# Crosstalk 50p

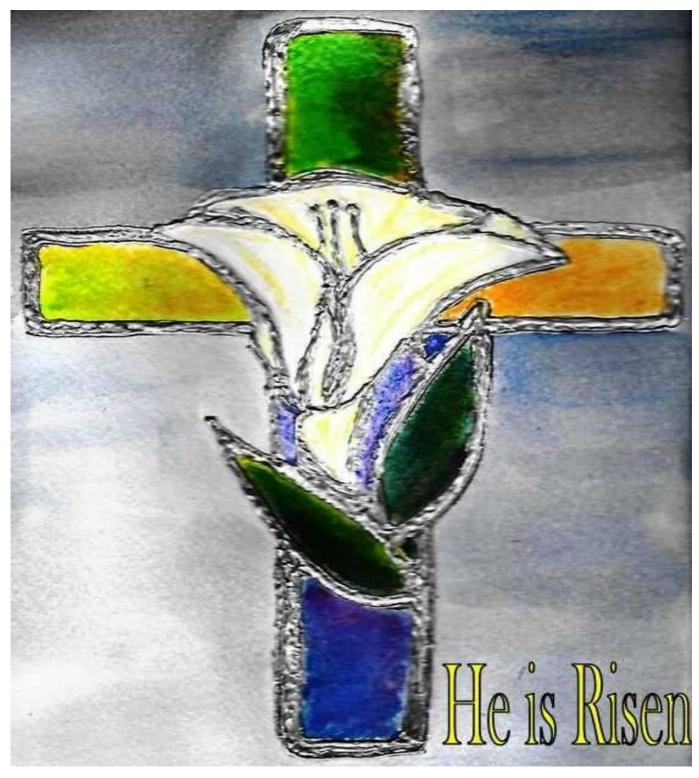
50p Serving Christ is

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

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester



March 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.

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#### Magazine Subscriptions

These are now due for 2016. Details of how to pay on page 19

#### Diary Dates

#### Tuesdays

SOSO 1st 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 8pm at St Chad's

#### Saturday 5th March

Men's Breakfast

8.45am-9.45am at Aroma Café Irby

#### Monday 7th March

PCC Meeting

7.30pm at St Chad's

#### Saturday 19th March

Wirral Schools' Concert Band 7.30pm at St Chad's Church Tickets £5 (see page 6)

#### Monday 21st March

Wellspring

8pm at St Chad's

#### Wednesday 23rd March

Mothers' Union (EMU)

Crafts with Chris Carlson

8pm at St Chad's

#### Saturday 30th April

Spring Craft Fair 1pm-3pm at

St Chad's (see page 7)

#### Tuesday 14th June

Parish Outing to Wales (see page 18)

#### From the Registers

#### **Funerals**

We commend to God's eternal care
16th December
Douglas Baron
5th February
Hugh Potter
23rd February
Fay Northcott Smith

#### **Reader's Letter**

Many people have noted that I am rarely seen out in Irby these days without the addition of Daisy, our youngest granddaughter, in her pram or pushchair! If we're not at the swing park, we can usually be found, along with Elaine, in *Eclair Patisserie* enjoying a 'cup of tea' at Daisy's behest. As soon as the village is in sight, Daisy's cry goes up, *Cup of tea, cup of tea*! For her, that means a small glass of milk with a straw (not charged!) and a white chocolate lollipop, supplemented by ample mouthfuls of *my* strawberry cheesecake!

Not surprisingly, we're back into *Nursery Rhyme Mode* in a big way. They provide a background to all of our car journeys and punctuate our daytime activities and C Beebies' television viewing. One of today's popular nursery rhymes - new to me - is an action and counting rhyme called *Finger Family* or *Daddy Finger*, based on five finger puppets. It starts, *Daddy Finger*, *Daddy Finger .where are you*? and then follows on, *Here I am, here I am, how do you do*? The other members of the family - *mother*, *brother*, *sister* and *baby* are then introduced in the same way.



