

# Crosstalk 50p

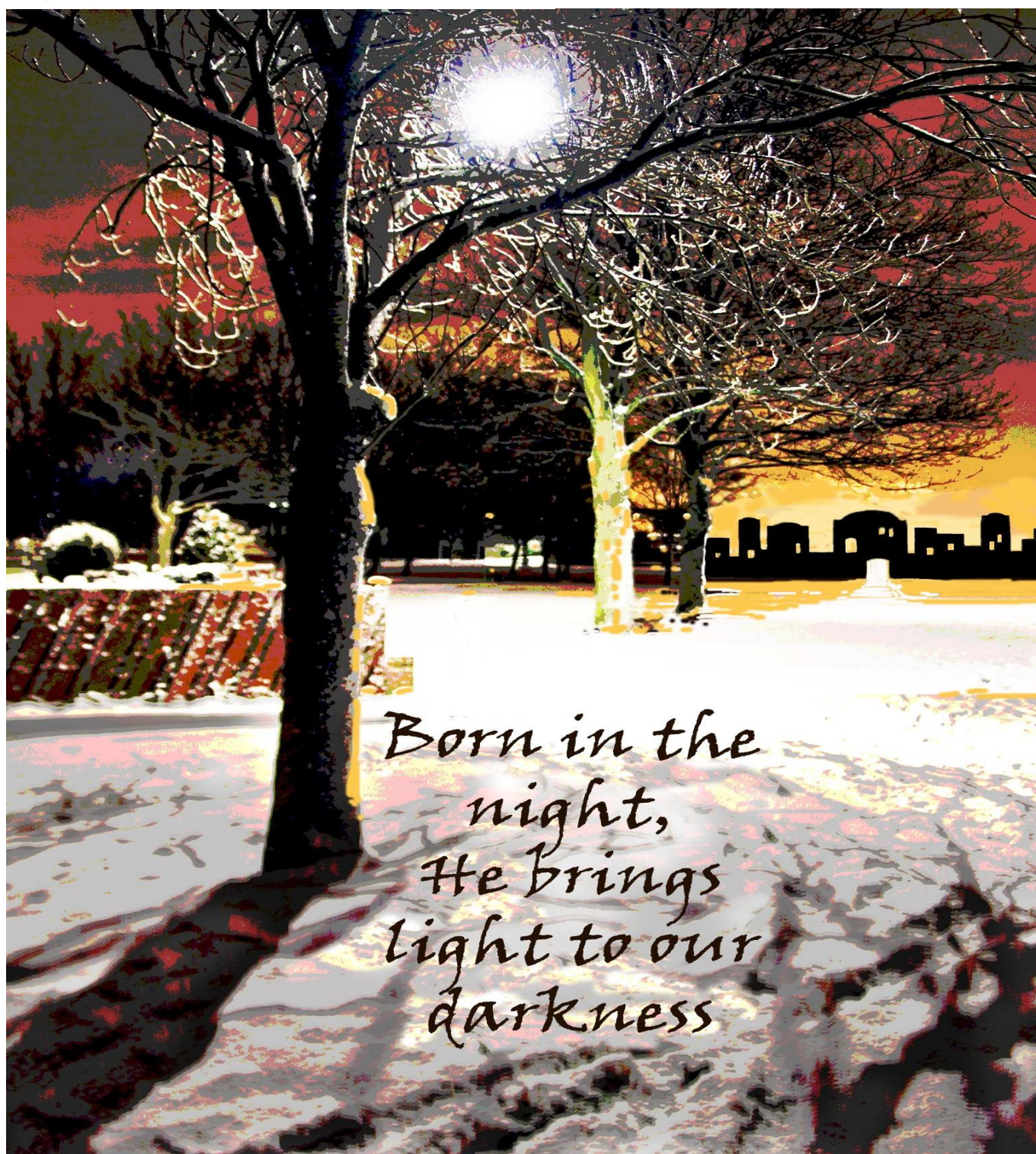
The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad  
[www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester



December 2015 &  
January 2016



The views and opinions expressed in the  
articles in this magazine are those of the  
author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the  
views or opinions of the  
editor, the Rector or the PCC.

