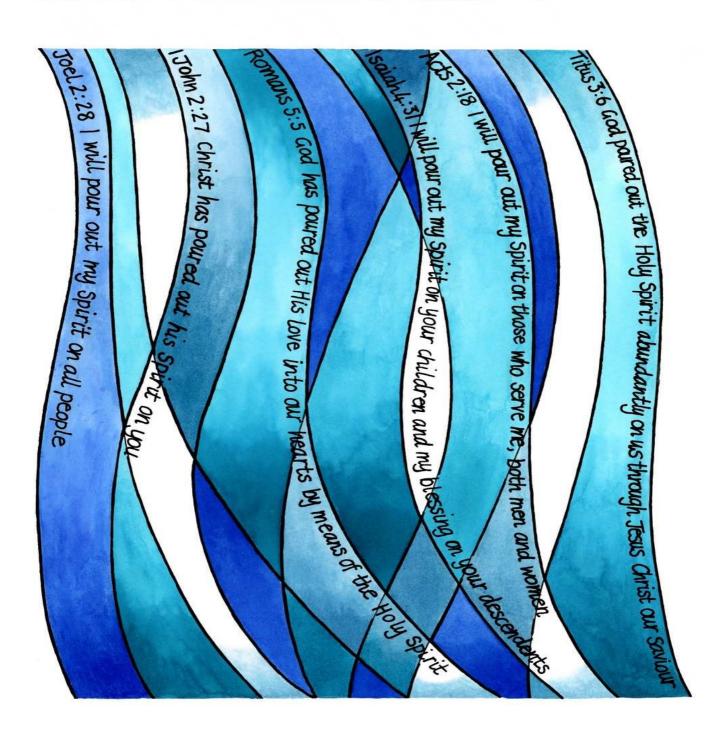
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad www.thurstaston.org.uk

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester





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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# Diary Dates

Saturday 7th May

Men's Breakfast
7.45am-8.45am at

Aroma Café Irby

Sunday 8th May

150th Anniversary of

Reader Ministry

4.00pm at St John the Baptist,

Great Meols

Monday 9th May

PCC Meeting 7.30pm at St Chad's

Tuesdays

SOSO Tuesdays 10th & 24th May 8pm at St Chad's Thursday 12th May

Wellspring

8pm at the Rectory

Sunday 15th May

Christian Aid lunch

12.15pm at Irby Methodist Hall

Wednesday 18th May

Mothers' Union (EMU)

'Decoupage' with Elaine Jones

8pm at St Chad's

Sunday 12th June

Queen's 90th celebrations

Tuesday 14th June

Parish Outing to Wales (see page 9)

# From the Registers

# **Baptisms**

We welcome into the Lord's family 24th April

Ella & Megan Willerton

## **From Your Rector**

#### **Dear Friends**

On the morning of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting(24th April), I used the sermon slot to help us think about what we have to be thankful for and where God might be leading us. Several people said how useful they had found it and wondered if it could be put in writing. So here it is:-

This evening we have our Annual Church Meeting to which everyone is invited. This meeting gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and much of that is contained within the annual report which was e-mailed earlier in the week, or handed to you in paper form this morning. The meeting also gives us chance to appoint those who will serve as Church Wardens, PCC members and sidespeople in the coming year - People who will have a key role in shaping the future of our church life together.

So this morning, I'd like us to take a few moments reflect as we think about what we have and what we value, and then to think about what God might be calling us to in the future.

My letter in the annual report highlights some of the things to be thankful for, and for those who haven't had chance to read it yet, here's a brief flavour of what it says:

Jesus speaks of the kingdom of God as like a merchant looking for fine pearls. He finds one of great value, then goes and sells everything he has to buy it (Matthew 13:45-46).

So what is the pearl in our parish? What has God shown of himself that is so precious, so valuable, that we would never want to lose it? Where do we see God shining through?

Here are a few pearls:-

Our rhythm of worship and prayer: Sunday services, midweek services, monthly prayer meeting and seasonal special services.

Our social functions: Eating together is not just enjoying good food but enjoying companionship, laughter and sharing stories.

Our buildings: Two very different buildings that provide us with different worship and social possibilities.

But the pearl that is so precious above all of these is a bunch of ordinary, diverse people obediently trying their very best to be God's generous offering to one another. It will never be straightforward. It's sometimes messy. But it is the grit in the oyster that produces the pearl of great price.

