

Crosstalk

40p



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

December 2013-January 2014

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



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Diary Dates

Saturday 30th November

Christmas Fair

1pm-4pm at St Chad's

Thursday 5th December

M.U. 'Dawpool School choir'

2.15pm at St Chad's

Friday 6th December

Dawpool School Christmas Bazaar

2pm-4pm

Saturday 7th December

Men's Breakfast

8.45am-9.45am

at Aroma Café in Irby village

Saturday 14th December

Wirral Schools' Concert Band

to play Christmas Concert in aid of

Wirral Food Bank

7.30pm at St Luke's Methodist Church,

Hoylake

Monday 20th January

Wellspring

8pm at The Rectory

Saturday 25th January

'Saturday Praise'

6.00pm-7.30pm at St Chad's

'Pop in and Pray'

5.00pm-8.00pm at St Chad's

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the
Lord's family

24th November

Charlie Lanigan

Weddings

We ask for God's blessing upon
the marriage of

23rd November

Mark Dawson &
Samantha Upton

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

1st November

Kay Langley

15th November

Dorothy Felix

From your rector

Dear Friends,

A Special Gift

Christmas is the time for giving special gifts to those we love. This can be both a challenge and an adventure, as we seek out just the right present. Thinking about what makes that gift special, reminds us of God's gift to each one of us at Christmas in the person of Jesus Christ.

A Personal Gift: The best gifts are always those which are really appreciated by the person receiving them. The birth of Jesus tells us that God knows each one of us personally and wants us to know him too. Amazingly, the creator of the universe relates to us on our level, 'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood' (John 1:14, The Message).

A Practical Gift: When buying a gift for someone, we want it to be practical. A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. She requested 'something that will make me look sexy and beautiful.' To her surprise the husband gave her an exercise bike as a gift! Santa may bring what we deserve; God delivers what we don't deserve i.e. life with him. This is God's gift to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, which brings forgiveness, joy, peace and a new start.

A Permanent Gift: Unlike some gifts, God's gift to us has lasting value beyond Christmas Day. Jesus spoke of 'life in all its fullness' ie eternal life. This is a friendship which can start today and last forever, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16).

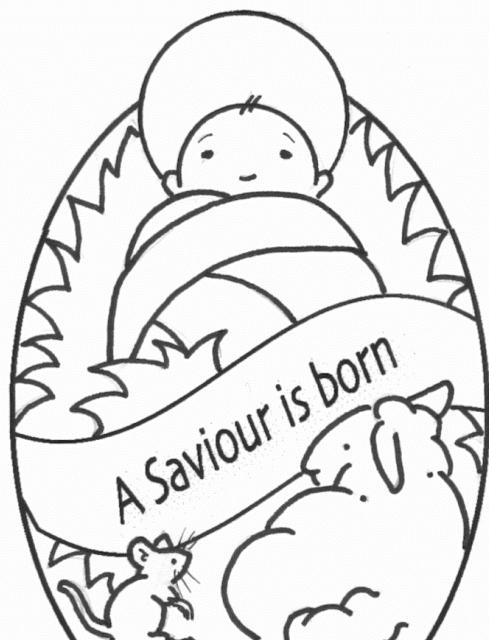
A Purchased Gift: A popular form of present today is the gift voucher; we don't need to spend the money, just claim the value of the gift ourselves. This is the good news of the gospel, because Jesus has already purchased salvation with God for us. Our part is simply to receive this gift by faith for ourselves, recognising that there is nothing more we can do to attain God's forgiveness other than accepting it through Jesus Christ. 'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J John).

So as we celebrate again this Christmas season, with Paul we can say of this baby in the manger,

**'Thanks be to God for his
in describable gift'**
(2 Corinthians 9:15).

Wishing you every Blessing
for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev'd Jane



ST CHAD'S CHURCH

Thursday Evenings, 8-9pm

**Starting on Jan. 9th
for 6 weeks**

**Revd Jane (648 1816)
rector@thurstaston.org.uk**

NEWS

Unique Advent calendar opens window of opportunity for charities

The UK's only Fairtrade charity Advent calendar with a free copy of the Christmas story in the box is set to raise £25,000 for the Children's Society.