The rhyme reminded me of the *Five Fingers Aid to Personal Prayer*. It is designed to help us structure our private prayers - in the same way that the Prayer Book provides a structure for the prayers during our services. It goes like this:

Cont...

- 1. Your thumb is nearest to you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. C.S. Lewis wrote, to pray for our loved ones is a, 'sweet duty'.
- 2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.
- 3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the leaders of our country, leaders in business and industry, administrators that they may make wise and fair decisions.
- 4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. This is, perhaps, our weakest finger as many a piano teacher will testify! It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.
- 5. Lastly, there is our little finger the smallest of all which is, perhaps, where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. By the time we have prayed for the other four groups, our own needs may be put in perspective and we will be able to pray for ourselves more effectively.



Alan Jones

#### WIRRAL SCHOOLS' CONCERT BAND



The Concert Band is made up of young people from Wirral schools. They perform music to suit all ages, with a variety of classics and well known music from films and theatre. Their high standards are achieved through dedication, hard work and real enthusiasm for music. They rehearse weekly and perform locally and in Europe. Before Christmas they played at the NSPCC carol concert in the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The band includes a number of musicians who started to play their instruments whilst at Dawpool Primary and Irby Primary schools.

Following the sell-out concert at St Chad's last year, the band is returning for another wonderful evening of music.

# ST CHAD'S CHURCH SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 7.30 PM

TICKETS £5 available from St Chad's Church office 648 8169 or from Karen Robson 648 6691

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds will be shared between the Concert Band and Charity.

Parish of St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston with St. Chad's Irby:

St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby. CH61 3UH



# Spring Craft Fair

# Saturday 30th April at St Chad's Church

### 1pm-3pm

Stalls to include Art, Jewellery, Cards, Crafts, Face painting, Needlework, Picture frames, Hair accessories etc.,

Both Irby Primary & Dawpool Primary to have their own stalls

Volunteers needed to make and sell home made cakes, and to sell tea & coffee

Church will be having a stall so if you do not want your own stall, but can make and donate handmade craft items then please speak to Julie DeBoorder on 648 6331

Tables £8 each, proceeds to Church funds

Please ring Chris Rostock on 07970030794 if you would like to book a table



# Order the 2016 Real Easter Egg Here



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An egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate (165g) with dark chocolate squares (15g) and a cross shaped Easter story.

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Celebrate the real meaning of Easter

includes an Easter story booklet and a milk chocolate Yummy Bar-

#### COFFEE MORNING, 20th FEBRUARY 2016

Many thanks to all those who turned out on a miserable Saturday morning to support the Children's Society Coffee Morning, and also to those who kindly donated but were unable to attend. The house was soon buzzing with chatter over coffee and biscuits and purchases made from the various stallholders. Participants included Shoe-B-Do, Phoenix Cards, Popcat's Music Time, Cheryl Jones with jewellery and gifts and Dilys Jeffrey with craft items. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event for their hard work and efforts and for the contributions to Bring & Buy, Raffle and Cake Stall, which resulted in a very successful and enjoyable morning, raising £625.85 for the Society.



My sermon today comes from Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...

making childhood better

#### The top 10 Bible stories:

#### no. 5: The Ten Commandments

The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20), the law which God gave to Israel.

The computers that we use on a daily basis have thousands of component parts which can go wrong. We need the Maker's instructions to guide us when things go wrong and show us how to get the most out of them. Human beings are also wonderfully complex, physically, psychologically and spiritually. We also have a Maker's handbook to show us how God wants us to live. This is the 10 commandments, which God gave to Moses on Mt Sinai. 'And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery". (Exodus 20:1,2).

If we want to grow to become more like God, we have to take seriously the Commandments in our lives. The rest of the Bible could be described as God's repair manual, spelling out the gospel of grace that restores sin-damaged human beings to relationship with God.

