

The Churches of St Bartholomew & St Chad Thurstaston and Irby



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

Sunday 3rd April 2011 - Lent 4 Mothering Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Family Service	St Chad's
11.15pm	Holy Communion	St Bart's
6.30pm	Evening Worship	St Chad's

Next Weeks Services

Mid-week Service

10.15am	Holy Communion	St Chad's
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Sunday 10th April - Lent 5

8.00am	Holy Communion	St Bart's
9.30am	Holy Communion	St Chad's
11.15pm	Morning Worship	St Bart's
6.30pm	Holy Communion	St Chad's

Junior Church at St Chad's
Children from age 2½ can attend.
There are activity bags available for
children under the age of 2½.
In case you feel the need to remove
your child from the service, please
note that there is also a box of toys
and cushions in the foyer

Would you like to receive
this notice sheet every week
direct to your e-mail in-
box? If so, please send an
e-mail request to the
parish office

Notices and announcements!!!

Thursday 7th April M.U. Communion with Rev. Jane and our Prayer Partners from All Saints, New Brighton at St. Chads 2.15pm

Saturday 9th April Children's Easter Workshop at St Chad's 2.00pm -4.00pm.

Wednesday 13th April EMU 'Prayer Experience' 8pm at St Chad's.

St Bartholomew's garden Cash donations are needed for compost etc. Please add your name to form at the back of church if you can help.

Christian Aid Week is between 15th & 21st May. If you would be willing to help with the house-to-house collection in Irby and Thurstaston this year, please contact Wendy Wolstencroft either via St Chad's Parish Office, Roslin Rd, Irby (Tel 648 8169, e-mail: thurstaston.parish@btinternet.com) or on 9295778 or email at wwolstencroft@msn.com

Each collector will have a Christian Aid bag for life provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance. They have also offered to donate 50p for every person who lets them know the date their home insurance is due for renewal. This can be done at www.ecclesiastical.com/caw or 0800 9174154 or Wendy has coupons that can be returned to a Freepost address.

Diocesan Lay Conference 20-22 May 2011 Join with over 200 lay people at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The title of the weekend is "The Greatest Story - Never Read?" There will be key speakers, a choice of workshops (around the theme of the Bible in practical use), as well as opportunities for worship, fellowship and some fun and relaxation. Each parish is encouraged to send 4 delegates. If you are interested in being one of our representatives then please speak to Revd Jane who has the booking forms. The cost is £140 (if that is prohibitive then the PCC will consider supporting you).

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

Gospel Reading: (John 19:25b-27)

All : Glory to you, O Lord

25. Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'

27. Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of
eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings for

Today

Ex 2:1-10

Col 3:12-17

John 19:25b-27

Readings for

10th April

Ezek 37:1-14

Rom 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For the World: Please pray for the situation in Libya.

For the sick: Please pray for Tina Samson. We continue to pray for Les Howard, Finlay Joyce, Andy Kemp, Lucy Bailey, Anita Fath, Diana Martyn, Bethan Shone, and Dorothy Mansbridge.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:

Multan - (Pakistan) Vacant.

From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle:

Coddington Saint Mary, Farndon Saint Chad

David Scurr, Raymond Moulton, Steve Peaurt (Readers).

Treasurer's Report to APCM, March 2011

(with additions from a short film that could not be shown due to a technical fault!)

The Accounts for 2010 show another deficit with corresponding decline in the General Fund Reserve to £11,000. This money is needed for cash flow purposes, bearing in mind our annual claim to HMRC for Gift Aid will be around this figure: in another two months the Reserve will purely consist of a debtor from HMRC. I have covered in the written report how I intend to deal with this situation.

I do not propose to go through the accounts in any detail, but if anyone has a question on the accounts, please ask at the end of this presentation. I would just like to clarify two issues:

Income to the Ismay Charity on page 22 compares £81 in 2010 to £2,491 in 2009. I am not comparing like for like, the 2009 figure representing the introduction of the capital value from the four little pots of charitable funds. Further detail can be found on the Parish Website.

There are rumours abound in the Parish that the PCC supports Playgroup financially. Note 9(ii) in page 27 shows a surplus of £2,208 (i.e. the difference between Incoming and Outgoing Resources) which improves their Restricted Reserve balance to £5,162. I am envious of Playgroup's success, which quite dispels these false rumours.

With regard to the second point, there is also a rumour, without foundation, that Playgroup is to close! This is blatantly not true!

I want to talk to you about the future. If we continue to make losses of the 2010 magnitude, then we will run out of money in mid 2012. Our biggest outgoing is the Parish Share, which we have to pay fully in order to keep our Rector in post. It is not for me to speculate what will happen if we default on any monthly payments. Instead, let's think about what we can do to resolve the issue.

Our chief source of income is from you, the members of this Parish. Planned Giving receipts in 2010 were £45,863 which was up by £2,316 in 2009. Add to this Gift Aid of £11,062 and Open Plate Collections of £3,787 and we covered our Parish Share of £50,527 plus a good chunk of overhead costs. We also get investment income, fees from weddings and funerals, donations and hall lettings. However, we needed another £7,000 to balance the books.

So let's think about Planned Giving, Not untypically, we lost some good givers last year due to death or moving from home, perhaps away from the Wirral or into nursing homes. New people have come on board and they are most welcome. However, the loss from someone giving £30 or £40 per week takes a lot of making up to do from quite modest giving of just a couple of pounds .

One of our problems is that many people only give when they come to church. A good proportion of these set money aside each week, and bring several envelopes with them. That's great and thank you! Many others do not, however, and I am sure that is contrary to your Pledge made, whenever that was.