The Real Advent Calendar has a window for each day of December, behind which is a Belgian chocolate star and a line from the Christmas story.

The Advent calendar is the latest in a line of products from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, following the success of the Real Easter Egg, launched in 2011. More than £100,000 has now been raised for charitable projects.

Tesco is the only supermarket stocking the calendar this year. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "The Real Advent Calendar offers a unique way to share the Christmas story while supporting The Children's Society and Fairtrade. I believe it will be widely welcomed by all." He is urging people to buy a Real Advent calendar this year.

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Archbishop of Canterbury joins Instagram for International Credit Union Day

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently joined Instagram - with a message urging churches and communities to support their local credit union. The message came as bishops throughout England and Scotland marked the recent International Credit Union Day (ICU Day, 17 Oct) by championing credit unions in their communities.

Archbishop Justin points out that the one million families who take out payday loans every month can end up in a crippling spiral of debt. "Our faith in Christ calls us to love the poor and vulnerable with our actions. That is why the Church must be actively involved in supporting the development of real lending alternatives, such as credit unions."

Churches round the country supported ICU Day. As the Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, director of the CofE's Mission and Public Affairs Division explains: "Credit unions aren't just for hard pressed communities – all sorts of people could use credit unions to save and to take out loans at manageable interest rates. Archbishop Justin is calling on churches all over the country to work with their local credit unions – and the Church of England is working with the Church of Scotland so that our response runs, literally, from Lands End to John O'Groats."

More details:

www.churchofengland.org/creditunions
www.woccu.org/events/icuday
Watch the Archbishop's message:
<http://instagram.com/p/fhuLWztmlr/>

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THE BIBLE comes to Channel 5 this December

This month (December) sees the launch of THE BIBLE, a mini-series to be broadcast on Channel 5. It will be followed by a Blu-ray and DVD release by Fox. From Genesis to Revelation, THE BIBLE series features some of the most famous stories, such as Noah's Ark, the Exodus and Daniel in the Lion's Den, to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Visit www.thebibleuk.org/resources

Christmas Day Lunch

...is being served again at St Bridget's Centre, West Kirby

If you, your family, your neighbours or anyone you know locally would welcome some extra company on December 25th, we'd love you to join us. Transport can be arranged and vegetarian food is available. There is no charge, but places are limited.

For more information and to reserve a place, please contact Rev Mike Loach on 01516253341, email at mgloach@gmail.com or drop by the Centre Office any weekday morning.



Saturday Praise

**6.00-7.30pm Saturday 25th January 2014 at St Chad's
led by Sarah Robson and friends**

Sarah led a music session during the All Sorts Service in November and received such positive feedback and encouragement that she has offered to lead a service of worship where everyone is welcome. It will include a youth band playing modern music with lyrics up on screen so everyone can join in if they wish to.



Pop in and Pray

**5.00pm - 8.00pm Saturday 25th January 2014
in St Chad's Extension**

One of the rooms will be set up with quiet music and some prayer suggestions (in a similar way to the All Sorts Service in November). Please feel free to pop in for 5 minutes or as long as you wish and take the opportunity to have some quiet time for you and God.

Comments Received following a very successful "All Sorts Service" in November

I needed some quiet prayer time on my own in order to reconnect with God in which I have slowly but surely neglected in recent times, and this totally worked for me in the prayer room and changed a few things for me in a very positive way. I was able to pray without all the clutter in my head clouding the way.

I went to the bible study/quiz which I thought was very good .

I enjoyed the music area, so maybe one of the services could be based on music with different music areas for people to choose the type of music/singing they would listen/sing to.

We really enjoyed the service and would certainly come to a similar service again.

I liked being on small tables at the start of the service as it allowed me to get to know more of the church goers a bit better by talking to new faces.

PARISHIONERS AT WAR!

Part 3

Introduction

This is the third of a series of articles about the wartime experiences of members of our parish. The subjects of this month's article are Frank Bresnan and Ellen Holmes who, until recent years, were regular worshippers at the St Bartholomew's 11.15 a.m. services. Sadly, Ellen died earlier this year at the age of 93. Frank recently celebrated his 94th birthday with his close family.

