

# 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 14th December 2014 - Advent 3

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Nativity	St Chad's
11.15pm	Morning Worship	St Bart's

### Next Weeks Services

#### Mid-week Service

10.15am Wed	Holy Communion	St Chad's
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### Sunday 21st December - Advent 4

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Morning Worship	St Chad's
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
7.00pm	Carol Service	Irby Methodist Church

P.T.O for details of Christmas Services

#### 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!!!

**Afternoon Tea and Entertainment** Many thanks to all who supported this happy occasion! Special thanks to June Dean and Leslie Worrall for selling the tickets, to Susan Smale for her music, to Archie Peat, our Headline Act, and to Elaine, Dot and Archie for providing and serving the refreshments along with Pat Hulme.

**Home for Good** Could you foster or adopt? Help us find a home for every child who needs one. See bookmarks at the back of church for more information or visit [homeforgood.org.uk](http://homeforgood.org.uk) Home for Good Works together with Care for the Family which is a Christian Charity.

**The 2015 Parish Calendar** is available at the back of church. £5 each, or collect from the Church office, during office hours.

**Tots and Tinies need your help** – Are you available on a Thursday morning? Could you come and help to prepare children's snacks and cups of tea for parents/carers? Could you come and welcome people as they arrive and record them on the weekly register and then sign them out again as they leave? Revd Jane or Kate Preston can give you more details. Please ask if you think you could help support this valuable community outreach.

**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. The Hilbre Room is a warm and welcoming space and provides a wonderfully festive venue for a Christmas gathering. If you, your family, your neighbours or anyone you know would welcome fellowship and a good meal on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December please contact Rev Mike Loach, Curate at St Bridget's Church, on 0151 625 3341, email at [mgloach@gmail.com](mailto:mgloach@gmail.com) or Syd Ford on 0151 342 0141, email at [fordsyd@gmail.com](mailto:fordsyd@gmail.com). There is no charge for the event, but places are limited. Transport can be arranged and vegetarian food is available.

**'SOSO' Community Choir** Tuesday 16th December, 8.00-9.30pm at St Chad's. £4 per session.

**Children's Society Collection at the Christingle Service:** Thank You to all who gave a donation. £93.60 was raised.

**The Children's Society** house boxes raised £750.58. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. As a number of box holders have been removed from the list this year for various reasons, we would like to encourage all those who don't yet have a house box to take one for their small change or bigger! Contact Jean Heath on 648 6015, Elaine Kavanagh on 648 1721, or Barbara Kozer on 648 3523 for a box and registration form.

**The Dec/Jan parish magazine 'Crosstalk'**, is available at the back of church.

**Used Postage stamps** With Christmas approaching, just a reminder to collect your used postage stamps for RDA (Riding for the Disabled). Box in St Chad's foyer and envelope at the back of St Bart's.

**Men's Breakfast** Saturday 10th January 2015, 8.45-9.45am at Aroma Café, Irby.

**Wellspring** Monday 19th January, 8pm at The Rectory.

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](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk) E-Mail: [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)

REVD JANE TURNER 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday)

E-Mail: [rector@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:rector@thurstaston.org.uk)

**Gospel Reading: (John 1:6-8,19-28)**

**All :Glory to you, O Lord**

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ 21And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ 22Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ 23He said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ 26John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - **Christmas Eve**  
10.15am Holy Communion at St Chad's  
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 25<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Day**  
10.00am Family Communion at St Bartholomew's  
*You are invited to bring one of your presents to show to everybody else.*  
**Sun Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**  
9.30am Holy Communion (*No Junior Church but families welcome at this service*)  
**Sunday 4th January**  
10.30am Joint Ecumenical Service at Irby Methodist Church-  
*There will be no 9.30am service. The survey results indicated that people wanted more ecumenical and more joint services, so we would encourage as many people as possible to attend this service. Please bring your normal weekly giving envelope (or a yellow one) and place in the offertory during the service. These will then be collected by our treasurer and banked as if they had been presented at the 9.30am service.*

**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**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly  
gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

*Amen*

**Readings for Today**

Is 61:1-4,8-11  
1 Thess 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8,19-28

**Readings for 21st December**

2 Sam 7:1-11.16  
Rom 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

**FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**For the World:** Please pray for clean water and sanitation for all.  
**For the parish:** Please pray for all our school children as they learn about the Christmas story and enjoy the school productions and end of term parties.  
**For the sick:** Please continue to pray for Mike Bennett. Please pray for those in hospital.  
**From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:**  
Bishop Benjamin Ojwang, Kitgum (Uganda).  
**From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle:**  
Pray for people sleeping rough and without a home this winter, and for churches and agencies providing shelter and support. Seek the strength and vision to respond and not to look the other way.