

# Crosstalk 60p

*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 2017—January 2018



## Join us this Christmas

**Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ,  
who is God with us, during this  
wonderful season.**

**Join the journey at**  
**[www.churchofengland.org/Christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/Christmas)**  
**or text GODWITHUS to 88802**



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 Thursday 25th January

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### Magazine Subscriptions

**These are now due for 2018. Details of how to pay on page 24**

## Diary Dates

**Christmas Services**  
Please see page 23 for a list of all  
Christmas services

**Friday 15th December**  
Memories Afternoon Tea  
2-4pm Irby Branch library

**Saturday 6th January**  
Epiphany Breakfast  
9.00—10.00 am St Chads

**Saturday 13th January**  
Men's Breakfast  
8.45 am Aroma Café, Irby

**Friday 19th January**  
Film Night—War Room  
7.30pm St Chads

**January EMU**  
Meal Out  
Details to be confirmed in ,  
weekly notice sheet

**Saturday 27th January**  
Called to Serve ,see page 14  
9-3pm Foxhill Frodsham

## From the Registers

***Baptisms***  
*We welcome into the Lord's family*  
*19th November*  
*Noah Cree*

***Weddingss***  
*We ask for Gods Bleesing upon the mar-*  
*riage of*  
*25th November*  
*John Knight and Jennifer Card*

## From Your Rector

Dear Friends,

I hope that you will be able to take part in celebrating the birth of Jesus with us at some of our services throughout December.

The nativity scene with all its characters was in place, as the children (representing angels), gathered around the manger. They sang: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men'. Suddenly a small girl on the edge of the crowd, who couldn't see what was going on, shouted out, 'Let Jesus show!'

At Christmas time, we want to let Jesus show, in our churches, communities and lives. We have an amazing message to share: 'in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10). It was to the shepherds, apart from his parents, that Jesus was first showed.

No doubt these simple shepherds would have no idea of what the names given to Jesus fully meant (ie Saviour, Messiah and Lord). All they needed to know, and all we need to know, is that God has done something unique in coming to earth as a human being. This is good news of great joy for everybody!

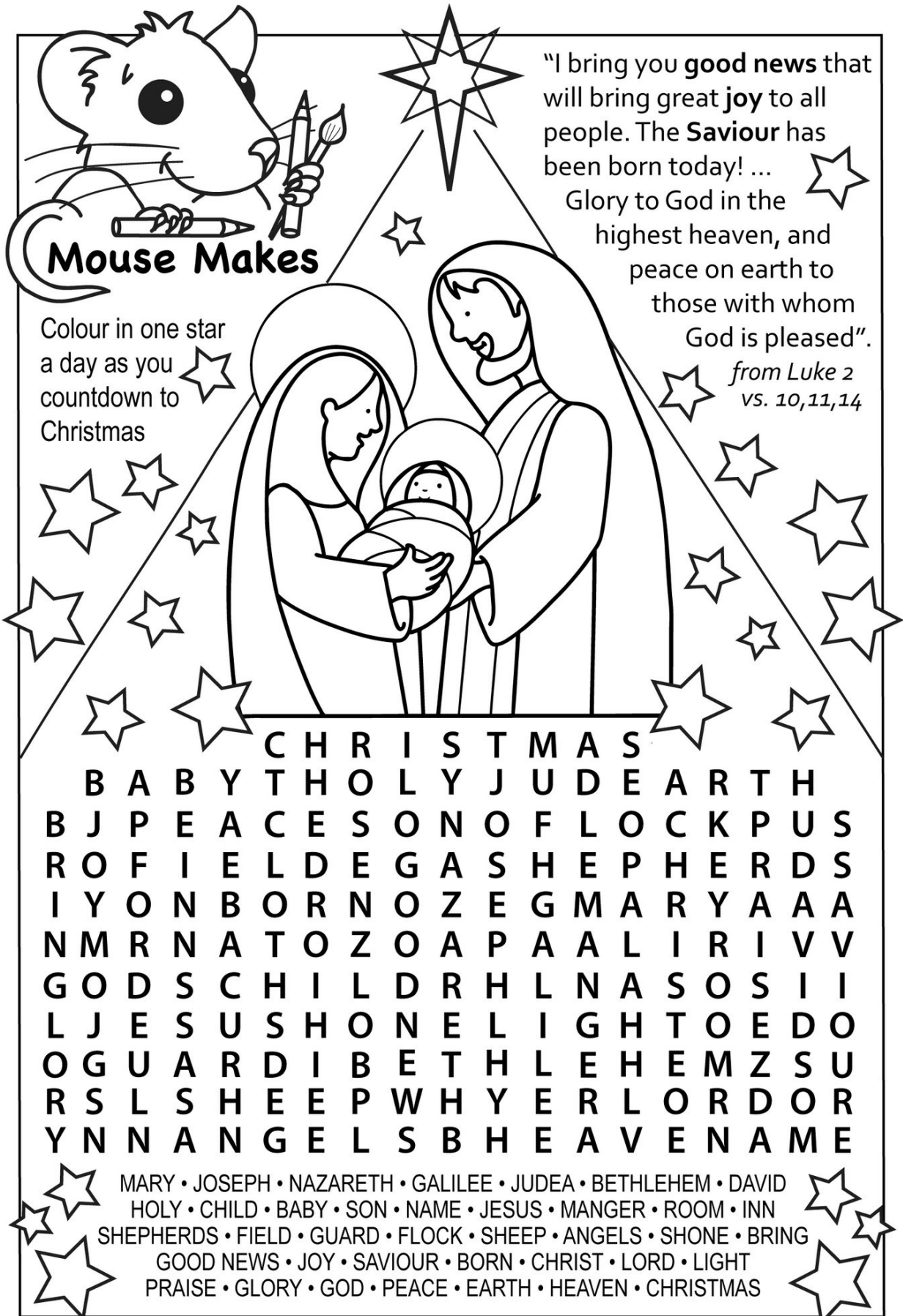
After worshipping the child, the shepherds return to their normal routine. However, they would never be the same again! Even though their work and social standing were unchanged, they had a message to share and let Jesus show. Although we don't normally see angels, we have the same good news to share! When Christmas is over and we're back to our normal routines, how will we let Jesus show in our lives?