The wartime memories of Frank Bresnan

At the outbreak of the war in 1939, Frank decided not to wait to be called up but, instead, volunteered for the Royal Air force. He did his basic training at Morecombe as an aircraft mechanic. Upon completion of his training, he was transferred to an R.A.F. base at Duxford. However, when he and his fellow service men arrived there, they found the place was deserted because all of the planes had been flown to France to cover the evacuation of the troops from Dunkirk.

From Duxford, he was eventually transferred to Falmouth where the base was merely a field which had been used for the landing and taking off of planes during World War 1. He recalls how the airfield was bombed on a number of occasions and how the bulldozer operator clearing the craters was tragically killed when he got caught up in the machine's tracks. From Falmouth Frank was moved to Norfolk and later to Doncaster. He recalls another move south via Truro which involved a twelve hour journey on a train that was not equipped with a single toilet! Operating from North Devon, he had just befriended a local girl when the command came for him and his friends to go to North Africa. This meant travelling back to Liverpool to board ship.

Initially, Frank's vessel embarked with an Atlantic Convey, but then peeled off south on its own towards first, Gibraltar, and then on to Algiers. Frank remembers the ship passing very close to the Rock of Gibraltar on a bright sunny day. He recalls servicing very few planes in North Africa but digging a lot of holes! He had no idea why they did this – perhaps it was just to keep them occupied! When they did service planes, they had a severe shortage of spares and often had to improvise as best they could. From Algiers he was transferred to Corsica and then on to Italy where his regiment made their way north to France. He recalls being bombed many times but no actual combat.

Cont.....

In France he ended up in Marseilles, repairing aircraft until he was demobbed in 1946. After the war, Frank had a number of jobs but, eventually, trained as a teacher at C.F. Mott Training College and went on to specialise in teaching children with special needs. His last teaching post, before he retired, was at the 'Puddydale' in the centre of Heswall.

The Wartime Memories of Ellen Holmes

Ellen Holmes was born in 1925, the youngest of four children, although the eldest was only four and three quarter years older than her! She lived on Willow Farm in Cheshire. Although she was educated by a home tutor during her primary years because she was so small, Ellen went to secondary school in Chester. Along with her brother, Charlie, and sister, Bay, she would cycle from home the 2 miles to Farndon where they got the 7.58 a.m. bus to Chester. On the way home, Ellen was often so tired she would fall asleep and fall off her bike. Charlie would pick her up, dust her down and put her back on her bike for the rest of the journey home.

At the age of 15 years, she persuaded her father to let her leave school in order to work on the farm. Looking back, she seems to have regretted that decision, for she was immediately plunged into some seriously hard work. She was up at 5.30 to milk the cows by hand, after which she had to clean all of the milking utensils and then look after the hens. The latter appeared to be the bane of her life and she noticeably shivered whenever she talked about them. She recalled still stacking hay at midnight during the summer months. However, in her own words, Ellen worked hard and played hard – still finding the energy to play tennis 4 evenings a week at the local vicarage tennis club.

It was while she was engaged in this backbreaking work that the war broke out. Ellen recalled the family sitting around the radio in 1939 to hear Neville Chamberlain's fateful words that we were at war with Germany. As a farmer, Ellen's father was not conscripted into the army but was required to contribute to the war effort through his farm management. However, because they were producing both eggs and milk and were able to trade some of these for other items of food, the family never went short of food despite rationing.

Ellen had learnt to play the piano as a child and had a lovely soprano singing voice. As well as playing at family gatherings throughout her life, during the war years, she kept local spirits up by entertaining in local church and village halls singing with a trio of piano, bass and drums. She sang the songs made famous by Vera Lynn and Ann Shelton. At the end of the war, in 1945, she married Jim, a farm worker, with whom she had been going out for three and a half years. Soon after, they moved into one of the cottages, now owned by Richard Turner, in Thurstaston which is when she started attending St Bartholomew's Church.

Alan Jones, Lay Reader

Last month we all enjoyed a tour of the beautiful Greek Island of Lipsi by Colin Ratcliffe. It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. Thank you Colin.