**"Your magazine needs you"**

Please send your contributions  
(eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting articles etc.,)  
to [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)  
no later than Monday 18th January 2016

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### **Magazine Subscriptions**

**These are now due for 2016. Details of how to pay on page 16**

## **Diary Dates**

### **Saturday 28th November**

Christmas Fair

1pm-4pm at St Chad's

### **Sunday 29th November**

Advent Songs of Praise

6.30pm at St Chad's

### **Saturday 9th January**

Men's Breakfast

8.45-9.45 am at Aroma Café Irby

### **Wednesday 20th January**

10 pin bowling at Bromborough  
with EMU

All Welcome

More details to follow

### **Tuesdays 1st & 15th December &**

**5th, 12th & 26th January**

SOSO 8pm at St Chad's

(see page 18)

## ***From the Registers***

### ***Funerals***

*We commend to God's eternal care*

*9th November*

*Gordon Cassie*



## From your rector

Hello Everyone,

### Christmas in a Nutshell

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? In a nutshell, it's all about a God who has showed up on earth. The creator of the universe, who hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.' (John 1:14, The Message).

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, inn-keeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! It's interesting, because when we celebrate other birthdays, we don't recall the details of the pregnancy or birth.

So why do we do all this? In a nutshell, it's about God, who has seen the mess of this world and stepped down to meet our deepest need of relationship with Himself:

'When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, He stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, He lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death.' (Philippians 2, The Message)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start, but there's so much more than a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

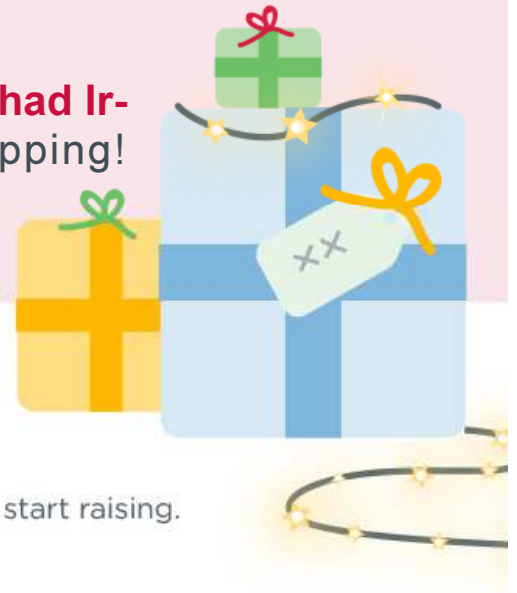
If our greatest need had been information,  
    God would have sent us an educator;  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
    God would have sent us a scientist;  
If our greatest need had been money,  
    God would have sent us an economist;  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
    God would have sent us an entertainer;  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
    so God sent us a Saviour.



*Rerd Jane*

# Help out when you check out this Christmas

Collect FREE donations for  
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## We need you to...



### 1. Join

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### 3. Raise

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**Join, shop and raise here:**

[easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbartholomewstchad/](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbartholomewstchad/)

## Advent and Christmas Special Services:-

Sun Nov 29<sup>th</sup> ADVENT SUNDAY - All Services as Normal

6.30pm Advent Songs of Praise at St. Chad's

Sun Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion

4.00pm Christingle Family Service at St. Chad's

8.00am, 11.15am HC as normal.

Sun Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Nativity Service

led by Junior Church

8.00am, 11.15am MW as Normal



Sun Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Carol Service at St. Bartholomew's

8.00am, 9.30am HC, 11.15am HC as normal

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm Crib Service at St. Bart's

5.00pm Crib Service at St. Bart'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

8.00am BCP Communion at St Barts

10.00am Family Communion at St Bartholomew's

You are invited to bring one of your presents to show to everybody else.