How should we approach the 10 Commandments today? You may say 'I try to take them seriously, but every day I fail somewhere.' We have to admit our weaknesses, but we can turn to God for pardon and forgiveness. In the power of the Spirit, Christ brings us a new kind of life, in which our heart's deepest desire will be to go God's way and obedience will no longer be a burden.

God says 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.' (Jeremiah 31:33). The word of command becomes a promise of obedience: 'You shall not...'

\*\*

#### no. 6 The Good Samaritan

This is the familiar story of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The story tells of a man who is mugged on the road and rescued by a Samaritan. Jesus tells this story in answer to a lawyer's question, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' or 'What must I do to go to heaven?'

Jesus responds by calling for a life of total love towards God and neighbour. The lawyer responds with another question, 'and who is my neighbour?' to which Jesus answers with this story.

The story tells of a dangerous journey between Jerusalem and Jericho. The plight of the man and the indifference of the priest and Levite would horrify Jesus' hearers. They assumed the hero of the story would be an ordinary Jew. Yet Jesus presents the Samaritan, a sworn enemy of the Jews, as a model of integrity and an example to follow. The challenge of the story is that often our neighbour can be our worst enemy, yet these are the people that we are called to love as ourselves.

Of course, all of us will be able to think of people who are *Samaritans* in our lives ie those we try to avoid and don't want to help. If we are honest, we know that we do not have it in ourselves to love as Jesus says here. We need somebody who will be a Good Samaritan to us, to rescue us and enable us to love others as ourselves. Jesus is our Good Samaritan.

'By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour.' (Tim Keller).

\*\*

#### no. 7: The Crucifixion of Jesus

Of what conceivable significance, for us today, is the death of a Jew in Palestine two thousand years ago?'

In this month's *Must Know Story* we will address this question as we look at the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion. On the cross Jesus dealt with the problem of our sin. Peter writes, '*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place, bore our sins and took our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin and to set us free from addiction, fear and ultimately death.* 

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1941 a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz. As a reprisal the Gestapo arbitrarily selected ten men to die in the starvation bunker, including a man called Francis Gajinisdek. He cried out, 'My poor wife and my children. They'll never see me again.' In response an unimpressive looking Polish man stepped forward and said, 'I'm a Catholic priest. I don't have a wife and children and I am willing to die instead of this man.'

Maximilian Kolbe was the name of this priest and he went with the others into the bunker. Remarkably he got the prisoners praying and singing hymns and transformed the atmosphere in the bunker. He was the last person to die and after two weeks he was given a lethal injection and died at the age of 47.

Jesus death was even more amazing than this, because He didn't simply die for one man, but for every individual in the world. If you or I had been the only person in the world, Jesus Christ would still have died in our place. 'Hallelujah, what a Saviour'!!

\*\*



### Men's Breakfast



5th March 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 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:

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







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



Wednesday 23rd March 8pm at St Chad's

Crafts by our very own Chris Carlson.



#### Holy Week and Easter Services

#### Palm Sunday 20th March

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

9.30am Morning Worship at St Chad's

11.15am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's



#### Maundy Thursday 24th March

7.30pm Holy Communion at St Chad's

#### Good Friday 25th March

10.00am Family Service at St Chad's 2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" at St. Bartholomew's



#### Easter Day 27th March

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

9.30am Family Communion at St Chad's

11.15am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's



#### **Looking at your Community**

David Winter considers our reactions to horror.

#### The Way I See It: ANYBODY NOT DISTURBED?

We are all used to it. The TV newsreader pauses from her task to warn us that a filmed report we are about to see 'contains scenes which some viewers may find disturbing'. We then go, by way of the cameras, to Syria or Kenya or the streets of Paris. Before our eyes are scenes of appalling horror. There are dead bodies, some of children. There is blood. There are people who have lost limbs. We are viewing carnage.

