

**The Churches of
St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
Sunday 20th and 27th December**



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

Children are Welcome at our Services

In St Chad's, we have activity bags available and there is also a box of toys and cushions in the foyer, in case you feel your child would be happier playing there.

In St Bartholomew's, there are some colouring sheets and toys at the back of church.

Children from age 2½ can attend Junior Church (term time) at St Chad's

Collect for 20th Dec

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this
present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Collect for 27th Dec

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Post-Communion Prayer - 20th Dec

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your
holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Post-Communion Prayer - 27th Dec

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in
heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For the World: Please pray for peace around the World especially in the Holy Land as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

For the sick: Please continue to pray for Frank Rimmer and Mike Bennett. Please pray for those in hospital.

For our parish: For all of our services that they might be joyful and meaningful as we celebrate Christmas. Please pray for those who feel alone and isolated at this time of year and be aware of people who live in your street that might need practical help or support.

For the bereaved: Please pray for the family and friends of David Mercer.

Services 20th December – Advent 4

8:00 am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
9.30 am Holy Communion St Chad's
11.15am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
6.30pm Carol Service St Bartholomew's

Wednesday 23rd December (Mid-week service)

10.15am Holy Communion St Chad's

Thursday Dec 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's (Children up to and including reception)
5.00pm Crib Service at St. Bartholomew's (Older Children)
11.15pm First Communion of Christmas at St Bartholomew's

Friday Dec 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.00am Family Communion at St Bartholomew's
You are invited to bring one of your presents to show to everybody else.

Sunday 27th December – Christmas 1

8.00am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
10.00am Holy Communion St Chad's
3.00pm Baptism St Bartholomew's – Please pray for Jasmine and her family

Wednesday 30th December (Mid-week service)

10.15am Holy Communion St Chad's

- Sun Jan 3rd 8.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
- 9.30am Morning Worship at St Chad's
- 10.30am Covenant Service at Irby Methodist to which all are invited.
- 11.15am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

Readings for 20 th December	Readings for 27 th December
Micah 5:2-5a	1 Sam 2:18-20,26
Heb 10:5-10	Col 3:12-17
Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	Luke 2:41-52

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

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

Notices and Announcement

- **Crosstalk** The Dec/Jan magazine is available at the back of church for 50p.
- **Dawpool Primary School** – Foundation 2 (Reception) entry September 2016 – Anyone requiring Revd Jane to sign the Church Attendance part of the application form will need to give it to Revd Jane before Christmas.
- **Riding for the Disabled Association** On behalf of the Foresters' Horn Group, many thanks to all those who have provided used stamps for the RDA collection this year. We are still collecting and, with Christmas approaching, we should be grateful if everyone could remember to save their stamps and put them in the box in St Chad's foyer and envelope at the back of St Bart's. Jean Heath.
- **SOSO** Tuesday 5th January 2016, 8pm at St Chad's.
- **Giving by Text.** We are now registered with Just Giving, so if you would like to make a donation to Church by text then all you need to do is text "BART16" and the amount you wish to give to 70070. e.g. text BART16£10 to give ten pounds.

- **Wirral Foodbank Volunteers needed:** Occasional volunteers to give perhaps a couple of hours every few months to assist with collections of food at their local supermarket. Greeters give out "shopping lists" of food that the warehouse is short of, whilst other colleagues receive and pack the food in one of the Foodbank vans.

Regular Volunteers who can give a couple of hours regularly either weekly or monthly to assist with the warehouse and distribution teams. Drivers are in very short supply and we would welcome drivers with clean driving licences to assist not only with the supermarket collections but also to deliver the collected food to the 15 Distribution Centres across the Wirral.

How to Volunteer: Download a Volunteer Application form and a Confidentiality agreement from our website www.wirral.foodbank.com.

Regular volunteers will need to supply 2 references, though those who wish to help with supermarket collections need not. Return the completed forms to Wirral Foodbank.

Would you like to receive this notice sheet every week direct to your email in-box? If so, please send an email request to the parish office (office@thurstaston.org.uk)

**20th Dec - GOSPEL READING:
Luke 1:39-45(46-55)**

All: Glory to you, O Lord

39Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

46And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, 48for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**27th Dec - GOSPEL READING:
Luke 2:41-52**

All: Glory to you, O Lord

41Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' 49He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' 50But they did not understand what he said to them. 51Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

All: Praise to you, O Christ