God Bless

*Rev'd Jane*







# Jesus' birth

There are four accounts of Jesus' life in the Bible, but only two of them describe events before He was 30. They are called the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke, and they were written about 30 to 40 years after Jesus' death. It may have been that the eyewitnesses were dying out, and it became important to record how Jesus was born. The authors researched the recollections of those who knew and followed Jesus.

The writers also knew the Jewish scriptures (known to Christians as the Old Testament). The scriptures had led the Jews to expect a unique leader called the Messiah or Christ (the words mean the same – 'The Anointed One'). The writings foresaw that this Christ would be associated with the ancestral line of the greatest king in Israel's history, David; with David's birthplace, Bethlehem; and with a virgin whose first child would be named Emmanuel (which means 'God is with us'). Jesus' family home, however, was Nazareth, which was 70 miles away, and his parents were known to be named Joseph and Mary.

By bringing these facts together, Luke created an account in which the young Mary, engaged to Joseph but not yet married, was visited in Nazareth by Gabriel, an angel. Gabriel told her that she had been chosen by God to give birth to a son. The baby would be conceived through a unique act of God. Through this child, God would live among His people in an unprecedented way. She was to call Him Jesus (which means, 'God saves us'). Mary was spared the disgrace associated with being pregnant and unmarried at that time because Joseph acted in a compassionate way. She gave birth in Bethlehem because that was where Joseph's ancestors lived, and he needed to register there in a census.

Matthew's version of this story stresses the fact that Jesus' mission had no national boundaries. He records a visit by foreign academics ('wise men'), who were drawn to the place through their study of sciences and astrology. Luke's gospel continually stresses Jesus' care for marginalised people, and it is appropriate that he records Jesus being visited by local riff-raff (shepherds, guided to Jesus' birthplace by a vision of angels).

In Matthew's version, tragedy overshadowed these events. Herod the Great had been installed in Jerusalem as 'King of the Jews' by the governing Roman authorities. He heard rumours of the birth of a rival, and tried to eliminate the threat by having male children in Bethlehem murdered. However, his soldiers arrived too late to harm Jesus, whose family had fled to Egypt.

Christians remember these events with great celebration at Christmas. Many fables and traditions have accumulated around the bare facts known about Jesus' birth.