So we give thanks to God for the pearls that have been created by our working with God up to this point.

But where to from here?

I'd like to challenge us to see this year as one in which we concentrate on four areas of responsibility.

- Personal discipleship
- Fellowship
- Invitation
- Prayer

Let me take a few minutes to elaborate on each of those.

**Personal discipleship** includes both spiritual growth and service. If we are to grow as Christians rather than to stagnate then we need to keep our relationship with God in good order. We need to take time to study the Bible and listen for what God is saying to us. In my sabbatical reflections in the April magazine I encouraged as many of you as possible to commit to studying the book of Nehemiah with me. Those groups start this week and the details are on the weekly notice sheet as well as in the parish magazine. I hope that many of you will join with me over the next six weeks and that together we will see spiritual growth in our individual lives.

Personal discipleship also includes service. Gal 5:13 says "Through love serve one another" and Eph 6:7 says "Serve with your whole heart as if serving the Lord not people." And in case we are unsure whether we are qualified or not, a promise that God is with us from Deut 31:8 – "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

So challenge number one – Personal discipleship. Will you seek to grow spiritually and to serve the Lord in this coming year.

**Fellowship** is about building relationships and our commitment to one another. Today's gospel reading makes this very clear. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 34b-35). I would like this to be a year in which we work on fellowship across all of our congregations. We have four services every week and rarely do they all come together and there are probably committed members of our congregations that you don't even recognise because you've never been to the same service as them. In my sabbatical reflections I have suggested that we explore different music settings for the communion service, so that we can all learn the same one and allow that to become a visible sign of our togetherness. In coming together to learn a new setting we can begin to develop relationships across the congregations. Watch out for more about this over the coming months. In the meantime, think about what you can do to build relationships with those in this congregation. How might it be possible on a Sunday morning; and through the week - to build relationships?

Thirdly, I would encourage you to think about how we can create a **culture of invitation**.

When did you last ask someone to come to church with you, or even to come to a church event or group. We have a variety of things to suit a variety of people. The craft fair is on Saturday. Men's breakfast is the following Saturday. EMU is a couple of weeks after that. Tots and Tinies meets every week. Our bell ringers meet every week. Next Sunday is our family service. Later in the year there will be special services for the Queen's official birthday celebrations. Plenty of opportunities to invite people to come with you.

Jesus commands us to "make disciples of all nations". We can start small, we don't have to conquer the whole world in one go. Think about one person you can invite (a friend, a neighbour, a work colleague) and what you will invite them to, and then have the courage to go and invite them. Offer to collect them and bring them with you, so they don't have to arrive alone.

And the final challenge is to **prayer**. Prayer changes things. Prayer makes a difference. Does prayer have the right priority in your life? Ephesians 6v18 says "Pray in the spirit at all times". It doesn't say pray when you feel like it, or pray when you need something, but pray at ALL times.

Prayer comes in many forms and this week I heard it described as three different fields of prayer - the foundational field, the power field and the wrestling field.

The foundational prayers are those of thanksgiving; confession and silence. Thanksgiving should always be our starting point. God provides us with so much that we take for granted. Imagine that

every day you were to pray thank you for everything you had, it would take ages. As you wake up in the morning. Thank you God for life and the breath in my lungs. Thank You God for a roof over my head. Thank you God for my family. Thank You God for clothes to wear. Thank You God for breakfast. Everything we have comes from God, and as we take time to thank him, so our hearts begin to lift in worship. As we recognise the goodness of God, so we become aware of our failings and we are able to acknowledge our sins before God and receive his forgiveness. Silent prayer is essential. If we talk all the way through the time we spend with God, we will never hear what God wants to say to us. We need still time to listen to God.

The powerful prayers are ask, seek, knock. The Bible tells us we can ask for anything. Jesus loves us and wants us to bring all our requests to him. Asking leads to seeking. If we ask once and forget about it, we may not see a response. Seeking means coming to our heavenly Father bringing the same request, explaining why we are asking and committing our request to the one that we love. Knocking means we have permission to keep on at God, to keep asking, to keep seeking. I have prayed for some of my friends and family for many years that they will come to know Jesus, and so far there has been little response, but I am required to keep on asking, seeking and knocking. Prayer is about perseverance. I wonder how different our families, our church and our world would be, if we were truly persistent in our asking. If you don't ask you don't get! So let's get on with the asking!