At our Christmas meeting, on 5th December at 2.15pm, we are to be entertained by the younger choir singers from Dawpool School. This is sure to be a lovely occasion and everyone is welcome to come and join us.



EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets:-
usually Last Wednesday of the month 8.00pm at St Chad's
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)

Next meeting in February, date and programme to follow

The box collection raised £833.42. Thanks to all who hold a box and if anyone would like to hold one, please contact Jean Heath on 648 6015.

Once again I would like to thank all who donated to The Leprosy Mission, either by saving over the year with a Leprosy Mission box, or by a one off donation. The money raised this year was £265.87. Please remember your support allows the core work of funding treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals, families and communities affected by leprosy.
Pat Hulme, Leprosy Mission Representative.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

My nephew Duncan Wardle, who has been in our prayer-lists for a while, has made an amazing and miraculous recovery, and my sister and brother-in-law have returned from the USA. They have all asked me to thank everyone here who has prayed for him over the last months and weeks – the Prayer Group and Prayer Chain and the congregations.

The doctors found that he had two serious heart attacks prior to the cardiac arrest, once at home when he had a severe pain in his back for about 20 minutes and once before when he was cycling. In both cases the pains went away and he thought nothing more about them. The cardiac arrest was the next phase and was caused by the heart attacks. They were not at all hopeful about his chances of recovery.

He was helped by the fact that he was super-fit (he competed in triathlons at a high level), that he received CPR more or less at once, that the paramedics came very quickly and took him to an excellent hospital where he had about 3 weeks in intensive care; and of course by the prayers of so many people here, in my sister's church and in the USA. I believe, as do his parents, that the "Power of Prayer" was a very important factor. He has returned home, is doing gentle exercise and had started to do a little work part-time, although he is not allowed to drive for six months. They say his heart will never be as good as it was, as it was damaged by the two heart attacks that preceded the cardiac arrest, but he is still with us against all odds – I believe that to recover from a cardiac arrest is extremely rare.



Graham Barley

St Chad's Hall Availability as at the end of Sept 2013

Do you know of a community group looking for premises to hire? St Chad's offers a large meeting room and use of the kitchen (for teas and coffees) at very reasonable rates. We are willing to hire out on a weekly or monthly basis. We currently hire to a wide range of groups such as Rainbows and Guides, Irby Artists and Weight Watchers. In the past we have had various exercise classes including Zumba and Line Dancing. The current time slots that are available are:-

Mornings	Monday (Every Week)
	Tuesday (Every Week)
Afternoons	Monday (Every Week but only between May and August)
	Wednesday (Every Week)
	Thursday (not the first week of the month)
Evenings	Monday (Every Week)
	Tuesday (not the second or third week of the month) from 7.45pm
	Thursday (Every Week)

Saturdays are also available on an adhoc basis for parties, coffee mornings etc.

The charge for hire is £30.00 per session (morning, afternoon or evening) except for Saturday evening for which we charge £40.00.

For further information and to make a booking, please contact the Hall Booking Secretary, Mrs Jean Heath (648 6015).

Advent and Christmas Special Services:-

Sun Dec 1st 9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Christingle Family Service at St Chads
8.00am, 11.15am as normal. NO 6.30pm service.

Sun Dec 8th All Services as Normal

Sun Dec 15th 9.30am Nativity Service led by Junior Church
8.00am, 11.15am, 6.30pm as Normal

Sun Dec 22nd 6.30pm Joint Carol Service at St Bartholomew's
8.00am, 9.30am, 11.15am as normal

Dec 24th 4.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's
5.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's

As in previous years, we will run two services exactly the same one after the other. We suggest that the 4pm service is for younger (up to and including Reception) children and that the 5pm service is for older children. If you have children in both age brackets - you choose!
If coming to the 5pm service, please don't arrive until 4.45pm
in order for the 4pm service to have cleared church and car parking spaces!



11.15pm First Communion of Christmas

Dec 25th - Christmas Day
8.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.00am Family Communion at St Chad's
You are invited to bring one of your presents
to show to everybody else.