You can find answers to questions about Christianity at [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk). Christianity.org.uk is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency, an agency of Churches Together in England

# *Some Shepherds...*

“Bible Sketchbook Bible Study”

1. Read Luke 2: 8-14
2. Focus on v 8. Look at the art-work.  
Make this a personal meditation. Think about the humility of the shepherds - represented by their dark clothing. Imagine how they must have felt at these momentous events unfolding.
3. Focus on v 9 and 13. Look at the shape of the shepherd-crooks and how these tie-in with the angels rejoicing behind the shepherds. What does this say to you about the future? What does this say to you about being full of the light and the promise of the gospel?
4. The shepherds were ordinary people. What is special about this?
5. V 9: Why do you think they were so afraid?
6. vv 10-11 What was this “good news”? Is it still valid? What does it mean to you?
7. vv 15-16 What was their response to the angel?
8. Do you think angels still speak to us today? If so, how? Do you have any experience of this?
9. v19 What do you make of Mary’s response? See also the second part of v 51.
10. v20. Try and imagine how the shepherds felt about all they had seen and heard. Try putting this into practice before you close in prayer







# GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

**MOVIE  
MOMENTS**

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

## Comfort in our troubles

'His childhood was sacrificed to make other childhoods better' says Will Tilston about the title character he plays in *Goodbye Christopher Robin*.

This is the latest film providing a surprising back-story to a popular children's book. But unlike *Saving Mr. Banks*, *Miss Potter* and *Finding Neverland* (which primarily focus on the mind of the writer) *Goodbye Christopher Robin* also shows the impact on the story's main character, who is a real person – the author's eight-year-old son. This young boy has been experiencing the pain of living with emotionally disengaged parents. His father is shell-shocked from the First World War, and finds it difficult to express his feelings. His mother cannot properly attach to her son because she is convinced that another such war is inevitable and he will be called up to fight, so she showers him with affection one minute and ignores him the next.

Then, in a magical few days when Christopher is alone with his father in the woods surrounding their Sussex house, the two of them bond together through imaginary stories about a group of toy animals. Christopher's father is A. A. Milne, who writes these down as the tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, and the whole family finds themselves swept up in the success of the books. But young Christopher Robin cannot stay little forever.

As he grows, these childhood stories make his adolescent life a misery.

We can't detail the end of the film without spoilers but can highlight that, in the final scenes, we discover that the tales of Winnie-the-Pooh, which had comforted the young boy, became comforting to others in their own distress. Perhaps, as we watch this powerful and moving film, we might reflect on the biblical message that God 'comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive.'



**ETHOS  
MEDIA.org**

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.





*Irby Branch Library*

# *Memories Afternoon Tea*

*Please come & join us  
for an afternoon  
of traditional  
festive food  
& fun.*

**HAMPER  
RAFFLE!**

**This is a dementia  
friendly event.**

*Friday 15 December • 2 - 4pm  
Irby Branch Library • Free!*

*Carol singing from the children of  
Dawpool CE Aided Primary School*

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## Epiphany Breakfast, St Chad's

**9.00-10.00am Saturday 6th January 2018**

For catering purposes we need to know how many people will be coming. So please return this slip to Revd Jane by 3rd January:-

I/We will be coming to the Epiphany Breakfast:-

Name:

Number of people:

Any dietary requirements:

I would be able to come at 8.30am and help with setting up

An opportunity  
to share worship and prayer  
as we share breakfast.

Everyone, whatever age, Welcome.

Come let us  
*Adore*  
Him



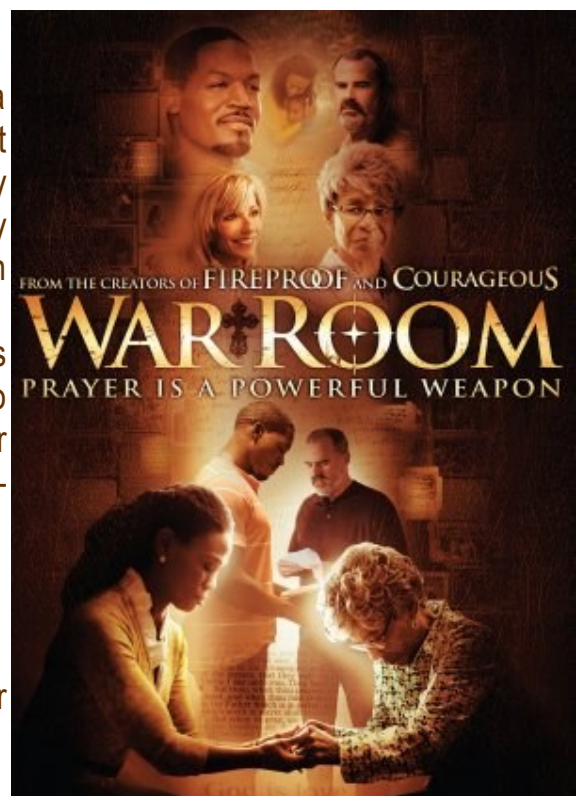
## Film Night @ St Chad's 7.30pm Friday 19th January 2018