"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Sun Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 8.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

9.30am and 11.15am combined together:-

10.00am Family Communion at St Chad's

Sun Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 8.00am, 9.30am MW and 11.15am HC Services as Normal

10.30am Covenant Service at Irby Methodist to which all are invited.

## **Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday**

In her 2014 Christmas broadcast the Queen said: 'For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, He stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.'

It is the most recent of many references the Queen has made to her Christian faith.

In 2016 people around the county and throughout the Commonwealth will gather in their communities to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Her actual birthday on 21st April will be celebrated with four days of celebrations in Windsor 12th-15th May; a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 10th June; the traditional Trooping the Colour ceremony - the Queen's birthday parade - on Saturday 11th June on Horse Guards Parade, and a massive street party for 10,000 people on The Mall on Sunday 12th June.

The whole country is invited to join the celebrations in our own villages, towns or cities. HOPE [www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk) is working in partnership with Bible Society and the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity to publish a very special book focusing on the Queen's Christian faith. This beautifully produced, illustrated book is much more than a souvenir picture book. It tells the story of the Queen's service to her people as she follows the servant King – Jesus Christ. It will be an ideal gift from churches to people in their communities.

Just like the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012, HOPE will be supporting churches with ideas and resources to bring communities together. HOPE is also working with our partners to provide:

street-party planners, posters, invitations, bunting all with the Queen's 90th birthday theme

school assembly ideas and lesson plans

church service ideas and liturgy to mark this special milestone in the Queen's life

We can start planning our local events now. We could work with other churches to bring our whole community together. We could use this opportunity to start conversations about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and join with the Queen in praying for our communities, as she said in 2012, 'that his example and teaching will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others'.

If you would like to be involved in co-ordinating/organising events in our parish, please let Revd Jane know, or speak to one of the Church Wardens or a member of the PCC.

# ADVENT SONGS OF PRAISE

## SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

### 6.30pm at St Chad's

Following the two very successful Songs of Praise Style Services which we held in September, we are delighted to invite everyone to join us for this service.



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



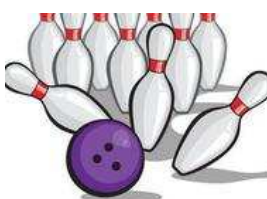
**EMU** (Evening Mothers' Union) meets:-

One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's  
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)



Next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th January.  
10 pin bowling at Bromborough.

All Welcome  
More details to follow.





## Most popular Bible Stories: Who is the Baby?

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, *'Grandma, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size he was last year!!'* As we continue with the top ten *Must Know Stories*, the birth of Jesus must be the most well-known. However, are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, *'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'* (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for *all* people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness *is* a real cause for joy!

*'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'* (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the twenty first century? Jesus came to establish such peace through his death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, *'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her king.'*



# Wakey Wakey!

I was searching for an idea to open my sermon for Advent Sunday. I wanted to illustrate the initial point that Advent is a kind of 'wake up call' to our faith. As an avid radio listener in my youth, it did not take me long to recall the famous *Wakey Wakey!* opening to the Billy Cotton Band Show Radio Programme of the 1950s and 60s! While surfing the internet for an audio clip of Billy Cotton proclaiming those opening words, I discovered this avuncular radio and television entertainer had led a, surprisingly, varied and interesting life.