Sun Dec 29th All Services as Normal

Sun Jan 5th 10.30am Methodist Covenant Service at Irby Methodist
8.00am, 6.30pm as Normal

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

***Mothers' Union wants violence against women and girls
to end before it even starts.***

As a member of Restored and an active campaigning organisation on issues of gender-based violence, we will be joining our voice to others as we mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

Get involved in 16 Days of Activism with our 16 Days of Activities

Beginning on 25th November the campaign is used by individuals and groups around the world to call for an end to all forces of violence against women by:

- ◊ Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at local, national, regional and international levels
- ◊ Strengthening local work around violence against women
- ◊ Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- ◊ Providing a forum in which organisations can develop and share new and effective strategies
- ◊ Demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world, standing up for violence against women
- ◊ Creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women

Across the world, Mothers' Union tackles violence against women and girls (VAWG) in a number of ways.

Awareness-raising

Members raise awareness of gender-based violence through workshops, events and protest marches. An example of this is in Papua New Guinea and across the Solomon Islands, where members have run a Human Rights Advocacy Project for women and children who have been subjected to violence; acting as community support facilitators for victims of trafficking and child prostitution; and raising awareness on International Women's Day.

Challenging underlying and prevention

Through the Literacy and Financial Education Programme, Mothers' Union empowers participants, in particular women, with literacy and numeracy skills; and enables communities to discuss important issues such as violence against women.

Mothers' Union's Family Life Programme brings families and communities together to tackle everyday issues that they face. A secondary effect of this programme has been improved relationships between husbands and wives, resulting in a reported reduction of domestic violence.

Support and provision

Mothers' Union offers practical support to women experiencing violence. In the UK members provide women's shelters with food, toiletries and clothes. In some areas members provide direct support helping women make phone calls, move home, babysitting and accompanying them to court hearings.

"Lord we pray that you will strengthen and support those who are still victims of abuse; who may be feeling alone, frightened and friendless. May they know your love and feel your presence in their time of adversity. Amen."

Looking at the Church

Archbishop launches HOPE 2014 with a prophetic view of the Church in 2063

As 100 Christian leaders recently gathered at Lambeth Palace to pray for HOPE 2014, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, set out a vision for a confident and vibrant Church which had learned to put faith into words and action sparked by HOPE 2014. He described his 2063 dream Church as united, forgiving, sacrificial, and risk-taking, spreading and being good news, with a renewed emphasis on prayer, evangelism and reconciliation.

He looked forward to an era when 'evangelism became not a priority of the Church but THE priority of the church'...when 'the Church believed again that it is the role of every member of the Church of Jesus Christ to bear witness to their faith; to say "I know Jesus Christ and I want to introduce you to him".'

He described an era when 'foodbank' was a forgotten word; where the churches had worked together to end human trafficking; where the churches had set up credit unions, created wonderful works of art and music, stories and fantastic films; where 'the watching world saw that following Jesus was the best way to live'; a time when 'there was no part of the world that we were not prepared to go into'.

He pointed to 'the most effective evangelistic strategy... commitment to prayer'. "The work of conversion is a work that only God can do – a work that is only realised in prayer." And finally he highlighted the need to show Christ's love to those with whom we differ: "to love people even when they hate us".

He ended by leading the 100 leaders in prayer using the words of Psalm 71: 16-18: "I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord... Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation."

The 100 leaders of denominations and Christian ministries who had gathered at the Lambeth Palace event to launch HOPE 2014, also heard from Roy Crowne, HOPE's director who said, "We are stronger together than apart. HOPE is a catalyst that brings churches together to transform communities by putting faith into words and action."

Find out more about HOPE at www.hopetogether.org.uk and watch the video of the Archbishop at the Lambeth Palace HOPE launch.

December/January Recipes

Oven Roast Salmon with a Mustard & Parsley Crust

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

100g dried breadcrumbs
 1½ tablespoons soft light brown sugar
 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
 Knob of butter

Grated zest of 2 limes (use the lime juice to squeeze over the baked fish)
 1 bunch of fresh parsley, chopped
 Salt & freshly ground black pepper
 4 skinless salmon fillets

METHOD

Mix breadcrumbs, sugar, mustard, butter, lime zest, parsley and seasoning together in a small bowl. Divide the mixture among the 4 fish fillets and pat the mixture down on top of each one. You will need to squish it down so it sticks. Put the fish in an ovenproof dish, then place it in the oven and bake for 10-15mins. Once cooked, take out of the oven, transfer to a warm plate and serve with mashed potato and broccoli.