Tony and Elizabeth Jordan have it all - great jobs, a beautiful daughter, and their dream house. But appearances can be deceiving. Their world is actually crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. As Tony basks in his professional success and flirts with temptation, Elizabeth's bitterness increases.

But their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth's newest client, Miss Clara, challenges Elizabeth to establish a prayer "war room". A battle plan of prayer for her family. As Elizabeth begins to fight for her family, Tony must decide if he will make amends.

Classification PG, Running Time 120 minutes

Nibbles and Drinks provided, but feel free to bring your own favourites!







# Lent 2018

During Lent 2018 we will be looking at Prayer. There will be 4 sermons and 4 evening sessions. Each will stand on it's own, so you can pick and choose what you come to:-

**Sunday 18th February (9.30am and 11.15am, Wed 10.15)**  
**Approaches to Prayer**

**Thursday 22nd February 7.30pm St Chad's**

**Sunday 25th February (9.30am and 11.15am, Wed 10.15)**  
**Focussing the Telescope**

**Wednesday 28th February 7.30pm St Chad's**

**Sunday 4th March (9.30am and 11.15am, Wed 10.15)**  
**The Word made Prayer**

**Thursday 8th March 7.30pm St Chad's**

**Sunday 18th March (9.30am and 11.15am, Wed 10.15)**  
**Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones**

**Wednesday 21st March 7.30pm St Chad's**



## Prayer Walk

**9.00-10.00am Sat 17th March**

Starting and finishing at St Chad's  
 with option to remain at St Chad's  
 for those unable to walk far

We will set out in ones and twos to walk  
 and pray for our parish. Never done  
 prayer this way before. Come and give it a  
 go!







**1 EVENT**  
**2 LOCATIONS**  
**40,000 PEOPLE**

Join thousands of others in 2018 for the UK's largest united gathering of the church, coming together to worship and celebrate all that is good.

**26 - 27 MAY**  
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**01-02 JUNE**  
 CAPESTHORNE HALL, CHESHIRE

### Camping

Don't miss a moment of the Big Church Day Out – camp with us! Exclusive After Hours entertainment, fabulous food and breath-taking views are just some of the things that make the Big Church Campsite the perfect place to stay. You can camp Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. You only need to purchase one Camping Ticket per person, regardless of whether you choose to camp for 1, 2 or 3 nights. Everyone camping will need a camping ticket, including Under 5s and Disabled Carers.

***Your event ticket is not included and will need to be purchased separately.***

### Ticket Prices

Chester Diocese have again secured a BIG discount from the Big Church Day Out team for this fabulous event:-

**Full Weekend** tickets £28 per adult and £22 for 5-16 year olds. Under 4's are £4 each.

**One day tickets for either Friday or Saturday** are £23 per adult and £17 for 5-16 year olds. Under 4's are £4 each.

Camping tickets are in **addition** to the above at £20 per adult and £10 for 5-16 year olds. Under 4's are £4 each.

Please be aware there is a 10% service charge that will be added to the above.

### How to Book

To book your discounted tickets please go to:-

<http://www.chester.anglican.org/mission/the-big-church-day-out/big-church-day-out.php>

Tickets booked directly on the Big Church Day Out web site will not be added to our group therefore will be full price.

## **The Big Church Day Out is back in the Diocese of Chester in June 2018!!**

Tens of thousands of Christians gather to worship and celebrate in Cheshire

**1st and 2nd June 2018 at Capesthorpe Hall, Cheshire**

We hope you can join us in June at this exciting event which is coming to our Diocese again this year.