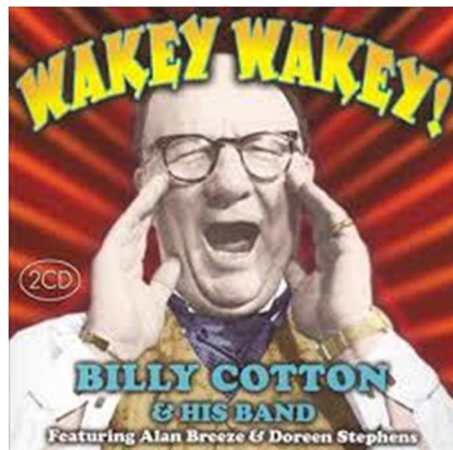
The Billy Cotton Band Show was broadcast at Sunday lunchtime on the BBC Light Programme from 1949 until 1968. The classically trained Alan Breeze, the man with 'the sunshine in his voice,' was the resident singer with the band for 40 years, until his contract was terminated by Billy's offspring, Billy Cotton Junior, who, by then, had become Head of BBC Light Entertainment. It is said that, at the time of his dismissal, Alan and Billy Senior went their separate ways in tears. After 1956, the show was also broadcast on BBC Saturday night television for many years and regular guests were the singer, Kathy Kirby, and pianist, Russ Conway. Script writers for the jokes on the television series were Michael Palin and Terry Jones – later to become famous as part of the Monty Python Team. Amongst the musicians in Billy's band, at one time, was the trumpeter, Nat Gonella, the first British jazzman to find any kind of fame.

Billy Cotton was born in London in 1899. At the age of 15yrs, he, somehow, managed to join the army and served in the Royal Fusiliers as bandsman, having learned to play the bugle and drums in the Boy Scouts. He was involved in the ill fated Gallipoli Campaign, landing on a beach with just a bugle in his hands - until another soldier handed him a rifle! He later became a pilot for the Army Flying Corps but crashed his plane and was nearly killed - coincidentally on the day The Royal Air force was created!

After the war, Billy had numerous jobs including that of bus conductor, and butcher's 'rounds man'. He played football briefly for Brentford -scoring a goal against QPR on his debut - and later played for non league Wimbledon. He, himself, was a supporter of Charlton Athletic who still play his version of, *Red Red Robin* as their theme song before home matches! Billy also boxed as a welterweight for London Polytechnic. Billy supplemented his day time work by playing the drums in various music groups until, in 1925, he formed the first band of his own and, eventually, became a professional bandleader.

The increased financial security Billy got from becoming a band leader enabled him to indulge in his favourite passion – speed! During the years before the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Billy flew his own Tiger Moth aeroplane and, in 1936, he made an attempt on the World Land Speed Record on Southport beach. Although he did not beat the record, he, nevertheless, reached a creditable speed of 125.5 mph!

Billy Cotton died in March 1969 at the Empire Pool, Wembley, watching a heavyweight boxing match between Billy Walker and Jack Bodell. His funeral service was held at Westminster Abbey, just round the corner from where he was born. The family tradition of broadcasting continues today in the presenter, Fearne Cotton, who is his great niece!



Alan Jones

## **Whole Life Discipleship: Shaped for Service in 2016**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10).

The start of a new year is a good time to think about serving God effectively. As whole-life disciples, this is not just about church, but includes our workplace, school, family, friends and community. We are all uniquely shaped to serve him with everything that we need. The factors involved can be described by the acrostic 'SHAPE':

Spiritual Gifts;  
Heart;  
Abilities;  
Personality and  
Experience.

We need to understand how these factors come together uniquely in us.

**Unwrap your Spiritual Gifts:** All Christians are gifted by God with spiritual gifts, to build up the body of Christ. The New Testament offers examples of gifts (eg prophecy, faith, mercy, giving), yet there are many others. Ask the questions 'how is God using me?' and 'what are others saying?' to understand how God is gifting us.

**Listen to your Heart:** The heart represents the core of our desires, hopes, dreams and ambitions. God has given us a unique 'emotional heartbeat' that races over certain activities or circumstances. This helps us to answer the question, 'what do I get passionate about?', for God will use our passion to show us where to serve.

**Apply your Abilities:** We are all born with God given natural abilities, which can work alongside our spiritual gifts. To discover God's will, we should think about what we are good at doing and where we're not. God has given us abilities not merely to make a living but to do ministry!