And the final kind of prayer – the wrestling prayers are those of intercession, healing prayers and miracles. Recently we prayed for baby Emmett. She was on our prayer list for several weeks. She had meningitis and her parents were desperate for healing for their child, and so asked lots of people to pray for her, including us through our notice sheet. With lots of people interceding on her behalf she recovered and is now doing well and was recently baptised. Leading us back to prayers of thanksgiving and the reminder to pray at ALL times.

I truly believe that if all of us commit to growing our personal discipleship, fellowship, invitation and prayer over the next twelve months, by this time next year we will be a bigger stronger congregation and excited to ask God "what next".

Wishing you every blessing

Revd Jane

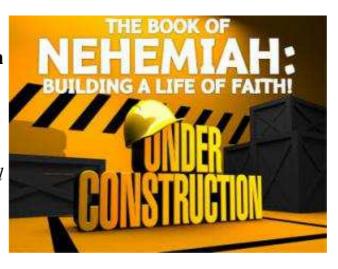


Sunday 12th June
Queen's 90th celebrations
An event is being planned.
Watch this space for more information.
Keep the day free!

# You are invited to Come and study the book of Nehemiah

St Chad's Extension
at the dates and times shown below.

Each session will run twice, so please choose
whichever day and time is best for you and feel
free to swap and change week by week!
We will meet for up to 90 minutes,
read the Bible together,
discuss what we read and pray together.



# **Everyone Welcome.**

Please come even if you've never been to any kind of Bible study group before!

Revd Jane will be printing a booklet to go with the sessions, so it would be really helpful if you could let her know if you plan to come. She will print a few extra booklets anyway, so please do turn up on the spur of the moment as well!

Build on the Foundation of Prayer: Nehemiah 1v1 - 2v10 Thurs 28th April 2.00pm, Sun 1st May 7.30pm

> **Building Together: Nehemiah 2v11 - 3v32** Thurs 5th May 2.00pm, Sun 8th May 7.30pm

Building despite Opposition: Nehemiah chapters 4 and 6 Thurs 12th May 2.00pm, Sun 15th May 7.30pm

Building by the Book: Nehemiah 7v1-5 and 7v73 - 8v18 Thurs 19th May 2.00pm, Sun 22nd May 7.30pm

Half Term

**Interior Decoration: Nehemiah chapter 5 and 9**Sun 5th June 7.30pm, Thurs 9th June 2.00pm

**Building Maintenance: Nehemiah 12v27 - 13v31**Sun 12th June 7.30pm, Thurs 16th June 2.00pm

# The top 10 Bible stories: no. 9: Daniel in the Lions' Den

This month's *Must Know Story* is Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6). The leaders in Babylon, under King Darius, wanted to get rid of him. However, Daniel was a powerful person in the kingdom, because he was committed to God. How did Daniel respond to the opposition?

He chose Character over Comfort Although his opponents tried to find fault with Daniel (4), they were unable to do so, because he was 'trustworthy, neither corrupt nor negligent'. Are there things in our own lives that fail to please God and spoil our witness? Let's bring them to God and ask him to help us overcome them.

He chose Discipline over Distraction A law was passed that declared anyone praying to a god, apart from King Darius, would be thrown in the lion's den. As soon as Daniel heard this, he went to his room to pray (10). He consistently maintained a discipline of prayer three times a day. Like Daniel, do we maintain such a daily discipline of prayer and reading the Bible, especially in the difficult times?

He chose Love over Life When Daniel was found praying to God by his opponents (11), he was reported to the king, who threw him into the lion's den. However, Daniel chose love for God over seeking his own comfort and security. He trusted God, who shut the mouths of the lions! As a result, King Darius issued a proclamation that everyone in the whole kingdom should worship the God of Daniel. Because of the choices he made, Daniel prospered (28). In what ways do we see our choices for God resulting in blessing?

As the song challenges us, 'Dare to be a Daniel! Dare to stand alone! Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!'

\*\*

# 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.









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 18th May 8pm at St Chad's



'Decoupage' with Elaine Jones

# **APCM NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who attended the APCM on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

# stir thegift God which is in You

# Could you be our Church Warden?

We only received one nomination (Mr Chris Perry), so he was elected!

Church wardens are elected for one year, but can serve up to six consecutive years if re-elected. Mr John Roberts has done that, so he cannot stand again.

