

The Churches of St Bartholomew & St Chad Thurstaston and Irby



Welcome to Church today, we hope that you enjoy the service,
and gain a sense of God's presence with us.

Sunday 15th December 2013 - Advent 3

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Nativity Service	St Chad's
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
6.30pm	Holy Communion	St Bart's

Next Weeks Services

10.15am	Holy Communion	St Chad's
Sunday 22nd December - Advent 4		
8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Family Communion	St Chad's
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
3.00pm	Baptism	St Bart's
6.30pm	Carol Service	St Bart's

Junior Church at St Chad's
Children from age 2½ can attend.

There are activity bags available for
children under the age of 2½.

In case you feel the need to remove your child
from the service, please note that there is also
a box of toys and cushions in the foyer

Would you like to receive this
notice sheet every week
direct to your e-mail in-box?
If so, please send an e-mail
request to the parish office

Notices and announcements!!!

THANK YOU Many thanks to all who made the Christmas Fair such a success. I was amazed at how so many people pitched in and helped in so many ways and from all ages and ability, working together towards one goal! Bakers, crafters, stall holders, tea servers, grotto builders, decorators, photo takers, Santa helpers, setting uppers and putting awayers, planners, advisers, poster makers, float providers, raffle prize getters and givers, donators and buyers and it goes on.....a truly excellent joint effort! The amount raised has increased to **£1837**, with an expected grand total of **£2159** with Gift Aid! Julie DeBoorder.

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm Carol Service at St Bart's. **Christmas Eve 24th December** 4.00pm Crib Service & 5.00pm Crib Service, 11.15pm First Communion of Christmas at St Bart's. **Christmas Day 25th December** 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Bart's. 10.00am Family Communion at St Chad's.

Christmas Tree Once again our Christmas Trees (one in each church) have been kindly donated by The Ledsham family of Church Farm in Thurstaston. Church Farm, as many of you know, is an award-winning farm and farm shop just up the road from St Bartholomew's. There's a lot going on over Christmas - do try and find time for a visit.

Thurstaston & Irby Calendar If you haven't yet got your calendar, please hurry, supplies are running low.

TV Programme: The Bible is firmly back on the national agenda this December, thanks to an epic new TV series THE BIBLE showing on Channel 5 (first episode is 30th Nov 9pm) To help you (and our church) to engage with this unique opportunity, SU has created two fantastic free resources, The Bible Bank app and Walking with the Bible e-book. Find out more and download your free copy from www.scriptureunion.org.uk. You can click on the link to the TV Programme.

Community Christmas Lunch Christmas Day Lunch will once again be served in the St Bridget's Centre, West Kirby for anyone wishing to share in community on this special day. If you, your family, your neighbours or anyone you know would welcome fellowship and a good meal on the 25th of December please contact Rev Mike Loach, curate at St Bridget's Church, on 0151 625 3341, email at mgloach@gmail.com There is no charge for the event, but places are limited.

Food for thought? Pilgrim - A course for the Christian Journey. You are warmly invited to join a group for people who want to learn more about the Christian Faith. Thursday Evenings 8-9pm at St Chad's starting on January 9th for 6 weeks. More info on the flyers at the back of church.

Breast Cancer Care A special Carol Service to encourage and support all whose lives have been affected by breast cancer. Tuesday 17th December, 7pm at St Michael's Pensby. Further information from 0151 648 2404 or 929 5743

Dawpool C of E Pre-School Places are still available. Contact Carol Marwing, Manager on 07790311340.

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

Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9.30am-12.30pm (term time) Tel 648 8169

Website: www.thurstaston.org.uk E-Mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

REVD JANE TURNER 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday)

E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

Gospel Readings: (Matt 11:2-11)

All :Glory to you, O Lord

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to Jesus, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ 4Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great
humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Readings for Today

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matt 11:2-11

Readings for 22nd December

Isaiah 7:10-16
Rom 1:1-7
Matt 1:18-25

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For the World: Pray for World leaders to be inspired by the legacy left by Nelson Mandela and to work for equality for all.

For the parish: Please pray for all children taking part in Nativity plays and school productions.

For the sick: Please pray for baby Thomas Keegan. Please continue to pray for Barrie Jones. Please pray for those in hospital.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:
Bishop Ali Buba Lamido, Wusasa (Kaduna, Nigeria).

From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle:
Pray for those engaged in sport at every level and especially for your local clubs.