Let's go back to that helpful warning. 'Some viewers may find this disturbing.' *Some* viewers? For the moment, let's forget the vast majority, who are simply sitting in front of their television sets appalled at what they are seeing. 'Some' implies that there are other people who are watching all this and *not* finding it 'disturbing'. Is it really possible that years of watching violence - actual or dramatised – has so inured 'some people' to actual human suffering that it no longer 'disturbs' them?

There are two possibilities here. Either we are creating a sub-class of viewers who are not 'disturbed' by real, actual, right-now-at-this-moment human suffering, or those who bring us news of it are fully aware that we are, all of us, appalled by it but prefer to suggest that it is only the super-sensitive who are 'disturbed' by it.

Well, I'm appalled, shocked, horrified at what human beings will do to each other, even, in some cases, in the Name of God. I am also gratified and reassured that in the midst of that carnage there are ordinary men and women showing compassion and care for those who suffer. That's why the weasel word 'some' won't do. The least any of us should be is 'disturbed'.

\*\*

David Winter looks back on John Lennon's famous declaration.

#### More popular than Jesus?

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1966 John Lennon claimed in an interview in the London *Evening Standard* that the Beatles were now 'more popular than Jesus'. His remark caused a mild stir in Britain and a few tut-tuts from Church leaders, but in the States it caused an absolute furore. There, many radio stations banned Beatles music, and there were public bonfires of their records and memorabilia. In due course the fury subsided, and the Beatles eventually became the most successful of all British bands in the USA.

In truth, the word 'popular' takes some of the sting out of his remark. 'Popular' doesn't mean more important, more influential or more praiseworthy. It simply means what it says. People liked them. After all, chocolate is more 'popular' than water and going on holiday than going to work. I doubt if Lennon meant in his rather silly remark that the Beatles' fame would last for two thousand years.

'Popular' has no staying power – it comes, and it goes. Telling people to change their ways, to love their enemies and do good to those who hate them is never going to be 'popular'. It has, however, changed history, brought down empires and transformed the lives of billions of people. Jesus may not be 'popular', but the impact of his brief life certainly has staying power!

\*\*

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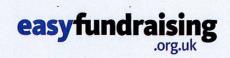
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbart holomewthurstastonandstchadirby and follow the simple steps to sign up.

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#### 3. Earn donations

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# FREE UNIFORM for SECONDARY SCHOOL

We aim to supply **FREE** school uniform, PE kit, etc. used by the 22 secondary schools in Wirral. Currently we have links with 17 of these schools.

#### AND NOW..... F.U.P.S. – Free Uniform for Primary School

In 2015 Wirral FUPS (Free **U**niform for **P**rimary **S**chools) has started at two of our hubs, with more due soon. Currently, we have uniform for around 20 of the 98 primary schools in Wirral.

Since 2012 Wirral F.U.S.S. has helped more than 1500 families with their school uniform needs – all free of charge.

#### All our uniform is in good condition.

Uniform can be picked up by appointment from one of our 6 (soon to be 7) local 'hubs'. Several of our hubs also have regular open days, where you can come along and try items on, or swap your current outgrown uniform for larger items.

**AND** you can request items ONLINE at <a href="https://www.wirralfuss.co.uk">www.wirralfuss.co.uk</a> and arrange to pick them up later.

#### How does FUSS work?

Wirral FUSS receives items of uniform and other clothing donated via our collection drums located in many Wirral schools, at our HUBS, on Open Days, at ASDA in Woodchurch and Birkenhead, and the Conway Centre.

All items are sorted for quality, minor repairs made, washed and ironed if necessary, labelled and stored by our **volunteers** (you can volunteer via our website).

Items that cannot be re-used are sold for recycling, all of which means that a huge amount of artificial fibre does not end up in landfill!

Wirral FUSS works to encourage the free distribution of school uniforms for re-use be families, without judgement of circumstances.

Wirral FUSS aims to follow the Christian principles of compassion, integrity, kindness and care; demonstrating faith-in-action – God's love for all.