The basic number of churchwardens is two for each parish. There is no legal sanction if a parish does not have the full number, but it is important to ensure a full complement if at all possible. This is because a single churchwarden acting alone can be placed under an unreasonable burden. It is also unsatisfactory for a parish to be left without cover if a single churchwarden is unable to carry out his or her duties for a time, for example because of illness or unavoidable absence...

Churchwardens are chosen and hold office for only one year at a time. (From the "Guide to the Churchwarden's Measure 2001)

Church Wardens are appointed to serve the whole parish and not a particular church building or congregation and so anyone who is

> baptised, on the electoral roll, an "actual communicant" and aged over 21

can be considered for this role.

If you think this could be you, or if you think someone else would be the right person to serve our parish in this way, then please speak to Revd Jane or any member of the PCC.

(PCC members are Chris Perry, Malcolm Studholme, Chris Smale, Graham Barley, Janet Trigg, Julie DeBoorder, Kate Preston, Jon Oliver, Chris Williams, Roger Jackson, Matt James, Roger Dennison, Chris Turnbull, Liz Whitehead, Andy Harford, Peter Aspinall, Debbie Aspinall)

The duties of Churchwardens are stated briefly in Church Law – Canon E1. This is a summary:

Churchwardens are officers of the bishop. Some of their duties come from church law and others from custom. They are strongly supported in many of their duties by others, such as the treasurer and the finance team, the sacristans and the sidespeople.

The churchwardens are the main representatives of the people, so they should keep the incumbent (the rector or the vicar) informed of the views and opinions of the people and lead others in helping him or her with any arrangements for services. We have welcomers in the churches, but the churchwardens and the sidespeople should also offer friendly welcomes and look out for anyone who is not familiar with the arrangements – where to sit, what to do etc. If people have any questions about the church or the services, they should either answer them or ask someone else, perhaps the incumbent, to answer them. If necessary, the churchwardens maintain order in the church, especially during services.

Legally, the churchwardens are the owners (in trust) of everything in the church. They must not allow anything of value or importance to be removed without authorisation from the diocese (known as a "faculty") and they should verify that valuable items kept safe against theft.

The church has to keep an up-to-date inventory of everything belonging to the church and a list (known as a "terrier") of any church land. A new churchwarden should be given these records by the previous churchwarden. If anything changes, either the churchwardens or the incumbent updates the records. The churchwardens and the incumbent also keep a record (logbook) of all alterations, additions and repairs to the church, church land and other church property. They must keep the PCC informed of any changes — usually through the verbal "Churchwardens' Reports" at PCC meetings.

Once a year, they should inspect, or arrange for someone else to inspect, the fabric of the church building and all the articles belonging to the church. They make a written report on these to the PCC for the annual report to the APCM. Normally, through their reports, they should encourage the PCC to make proper arrangements for the care, maintenance and insurance of the building and their contents, making sure that any necessary faculties are obtained before work is done. They should also try to deal with all matters such as insurance, heating, lighting, cleaning and maintenance and any necessary repairs or replacements. This sounds like a heavy responsibility, but we intend in the near future to transfer much of the responsibility for the maintenance of St Bartholomew's Church to another person.

That is because we are about to apply for grant aid to repair the roof of the parish church and to make other repairs including repairs to the stonework. We also intend to improve the church in other ways through our "Open Door" project. These will be major projects that will be managed separately, so a significant part of the normal responsibilities of the churchwardens – overseeing the care and maintenance of the church building – will be removed from their immediate responsibilities. If the application for grant aid is successful, the projects will last for several years.

Churchwardens should also make sure that the PCC meets its financial obligations such as Parish Share and payments to clergy. In practice however, all that is done by the Treasurer. However, if the parish cannot find someone willing to be treasurer, one of the churchwardens must do so.

The churchwardens have overall responsibility for overseeing the collections in church. In practice, this is usually done by sidespeople or the finance team. The amounts received are recorded in the register and the finance team pays the money into the church accounts and updates the ledgers. Similarly, the bread and wine are usually arranged by the incumbent and the sacristans.

The churchwardens and the sidespeople are also responsible for the seating arrangements, but in practice the only time that any control is required, such as signs on seats, is for special services. If the incumbent retires or moves to another post, that creates a vacancy and the churchwardens normally take on the responsibility for making arrangements for services, assisted by the Rural Dean.

Because they are officers of the bishop, the churchwardens are also responsible for reporting on the state of the parish to him or the archdeacon. This is done formally once a year at the "Archdeacon's Visitation" but they should make other reports if they consider it necessary.