We base giving in terms of families, not individuals. 28% of those family groups give less than £2 per week. Half of those give less than £1 per week. If you give £2 or less per week and are either unemployed or in receipt of minimum State pension, that is terrific, thank you.

However, if your income is above these minimum levels, and you give less than £2 per week, this really is not good enough.

To those in receipt of higher incomes, please consider what £2 will buy you each week. Only four copies of the Daily Mail. Or two copies of the Telegraph! If you drive a car, £2 only buys one third of a gallon of petrol. Surely God is worth more than £2 per week!

Our average giving is £6.98 per family per week. Three years ago the Chester Diocesan average was £10.41 so we have an uphill battle to get anywhere near the 2008 figure.

More importantly, we should all give 5% of our after tax income to the Church, and ideally another 5% for the furtherance of God's work throughout the World.

Do you know that there are some people committed to this parish through the PCC or officers of church groups who have no family involvement with Planned Giving? Our Rector is so committed to this parish she gives more than the weekly average by standing order each month. She believes in leading by example. To those who have just been elected to the PCC, if you or your family are not in Planned Giving, I will soon know who you are! Please contact me privately by letter, phone or email.

One other statistic for you. Last year's Planned Giving campaign only brought responses from one third of our members. I admit I am one of those 80 or more who did not renew my pledge. If we all gave an extra £1.70 per week then we would have covered the deficit!

OK, so what are we going to do? Please, please set up a standing order with your bank to give most of your giving in this way.

Consider if you can meet the 5% challenge, then set up a regular standing order. If this is not possible, instead of setting aside a weekly amount set up a standing order for a date in each month which suits you. Then use your envelopes for some loose change when you come to church. An extra 50p or £1 on top of your monthly commitment will make a terrific difference. If your budgets are based upon 4-weekly incomes, set a standing order up every 28 days, or weekly if you prefer.

You can download a standing order from the Parish Website, and also a Gift Aid form if you are a tax payer and have not advised us previously. Both forms can be completed online - in this way you can save a digital copy. Please print off, sign them, and either place them in the offertory plate or deliver to the Parish Office. It will be helpful if you can add your envelope number to the standing order form. Alternatively, I can always give you a paper copy to complete.

Also, please re-evaluate the Pledge you made, whenever that was; compare everyday living costs with what you want to give to God, and make a real worthwhile and regular commitment to this church.

There is also a unique way you can make a real difference, by giving a lump sum to the Church through your Will. A legacy is a very tax-efficient way of giving from your estate. Further information can be found at www.churchlegacy.co.uk

Together, we can reverse the decline in our financial fortunes, to enable our Parish to prosper in the years to come.

Thank you.

Chris Eden
treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

Your Church

Your opportunity to Help

Topics from the Church
Council Meeting
March 2011

St Bartholomew's

We've been looking at the cleaning at St Bartholomew's, to see if we can arrange an annual "deep-clean" for the whole church. We could also supplement the weekly work of our volunteer cleaners with some professional input.

We also know that it can be very cold and draughty there in winter. Recent tests and expert advice showed what causes the draughts. Cold air that comes in when the door is opened sets off convection currents as it warms up and rises. A new heating system would cost £25,000 but would not be a lot better and would not reduce draughts. A door on the outside of the porch would help but would not be permitted. The Open Door project should control the entry of cold air much better and should reduce draughts.

Several people including the church architect had a close look at the roof of St Bartholomew's recently and found it to be in reasonable condition. However, the brackets holding the gutters have corroded and require replacement at a cost of over £4,000. This must be done because of the risk of serious injury if one falls.

Growing our Congregations— Improving our Communications

As part of our Growth Action Plan, we are trying to improve our welcome to newcomers. We need to be good at identifying newcomers and making them feel at home. Ideally this will involve a team of welcomers, the whole congregation and welcome packs. We also want to watch for "For Sale" signs, so we can leave a leaflet when the new people move in.

Alan Jones has formed a Pastoral Care Committee, to help make sure we keep in touch with people who are ill or who have other commitments that stop them coming to church for a while. We are improving our general communications. We issued 150 free copies of the parish magazine recently, introduced an electronic version and have reviewed the website.

Lay Conference coming up

The Lay Conference, at Swanwick in Derbyshire, is a great weekend with a very wide selection of workshops to meet all interests and very good entertainment in the evenings, as well as opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. It's from 20-22 May this year and if you'd like to go, please speak to the rector. No qualifications required!

St Chad's

St Chad's will close from 15th-26th August for maintenance work.

We've received a huge bill for water at St Chad's. We are apparently using 98m³ a month. That's approximately 12 baths full to the brim every day or 400-500 flushes of a toilet cistern. We are trying to find out exactly where it's all going.

The Looming Financial Crisis

Even without the water bill, our deficit was £5,000 for the year. We are struggling to meet our Parish Share—£1,000 a week that must be covered by the collections at services. That's before we make any repairs or buy anything. The weekly giving is vital—without it we simply couldn't continue. The Treasurer said that the immediate problem would be overcome for the present if all members of the scheme who did not renew their pledges last year increased giving by £1.70 a week.

Parish Share will go up by £50 a week next year and we have already started to meet cash flow problems, so we really need more than that. This is a sensitive subject—many people can't afford to contribute more, but there may be some who can and who don't realise how important their giving is. The best way to manage your giving is to pay by standing order. If anyone wants a form for that, please ask.

Playgroup

Great news from the Playgroup – Ofsted have just given them a "good" rating, which is the second highest. One area that we want to sort out quickly is the committee that supports it – there is an urgent need to find new committee members. Playgroup is our only outreach and we want it to be a success.

Baptisms

Because so many parents want their children baptised at St Bartholomew's, we are going to offer 6.30 baptisms there once a month. St Chad's also hosts an increasing number of baptisms.