John Peel Tart

I have had this recipe for many years and it does not tell you how much pastry you will need. I find that for an 8" tin, I need 225gm (8oz) short crust pastry, this makes enough for the lid as well.

This is one of my favourite recipes, it can be served hot or cold and it will also freeze for a short time.

INGREDIENTS

175g (6oz) currants
 25g (1oz) mixed peel
 25g (1oz) butter
 25g (1oz) ground almonds

115g (4oz) golden syrup
 2 tablespoons rum butter
 (well it is Christmas!)
 1 teaspoon lemon juice
 ½ teaspoon mixed spice

METHOD

Line a loose bottomed tart tin with the pastry, making sure you leave enough to make the lid.

Warm syrup and butter in a pan and then add the rest of the ingredients. Allow to cool. Put the filling in the tin and cover with the pastry lid. Bake for 40 mins at 380F/190C/Gas Mark 5

I hope you enjoy these dishes, have a very Happy Christmas.
 Betty Rimmer

Third Monday of each month
this month: **Monday January 20th**

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.



Men's Breakfast

7th December 2013

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 2014 are:

Jan 4th, March 1st, May 10th, July 5th, Sept 6th and Nov 1st.

Looking at You – daily life in the 21st century

The Christmas present your children will love the most

This Christmas there is one very special Christmas present that *only you* can give your children. Don't give it all at once, on Christmas day, but in regular chunks throughout the month (and on into next year). It is *your time in letting your child talk to you*.



Sounds silly? Think again: nearly 30,000 head teachers across the UK are now so concerned at certain trends in modern family life that they have launched a national campaign to wake parents up.

The problem is this: parents enjoy their mobile phones and TV in the evenings. It is so easy to get engrossed in these that they cut time in talking with their children (who can be much harder work!). So children are put to bed without much conversation and no story-time. Days and weeks (and years) slip by, and children do not get a chance to develop their speaking and listening skills. Eventually, the child arrives at school – and really struggles to know how to talk and how to listen in the classroom.

The head teachers are warning that the problem is now so critical across the UK that many parents risk damaging their children's long term social development. The campaign, Ready to Learn Everyday, has been backed by the school minister, and will be distributing four leaflets through nearly 30,000 schools.

The campaign urges parents to turn off electronic devices. "Give your child your attention. Don't check your mobile phone at the same time as they are talking to you. Switch off the television and laptops well before bedtime and chat with your child, or read a bedtime story together instead."

The guidance also urges parents to be patient when their child is talking, and not to interrupt them. Instead, ask them questions, discuss their day, and have a family meal together where possible. Praise your children when they in turn listen to you, and follow your instructions.

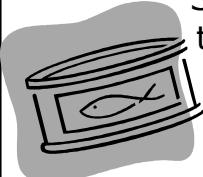
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Christmas unwrapped

You may welcome your Christmas presents this year, but will you be able to unwrap them? A recent report from Which? magazine reveals that four in 10 of us have hurt ourselves while trying to open the packaging on everyday household items.

Brillo Mr Muscle soap pads, Listerine mouthwash, Warburtons crumpets and WH Smith rounded blade scissors are named and shamed, but top of the list comes the Oral-B Vitality electric toothbrush and all things wrapped in moulded plastic packaging. Opening those can end in bloodshed.

No wonder, for 89 per cent of us use scissors, eight per cent of us get out the Stanley knives, and four percent of us use a razor blade. The remaining two per cent of us seemingly go berserk - and resort to smashing the thing with a hammer. Whatever you use, be careful: in the last two years, a million Britons ended up at their GP or in A&E, just because they were trying to open a tin can.