The Big Church Day Out draws together tens of thousands of Christians from all over the UK and Europe to worship and celebrate all that is good. It's a one-of-a-kind expression of church unity that's as vibrant and varied as its wonderful guests. Whatever your age, denomination or musical taste, you are welcome to join us for two days of discovery and enjoyment you'll never forget. We will be camping together in a Diocese 'space' especially allocated for us.

The Big Church Day Out is like one huge playground, bursting with activities and fun for all ages. From the Big Church Kids tent and fun-filled fête to the relaxing Tea Tent nestled in the beautiful gardens, you're sure to find your favourite spot and make memories that will last a lifetime.

### **What can you expect?**

The Big Church Day Out is a chance to discover world-class music, mouth-watering food, relaxing cafes, family activities, and dancing crowds. Here is what to expect...

#### **Five Music Stages**

The Main Stage brings together the most popular line up of Christian worship and artists from world-renowned choirs and urban acts to worship leaders and bands from all over the globe. The Illuminate Stage is a more intimate venue. It's a great place for youth groups and those who crave the dance-till-you-drop festival experience. The Airstream Stage is a chance to perch on a hay bale and listen to breath-taking live music performed from inside a converted Airstream Caravelle. This chilled-out venue is brimming with character and talent, making it the perfect place to relax on your journey of discovery across the Big Church Day Out site.

#### **Late Night Events**

At the Campfire area you can worship under the stars in the cool night air, warmed by a roaring campfire. The Comedy Tent is a late-night-only comedy venue, mixed with acoustic sets from incredible bands who have got just a few more songs to treat you to before they head off to bed. The Kingdom Come tent, with artists from the Main Stage line up leading worship into the wee hours. Here you'll find the space and time to sing, pray, dance and relax in God's presence.

#### **The Big Church Bazaar**

This buzzing venue brings together an incredible selection of Christian ministries and traders, so whether you're looking for ideas for your church, clothing with a Christian message, new campaigns to support, books, artwork, jewellery or a summer holiday location, you're sure to find it in the Big Church Bazaar!

#### **Kids**

There's a farm for little animal lovers, rock climbing for little dare-devils, face-painting for big imaginations and much more dotted all around the site. Be sure to make your way to the dedicated Big Church Kids Tent, exploding with worship, dancing, fun and games.

#### **Cafés and Bars**

In the Tea Tent Café you can sip a steaming latte or a cool glass of Pimms as you enjoy the incredible entertainment in this family-favourite area of the Big Church Day Out. A delicious Tea Tent cream tea is the perfect sweet-tooth satisfier as you sit back and relax in this beautiful setting. The Stage Cafés serving your favourite specialty hot drinks and delicious snacks to fuel you through the next incredible Big Church Day Out artist!



# Called to Serve

Sat 27th January 2018  
between 09:00 – 15:00  
with a light lunch provided.

A great opportunity to come and find out more about how you might serve God and the church. Showcasing our four licensed ministries (Church Army, Ordained, Pastoral Worker, Reader) the event is an opportunity to find out the distinctions between these ministries and to listen to what you think God might be asking you to do. The event is free and held at Foxhill, Frodsham.

You can register using this link please;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/called-to-serve-tickets-37801629692>



## Gardening for Wildlife— Making a Community Garden



Following the departure of the pre-school group, the garden behind St Chad's has been abandoned. The purpose built raised beds are now choked with weeds and the whole area looks completely neglected.

We have a wonderful underused facility which could become a beautiful wildlife haven attracting birds and butterflies and also a place where young people could learn how to sow and grow a variety of flowers, fruit and vegetables and re-connect with the natural world.

We would need some adult help to restore and improve the raised beds and to create new planting areas. We could also make planters and bird boxes.

Our garden could become a wonderful resource for young and old to enjoy, maybe a sort of Eco-Messy Church or an addition to Saturdays together.

I would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in such a project. I would envisage beginning to prepare the site in the New Year—weather permitting

Watch out for more details in church newsletters.

Margaret Fletcher—0151 648 1025





# Men's Breakfast



13th January 2018 8.45 – 9.45am

Aroma Cafe, Irby Village

Eat, chat and share in fellowship.

Contact Matthew James on 07817625122 or [mp\\_james@btinternet.com](mailto:mp_james@btinternet.com)  
for further details.