For more information please contact us: on 0151 632 6524 or <a href="wirralfuss@yahoo.co.uk">wirralfuss@yahoo.co.uk</a> or visit us at St Luke's Methodist Church, Market Street, Hoylake (9 till 1 most Mondays & Wednesdays)

Andy Kemp (Development Coordinator) Sheila Fowler (Director)

"School uniform is a constant source of anxiety. I am not ashamed of being poor but I always want my children to look as well cared for as others."

- Recent research, undertaken independently by The Children's Society and Family Action, has
  discovered that families spend an average of £320 on uniform when their child starts secondary school and £250 at primary school.
- A family with one child in each sector will spend between 30% and 40% of their August budget on new items of school uniform. Many families end up in debt or are forced to cut back on essentials to pay for school clothes, PE kit, shoes, bags etc.
- Analysis by the charities suggests that nearly 800,000 pupils go to school in poorly-fitting uniform because their parents cannot afford to keep buying new items, while a further 400,000 have been sent home for wearing 'incorrect' clothes. Around a quarter of a million children have had their school chosen based on the cost of its uniform!
- Issues around school uniform risk dividing pupils into the 'haves and have-nots', leaving those
  without the right kit at risk of bullying and embarrassment.
- £2.1billion is spent each year on school clothes in the UK, more than twice the amount predicted if schools were adhering to the Government guidelines on school uniform policy.
- Government guidelines on school uniform, issued in 2012 and reviewed in 2015, emphasize the importance of cost considerations. School uniform should be easily and cheaply sourced, should be available from a wide range of retailers, and compulsory branded items should be kept to a minimum. If schools engage in agreements with specific suppliers, the financial savings should be returned to parents and the agreement regularly reviewed to ensure best value.
- The Children's Society is calling for Government guidance to be made statutory and reissued to schools, and that the Government should also look at capping the cost of uniforms.

**Wirral FUSS** was set up as both a response to social need around the impact of school uniform costs on the budgets of families with low incomes, and, as a means of encouraging recycling and reducing the quantity of artificial fibre entering land-fill.

We received start-up funding from local Waste Management, the Eleanor Rathbone Trust, the John Moores Foundation and The Methodist Church - the project originated within the Methodist Church but is ecumenical (working with the United Reformed Church, the Church of England and the Wirral Christian Centre) and works with and through secular organisations, especially schools.

Wirral FUSS is a voluntary organization, currently working under the charitable umbrella of The Methodist Church (St. Luke's, Hoylake).

For more information and contact details, please visit our website:

www.wirralfuss.co.uk

The Parish of St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby will be opening a uniform 'hub' in St Chad's Church, Irby.

The PCC are very keen to support this project and our local community, by offering the church building for use as a local hub and Margaret Fletcher will co-ordinate the pick-up of uniforms by families.

On behalf of our Parish, Margaret will work with Wirral FUSS to offer the free distribution of school uniforms for re-use, without judgement of circumstances. Wirral FUSS aims to follow the Christian principles of compassion, integrity, kindness and care; demonstrating faith-in-action – God's love for all.

If you would like to help with the preparation of uniforms (minor repairs, washing and ironing, if necessary), please speak to Margaret.

For more information, please visit the website:

www.wirralfuss.co.uk

#### Parish Outing

Come and join us on a parish outing to Wales on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Driving through the Conway Valley, stopping for coffee at

Llangollen & lunch at Llandudno.

Book your place ASAP. Seats £15.00.

Give your name and a non-refundable £5.00 deposit to Leslie Worrall or Alan Jones or put in an envelope and deliver to the Parish Office.

Depart from The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road at 9.30am.





#### "Cross Talk Subscription for 2016 is £5.00"

These are now due for 2016. If you see your deliverer please pay them. Alternatively either post a cheque for £5.00 payable to Thurstaston PCC, to St Chad's Church Office, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH or pay on-line at 40.52.40~00018674, putting your surname and mag subs as reference.