Top ten things to say about a Christmas gift you don't like

10. Hey! There's a gift!
9. Well, well, well ...
8. Oh dear. If I had not recently shot up four sizes that would've fit.
7. This will be perfect for wearing around the garage.
6. Goodness. I hope this never catches fire! Though, there are lots of unexplained fires.
5. If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!
4. I love it - but I fear the jealousy it will inspire if I go out in it.
3. Sadly, I am allergic to whatever this is made of.
2. To think - I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
1. What have I done to deserve this?

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Stronger



Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

**

Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.



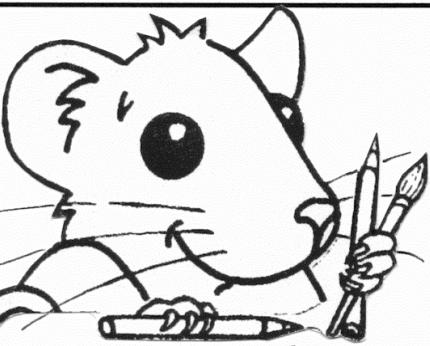
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Wise

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"
"What part?" asked his mother.
"I'm one of the three wise guys!"

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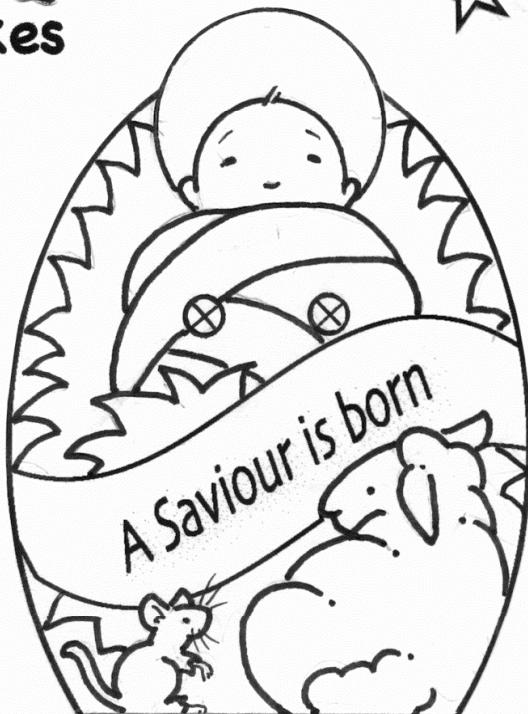
The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chimes midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.



Mouse Makes

- Make this crib box to hang from the Christmas tree.
- Glue onto thin card then carefully cut around the outside. Fold back the sides along the dotted lines.



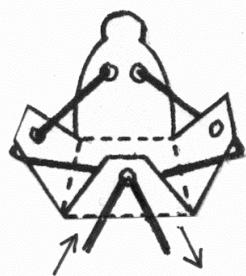
A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN!

"Good news! - wonderful, joyous news for all people.
A Saviour has been born.
He is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him."

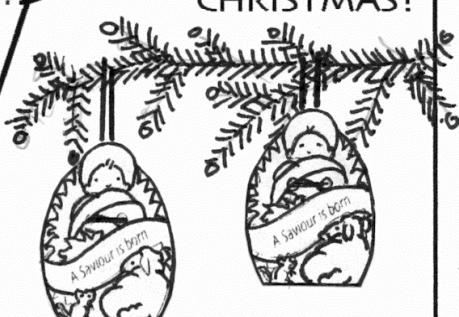
Read about the birth of Jesus in Luke chapters 1 and 2

- Punch out the holes then cut 30cm of thin ribbon and thread through the holes.

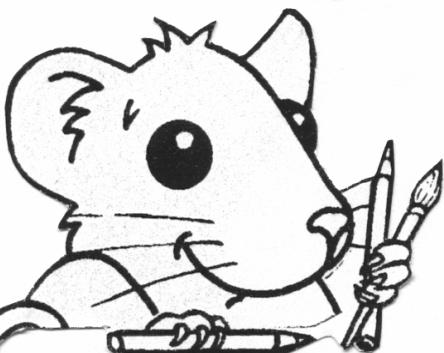


- Pull together and knot to form a box. Hide small sweets inside.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



- Photocopy this page onto card to make lots of crib boxes.