**Use your Personality:** Each one of us has a different personality, which will impact how we use our gifts and abilities. 'Like stained glass, our different personalities reflect God's light in many colours and patterns. This blesses the family of God with depth and variety.' (Rick Warren).

**Employ your Experiences:** Our experiences also shape us eg. lessons from family, education, jobs, encounters with God or times of pain and trials. God never wastes our experiences, especially when they are difficult!

'Using your shape is the secret of both fruitfulness and fulfilment in ministry. You will be the most effective when you use your spiritual gifts and abilities in the area of your heart's desire, and in a way that best expresses your personality and experiences.' (Rick Warren). In 2016 let's be prepared to say yes to who God shaped us to be, and act on what God has shaped us to do.



## A hymn for Epiphany

Epiphany, 6 January, is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world 6 January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

As the famous carol 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' puts it:

Born a king on Bethlehem plain  
Gold I bring to crown him again –  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all are raising,  
Worship him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb...



What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple, and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation. The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. (Thus when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross falls on the crib.) But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, his bride.

As for the magi, they were NOT Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, even as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.



# Men's Breakfast



9th January 2016 8.45 – 9.45am

Aroma Cafe, Irby Village

Eat, chat and share in fellowship.

Contact Matthew James on 07817625122 or

[mjames@doctors.org.uk](mailto: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 2016 are:

5th March, 7th May, 2nd July, 3rd September and 5th November

Thank you to all those who have generously donated towards the work of the Leprosy Mission over the year. The total raised is £316.76p. This mainly comes from the annual collection of the missionary boxes, but also from the one off collection we did in both churches in the summer, when the government doubled the money raised, an extremely worthwhile exercise. I have a few people who have asked if they can give me an annual cheque for the mission rather than have a box. This is absolutely acceptable, and indeed donations throughout the year are received with warm thanks.



Thank you again for your support and generosity which allows the Leprosy Mission to continue their core work of funding the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals, families and communities affected by leprosy.



'We need your help to make sure your children continue to benefit from Rainbows, Brownies or Guide within Irby! Many of you have or have had girls in our local units BUT without further help, at least 2 of our brownie and guide units are planned to close by Christmas. We need your support as a helper or even after some easy training, becoming a leader for a local unit.

We have 2 rainbow units (girls age 5-7) 2 brownie units (girls aged 7-10) and 2 guide units (girls aged 10-14). The girls achieve and benefit so much from being part of guiding. You are welcome to come along to any of our local meeting to see if you would like to make a difference to guiding within Irby and to keep it going strong.'

If you would like to know more please contact some of our local leaders - Karen Fearn 07479498703 or Sarah Barr 07584247294

For more information on guiding please see <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/home.aspx>



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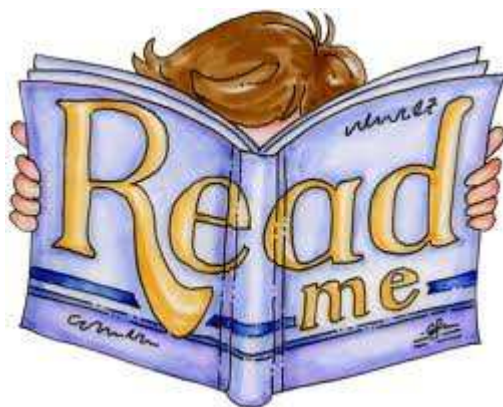
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## Keep it a surprise

Three-year-old Lily was helping her mother wrap a present for her father. While wrapping, her mother told Lily about keeping the present a secret so it would be a surprise. After the present was wrapped, Lily proudly put it under the tree.

When her father asked her if he could shake it and guess what's inside, she said, very seriously, "No, T-shirts don't rattle."

\*\*

## Santa's sleigh

I remember when Father Christmas nervously went for his sleigh-driving test. He came rushing back in a thunder of reindeer, and pulled up in front of the toy factory. 'Have you passed?' I asked.

Father Christmas pointed to the front of the sleigh. 'See for yourself!' he called proudly. 'No-el plates!'

