

Croutons

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

**

Others

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

**

Flying bishop

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of his new diocese, so he had an idea. He rang his local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

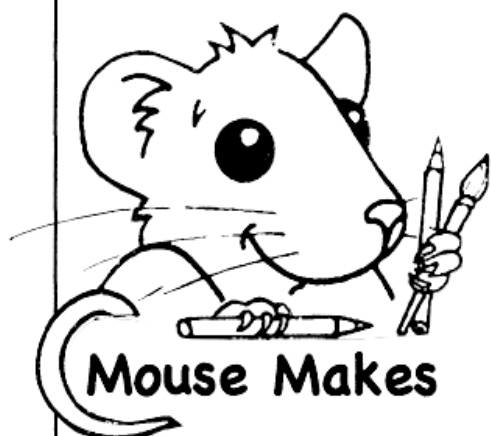
At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally he instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," he replied happily, adjusting his camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is . . . you're NOT my flight instructor?"

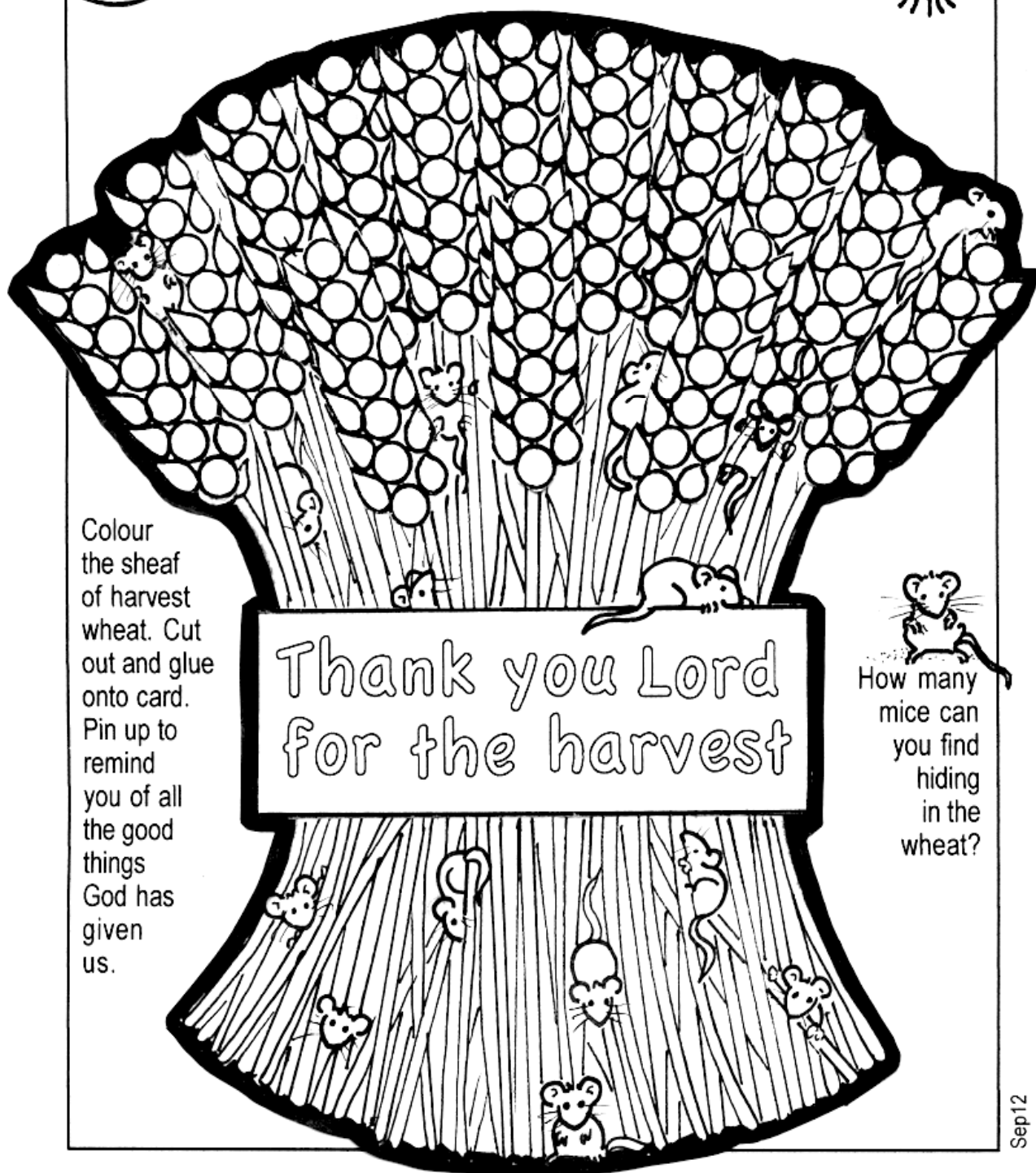
**



All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above:
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
for all his love.



*"The land has yielded its harvest:
God, our own God,
has blessed us."
Psalm 67:6*



Colour
the sheaf
of harvest
wheat. Cut
out and glue
onto card.
Pin up to
remind
you of all
the good
things
God has
given
us.


How many
mice can
you find
hiding
in the
wheat?

Sep12

THE



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Wills and Legacies

If you are thinking of making a new Will,
please remember the teaching on
Christian stewardship.

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difference for the general purposes of our
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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 Abbotts 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**

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Mrs J Bibby **678 8124**

Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs L Worrall **648 5590**

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Christian Aid Representative

Vacant

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 Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion
3.00pm Baptism
6.30pm Evening Worship

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

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

9th September
Trinity 14

16th September
Trinity 15

23rd September
Trinity 16

30th September
Trinity 17
GIVING SUNDAY

7th October
Trinity 18
HARVEST

St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Communion

9.30am Family Service

9.30am Family Service

**Holy Communion celebrated at St Chad's each Wed 10.15am
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

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

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