Mouse Makes

BIBLE NAME WORDSEARCH

ABRAHAM =father of many
 ADAM =man
 ANDREW =strong man
 AMOS =burden bearer
 ANNA =gracious
 BENJAMIN =son of the right hand
 EVE =to breathe
 ELIZABETH =fullness of God
 ESAU =hairy
 DEBORAH =bee
 DANIEL =God my judge
 DAVID =beloved
 GABRIEL = man of God
 GAD =fortune
 HANNAH =gracious
 ISAAC =laughter
 JESUS = God is saviour
 JOSEPH = increase
 JOSHUA = saviour
 MATTHEW =gift of God
 MOSES =deliverer
 NAOMI =beautiful
 NATHANIEL =gift of God
 PAUL =small, humble
 PETER =a rock
 PHOEBE =bright, pure
 JOHN =God is gracious
 PRICILLA =ancient
 RUTH =friend
 SARAH =princess
 SHEM =name
 STEPHEN =crowned
 TAMAR =palm tree
 THOMAS =twin
 TIMOTHY =valued of God

Eight days after he was born, Mary and Joseph named their baby with the name the angel Gabriel had given them. It was a special name for a very special baby.. the name **JESUS** which means **GOD IS SAVIOUR**

Read: Matthew 1:21
 and Luke 2:25-38



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

Can you find all these
 bible names in the grid?

Does your name have a meaning?

Wills and Legacies

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

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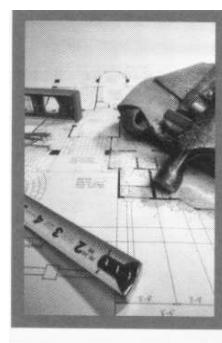
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Contacts

Churchwardens		
Mr J Roberts 23 Riverbank Road Lower Heswall CH60 4SQ	342 2149	Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)
		Mrs J Bibby
		678 8124
Mr R Jackson 13 Norton Drive Irby CH61 4XP	648 0365	Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)
		Mrs L Worrall
		648 5590
Reader		
Mr Alan Jones 8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT	648 1400	Bellringers Tower Captain
		Dr P Robson
		648 6691
Retired Clergy		
Rev'd J Edwardson 38 Hazel Grove Irby CH61 4UZ	648 2661	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Rev'd S Beckley 162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG	648 7767	Junior Church
		Mrs J Deboorder
		648 6331
Rev'd I Morris 43 Abbotts Way West Kirby CH48 6EH	625 8474	Seniors/Youth (11-16)
		Mrs J Trigg
		648 1245
PCC Secretary		
Mr G Barley 5 Sherwood Avenue Irby CH61 4XB	648 1867	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides
		www.girlguiding.org.uk or
		Freephone
		0800 1 69 59 01
PCC Treasurer	648 8169	CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES
Verger		
Mrs J Ratcliffe 135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD	648 6171	Christian Aid Representative
		Vacant
Organist		
Mr C Vickers 34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW	648 7405	Children's Society Representative
		Mrs J Heath
		648 6015
Electoral Roll		
c/o Church Office	648 8169	Leprosy Mission Representative
		Mrs P Hulme
		648 1827
St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary		
Mrs J Heath	648 6015	Adoption Society Representative
		Mrs C Rostock
		648 1112
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	

Church Services - December

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm NO SERVICE

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 11.15am Morning Worship
 3.00pm Baptism
 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 Joint Carol Service at St Bartholomew's

4.00pm Crib Service
5.00pm Crib Service
11.15pm First Communion of Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

1st December
Advent Sunday

8th December
Advent 2

15th December
Advent 3

22nd December
Advent 4

24th December
Christmas Eve

St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Christingle

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Nativity Service

9.30am Family Communion

10.00am Family Communion

9.30am Holy Communion

25th December
Christmas Day

29th December
Christmas 1

Weekday Services

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

Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
 OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

Church Services - January

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Covenant Service at Irby Methodist Christmas 2
6.30pm Holy Communion

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 Holy Communion

5th January

Christmas 2

12th January
Baptism of Christ

19th January
Epiphany 2

26th January
Epiphany 3

2nd February
Presentation of Christ in the Temple

St Chad's

9.30am **NO SERVICE**

9.30am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Family Communion

9.30am Family Service

Weekday Services

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