\*\*

## These jokes are sure to make you groan.... think Christmas crackers!

What did the snowman and his wife hang over their baby's crib?

A snow mobile.

What's brown and sneaks round the kitchen?

Mince spies.

What did the pack of Walkers say to the Skips?

Merry Crispmas.

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Snow

Snow who?

Snow business like show business

What do you call a snowman with a suntan?

A puddle.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!

What carol is heard in the desert?

Camel ye faithful!

How do sheep greet each other at Christmas?

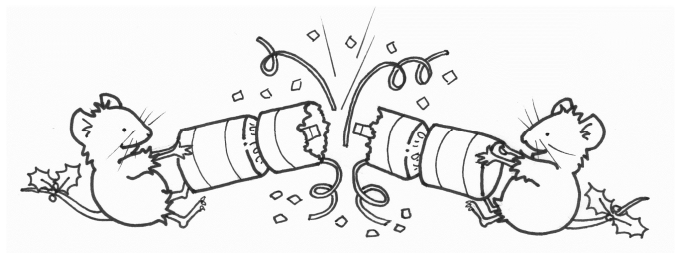
A merry Christmas to ewe!

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

They both drop needles.

Why did the children call St. Nick "Santa Caus"?

Because there was Noël.

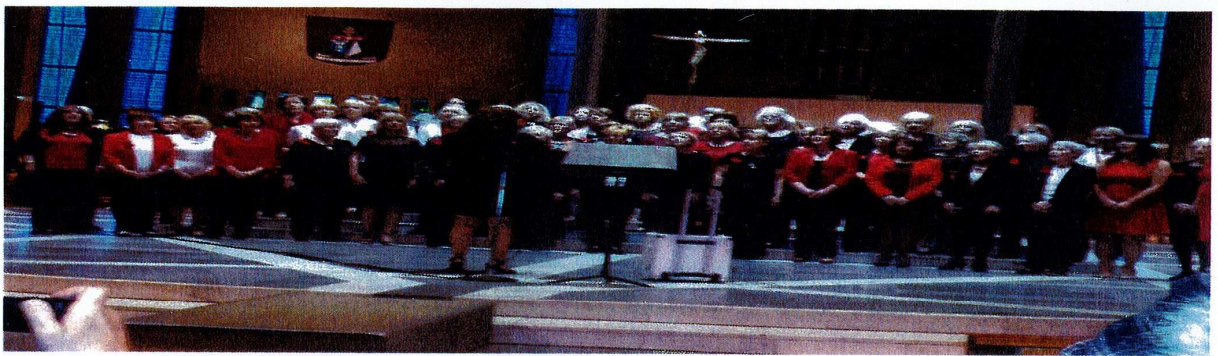


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Leaving a Legacy can make a vital difference for the general purposes of our parish's local mission and ministry

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## Church Services - December

### Sunday Services

#### St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Morning Worship

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

**6th December**  
Advent 2

**13th December**  
Advent 3

**20th December**  
Advent 4

#### St Chad's

9.30am Morning Worship  
**4.00pm Christingle**

9.30am Nativity

9.30am Holy Communion



4.00pm Crib Service  
5.00pm Crib Service  
11.15pm Holy Communion

**24th December**  
Christmas Eve

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am Holy Communion

**25th December**  
Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
3.00pm Baptism

**27th December**  
Christmas 1

10.00am Holy Communion

### Weekday Services

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

## **Church Services - January**

### **Sunday Services**

#### **St Bartholomew's**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**3rd January**  
Christmas 2

#### **St Chad's**

9.30am Morning Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Morning Worship

**10th January**  
Baptism of Christ or Epiphany 1

9.30 Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**17th January**  
Epiphany 2

9.30am Morning Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**24th January**  
Epiphany 3

9.30am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**31st January**  
Epiphany 4

9.30am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**7th February**  
Sunday before Lent & Education Sunday

9.30am Family Service

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)  
OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)