If you would like more information, Revd Jane has some booklets explaining the role of a church warden in more detail.

# Archbishops Call for 'Great Wave of Prayer' for **Evangelism During Pentecost**

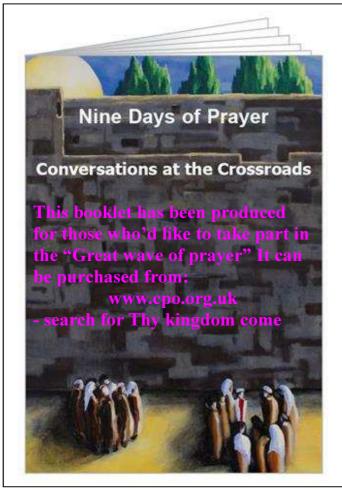
The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are in-THY KINGDOM COME viting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week before Pentecost Sunday.



The Archbishops have written to every serving parish priest in the Church of England expressing their longing "to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches" from 8th-15th May.

## In their letter the Archbishops said:

"At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us - 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.' It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory."



# Wellspring Thurs 12th May 2016

Wellspring is our Church Monthly Prayer Meeting. It usually meets on the third MONDAY of each month. This month we have moved it forward to fit in with the Archbishop's Call for a week of Prayer.

**Everyone** is welcome to come.

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Want to know more?

You can get a free booklet from www.trypraying.co.uk/try-it/booklet/



# Christian Aid Lunch

Sunday 15th May 2016 at Irby Methodist
Hall 12.15pm
£3.00 per person
Tickets available from St Bart's, St Chad's
& Irby Methodist Church



"...and then the vicar realised the bellringershortage and the problem of providing crèche facilities could be solved in one go!"



# Birkenhead, Wallasey & Wirral North Deaneries

You are warmly invited to a service to celebrate

# 150th Anniversary of Reader Ministry

St John the Baptist, Great Meols

(Birkenhead Road, Great Meols CH47 6AF)

8th May 2016 at 4.00 pm

Preacher: Revd Cheryl Coverley (Diocesan Sub warden of Readers)

# IRBY ARTISTS ASSOCIATION and ST CHADS

## -- and the RNLI!

Irby Artists Association is 40 years old this year -- and that is a 40 years association with St Chad's Church!

How did this association come about?-

Well, the Association has always worked to support local charities, (to the extent that each year we donate all the proceeds of our November exhibition to one or more charities) and it was through the efforts of a group of local artists to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution that the Association was founded.

An art exhibition organised by the Irby Ladies Guild of the RNLI was held at St Chad's Hall on 31st January 1976, featuring 150 paintings by local artists, and which raised £100 (a fair amount in those times!) for the Lifeboat Fund.

As a result of that event. some of the artists got together to form the Irby Artists Association, and a General Meeting was held at St Chad's Hall on 30 March 1976 to officially inaugurate the new Association --- and we are proud to say that St Chad's Church Hall is still the home of Irby AA!

The Association now has over 200 members, and holds monthly meetings at St Chad's Hall, with demonstrations by talented artists, the occasional workshop, and two very popular exhibitions each year. It also has a popular 'Monday Afternoon Group', made up of Full and Associate members, who meet to draw or paint each week—indoors September to April, and outdoors May to September. The Association also welcomes craft artists as members, and craft items are a major feature of our exhibitions.

We welcome new members, and there is no lower age limit to membership, but young persons under 16 who are attending Irby AA events must to be supervised by a responsible adult.

Our next exhibition, featuring over 250 paintings or craft items, will be held on Saturday 21st May, from 10 am to 5pm. Entry is free, and there are a good selection of refreshments on sale.

We hope that our proud association with St Chad's will continue for many more years to come.

Alan McMahon Chairman Irby Artists association

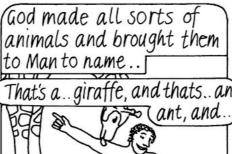
# Children's Pages



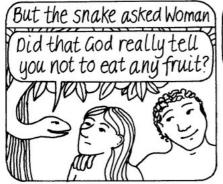
# A short story from the Bible

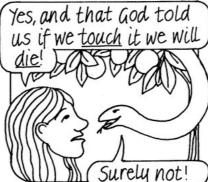
It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 2:4-9,15-25 and ch. 3 This story is about the wonderful start to the world, and the first mistake...