$_{\square}$ I enclose	£5 and	d would	like to	continue	to have	Cross	Talk	delivered	to my
house									

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Name:\_\_\_\_\_

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no experience necessary All abilities welcome

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#### Lost in translation

Are you travelling this Easter? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

#### **Snoring**

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. 'It has to STOP,' he insisted.

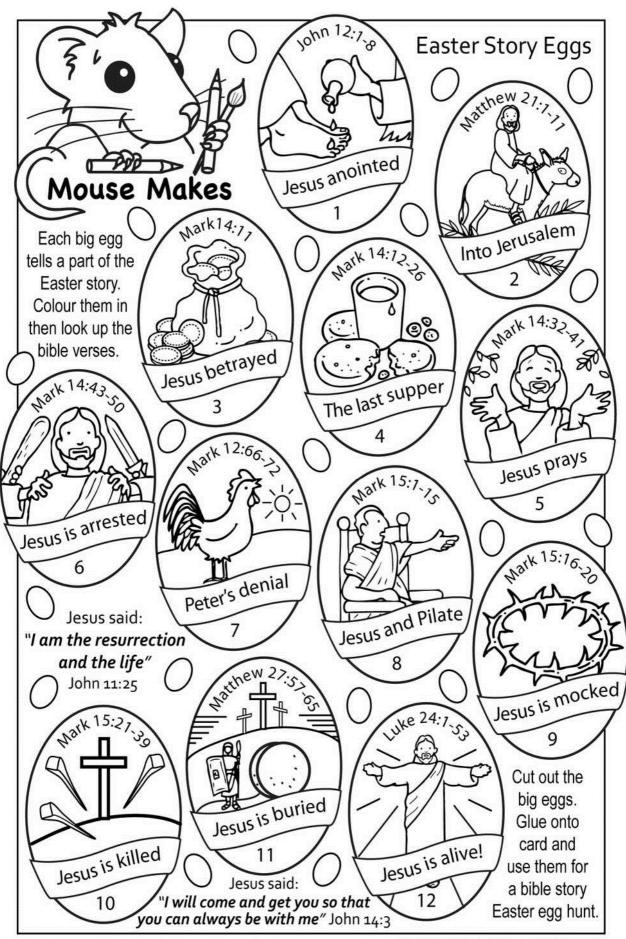
The doctor was intrigued: 'Does it really bother you that much?'

'Well, it's not just me,' explained the minister. 'She is bothering the whole congregation.'
\*\*

#### Miscellaneous observations on daily life

- ~ A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
- ~ A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.
- ~ A pun is the lowest form of humor unless you thought of it yourself.
- ~ Based on my calculations, I can retire five years after I die.
- ~ Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on and still everybody rushes to get a piece.
- ~ Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.
- ~ Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.
- ~ How come, no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?
- $\sim$  I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner all it was doing was gathering dust.

\*\*



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St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or **E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk** 

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Verger **Christian Aid Representative** 

648 6171 Vacant Mrs Joyce Ratcliffe

135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD

**Children's Society Representative** 

Mrs Jean Heath **Organist** 648 6015

Mr Craig Vickers 648 7405

34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW **Leprosy Mission Representative** 

> Mrs Pat Hulme 538 1953

**Electoral Roll** 

c/o Church Office 648 8169 Adoption Society Representative

> Mrs Chris Rostock 648 1112

#### Church Services - March **Sunday Services** St Bartholomew's St Chad's 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 6th March 9.30am Family Service 11.15am Holy Communion Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 13th March 9.30am Holy Communion 11.15am Morning Worship Lent 5 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 20th March 9.30am Morning Worship 11.15am Holy Communion Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 27th March 9.30am Family Communion 11.15am Holy Communion **EASTER DAY** 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 3rd April 9.30am Morning Worship 11.15am Holy Communion Easter 2 **Weekday Services** 24th March **MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7.30pm Holy Communion

2.00pm 'Hour at the Cross'

10.00am Family Service

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

25th March Good Friday

#### **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

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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