**Dates for your diary:** Where possible Men's Breakfasts will take place on the first Saturday of alternate months.



**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 event:** No meeting in December,  
January is a Meal at the Jug & Bottle , **Wednesday 17th January**,  
Please contact Chris Rostock if you wish to come.

**All Welcome**



**Please collect your Postage Stamps**

throughout the year for RDA (Riding for the Disabled). There is a box in St Chad's foyer and envelope at the back of St Bart's.

**Thankyou** to everyone who donated and supported the RDA fundraising morning. The event raised £403 ! This almost covers the cost of three riding sessions.



Wirral age UK are launching a new initiative called Joining Forces. This is a veterans project aimed at older veterans aged 65 plus. They will be based in Meadowcroft in Bromborough and are able to offer help and support in a number of areas including, Information and Advice, Health and Wellbeing and Reminiscence work also.

Leaflets are available at both churches.

**Community Choir**



**Now meets every Tuesday  
8.00 - 9.30pm  
at St Chad's, Roslin Rd, Irby.**

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## 2. Hit the shops

When you shop online, visit easyfundraising first, click through to the retailer and shop as normal. Everything costs exactly the same

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## Contacts

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8 Edgemore Drive Irby CH61 4XT

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162 Heathbank Irby CH61 4YG

Revd David Trollope **342 2648**  
26 Whitehouse Lane Heswall CH60 1UQ

Revd Ray Dent **792 2022**  
32 Proctor Rd Hoylake CH47 4BB

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Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary) **6481112**

### Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs Elaine Jones **648 1400**

### Flower Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs Dawn Rudd **648 0209**

### Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs June Bibby **678 8124**

### Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs Leslie Worrall **648 5590**

### Bellringers Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson **648 6691**

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Junior Church

Mrs Julie Deboorder **648 6331**

### Seniors/Youth (11-16)

Mrs Janet Trigg **648 8821**

### Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or  
Freephone **0800 1 69 59 01**

## CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

### Verger

Mr Jon Oliver **648 1754**  
3 Leachway Irby CH61 4XJ

### Organist

Mr Craig Vickers **648 7405**  
34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW

### Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office **648 8169**

### St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs Jean Heath **648 6015**

### Christian Aid Representative

Vacant

### Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath **648 6015**

### Leprosy Mission Representative

Mrs Pat Hulme **538 1953**

### Adoption Society Representative

Mrs Chris Rostock **648 1112**

## **"Cross Talk Subscription for 2018 is £6"**

These are now due for 2018. If you see your deliverer please pay them.

Alternatively either post a cheque for £6.00 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.

- ☐ I enclose £6 and would like to continue to have Cross Talk delivered to my house
- ☐ I no longer wish to have Cross Talk delivered to my house

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



Many thanks to all our box holders, who this year raised our best ever total of £981.91.

If anyone would like a box, please contact Jean Heath (0151 648 6015).

Perhaps we could make it £1000 in 2018 !



## Church Services - December 2017

### Sunday Services

#### St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**3rd December**  
Advent Sunday

#### St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion  
**4.00pm Christingle Family Service**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Morning Worship

**10th December**  
Advent 2

9.30 am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**17th December**  
Advent 3

9.30am **Nativity**  
6.30pm **Carol Service**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
**NO 11.15am SERVICE**  
4.00pm + 5.00pm **Crib Service**  
11.15pm **First Communion of Christmas**

**24th December**  
Advent 4  
**Christmas Eve**

9.30am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10.30am** Holy Communion

**25th December**  
**Christmas Day**

**NO SERVICE**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**31st December**  
Christmas 1

9.30 am Holy Communion

### 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 K Butler 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)

# **See inside cover for December Services**

**January 2018**

## **Sunday Services**

### **St Bartholomew's**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10.30am Covenant Service**  
**at Irby Methodist**  
11.15am Holy Communion

**7th January**

Baptism of Christ or Epiphany 1

### **St Chad's**

**NO SERVICE**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Morning Worship

**14th January**  
Epiphany 2

9.30am Holy communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion

**21st January**  
Epiphany 3

9.30am Morning Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.15am Holy Communion  
3.00pm Baptism

**28th January**  
Epiphany 4

9.30am Holy Communion

## **Weekday Services**

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

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or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

**PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday**

### **RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner**

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