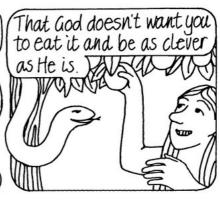










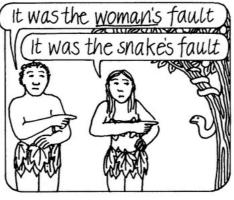




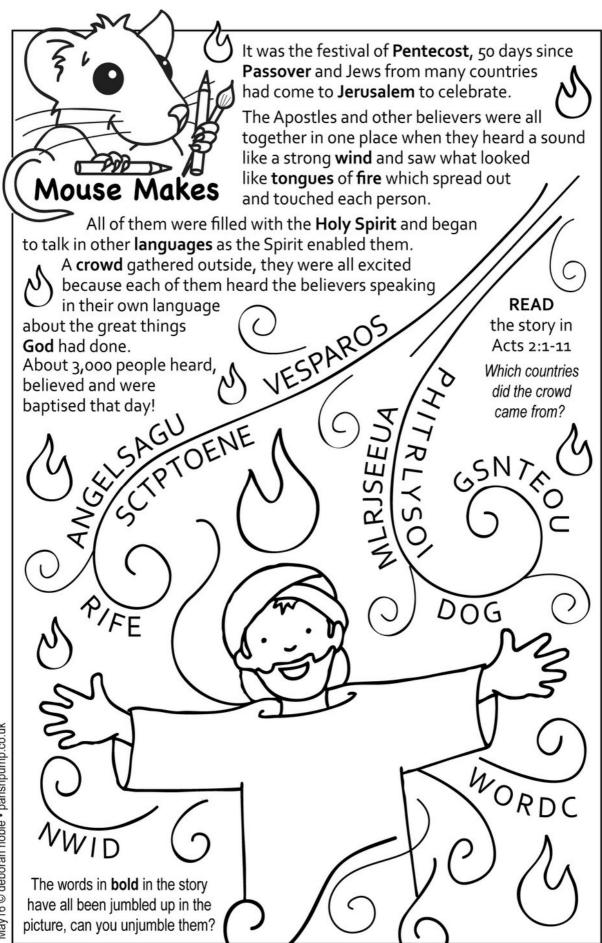














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Contacts Churchwardens St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary Mr John Roberts **342 2149** Mrs Jean Heath 648 6015 23 Riverbank Road Lower Heswall CH60 4SQ 648 6958 Evening Mothers' Union (EMU) Mr Chris Perry 49 Heywood Boulevard Thingwall CH61 3XB Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary) 6481112 Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's) Reader Mrs Elaine Jones 648 1400 Mr Alan Jones 648 1400 8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT Flower Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Dawn Rudd 648 0209 **Retired Clergy** Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's) Rev'd Joe Edwardson **648 2661** Mrs June Bibby 678 8124 38 Hazel Grove Irby CH61 4UZ Cleaning Guild (St Chad's) 648 7767 Mrs Leslie Worrall 648 5590 Rev'd Simon Beckley 162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG **Bellringers Tower Captain** Revd David Trollope **342 2648** Dr Peter Robson 648 6691 26 Whitehouse Lane Heswall CH60 1UQ Revd Julian Cliff 342 3230 15 Sandy Lane Heswall CH60 5SZ CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 792 2022 Junior Church Revd Ray Dent 32 Proctor Rd Hoylake CH47 4BB Mrs Julie Deboorder 648 6331 Seniors/Youth (11-16) Mrs Janet Trigg 648 8821 **PCC Secretary** Mr Graham Barley 648 1867 Rainbows/Brownies/Guides 5 Sherwood Avenue Irby CH61 4XB www.girlguiding.org.uk or Freephone 0800 1 69 59 01 **PCC Treasurer** Mr Chris Williams 648 8003 18 Heathbank Avenue Irby CH61 4XD **CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES** 

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 - May**

# **Sunday Services**

St Bartholomew's		St Chad's
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	1st May Easter 6	9.30am Family Service
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Morning Worship	8th May Easter 7	9.30am Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	<b>15th May</b> Pentecost	9.30am Morning Worship
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion 3.00pm Baptism	<b>22nd May</b> Trinity	9.30am Family Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Baptism	29th May Trinity	9.30am Family Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	<b>5th June</b> Trinity 2	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

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