

Crosstalk

60p



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

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

December 2018—January 2019

HOPE IS BORN



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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
no later than 24th January

Contents

3	<i>Diary Dates/Registers</i>	13	<i>Called to Serve/Thankyou's</i>
4	<i>From your Rector</i>	14	<i>Colouring page</i>
5	<i>Christingle50 Campaign</i>	15	<i>RDA/Age UK /Help</i>
6	<i>"He Gave us eyes to see them"</i>	16	<i>Easy fundraising</i>
7	<i>Movie Moments ,The Nutcracker</i>	17/18/19/20/21	<i>Advertisers</i>
8	<i>Word search</i>	22	<i>Contacts List: Who's Who</i>
9	<i>On going story</i>	23	<i>December Services</i>
10	<i>Bible App/Learn a poem/Christmas Dilemma</i>	24	<i>January Services</i>
11	<i>Christmas Party about 1939</i>		
12	<i>Men's Breakfast/EMU</i>		

Diary Dates

Christmas Services

Please see page 23 for a list of all Christmas services

Saturday 12th January

Men's Breakfast
8.45 am Aroma Café, Irby

January EMU

Meal Out

Details to be confirmed in ,
weekly notice sheet

Saturday 26th January

Called to Serve ,see page 13
9-3pm Foxhill Frodsham

From the Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

8th November

Pat Cleary

14th November

Joan Eaton

From Your Rector

Dear Friends

We are very aware of how special the arrival of a new baby is to the family! This Christmas we celebrate again God's gift of Jesus: *'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'* (2 Corinthians 9:15). What can we say about this baby?

He is God Himself:

The unthinkable has happened: God has become a human being! The eternal, creator God enters the world of time and space, both fully human and fully divine. This divine baby can bring hope to our messy world, because He has fully become part of it. He doesn't stand apart, but demonstrates a commitment to be with us and on our side in the midst of sin and suffering.

He is human like us:

Jesus fully engaged with the jungle of human experience. By His cross and resurrection, He can release us from the power of wrong, hurt and shame to secure for us a life of love, peace and forgiveness. Remember, the crib and cross are made of the same wood!

He is one with us:

In the coming of Jesus, God doesn't draw us simply into a cosmic event, but into a relationship. Just as I can hold and hug a new baby, so we have a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives. As Emmanuel, *'God is with us'* (Matt 1:23). Therefore, the question is: *Are we with Him? Are we ready to make space for Him at the centre of our Christmas Celebrations this year?*

'At Christmas time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without.' (J John).

Rerd Jane



#Christingle50 campaign

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Children's Society bringing Christingle to this country with a service held in Lincoln Cathedral in 1968.

To celebrate this landmark anniversary, the Children's Society is running its #Christingle50 campaign, which aims to support vulnerable young people through raising funds at Christingle events and a collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music.

Some 200,000 10 to 17-year-olds in the UK are experiencing emotional neglect on a regular basis, and many are also struggling with other difficulties at home. The charity found that:

11% of 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also do not have their own bed; 21% 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect had also been homeless in the last five years; and 20% of 10 to 17-year-olds experiencing emotional neglect also lived in a household that had used a food bank in the last five years.

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society explains: '*Too many young people will wake up on Christmas morning like any other - feeling alone and unable to cope.*'

The Children's Society has created an original song for schoolchildren, congregations or community choirs to include in their Christingle services. The song, 'Light a Candle', is available to download and listen to or learn for free from The Children's Society website.

You can support young people by donating to the #Christingle50 campaign, or by attending a local Christingle Service. For more information, visit www.christingle.org.



**Join us at St Chad's
4pm Sunday 2nd Dec**

'He gave us eyes to see them' - a Catalan artist's nativity in Barcelona

In January we began this course exploring signs and symbols with the Cross: a sign of death, but also a sign of victory. We end the year with a sign that proclaims birth and new life: the crib of Christmas. In December cribs will be set up in churches, homes, villages and town centres. It is a tradition that goes back to the nativity scene in a cave outside Greccio in Italy on Christmas Eve, 1223. St Francis of Assisi invited all the people to a service there to remind them of a truth they had either forgotten or neglected: that Love came down at Christmas. We are told that as they looked inside the cave and saw the crib with the ox and ass, St Francis prayed and took up the infant Christ in his arms. Christ was 'the peaceful, tender and loving brother,' a vulnerable baby needing affection and care.

The simplicity and the beauty of that nativity scene is portrayed in this 12th century painting by an anonymous Catalan artist in a museum in Barcelona. Cribs were often very elaborate and ornate creations, bejewelled and decorated with episodes from our Lord's life. Here the scene is ordinary with few details. The haloes around the heads of Mary and the Christ-Child may look a little odd, but the artist and St Francis are at one in proclaiming a sign of life and love in this birth.

Each Christmas we are called to kneel before the crib with the animals and the shepherds. A 13th century Franciscan invites us to 'Gaze on the face of the babe with devotion...and delight in Him.' May we see the light of God's love in the new-born babe as we look into the crib, and may we delight to offer our hearts and lives in His service.





MOVIE MOMENTS

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

Everything I need?

Disney's *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is a visual and auditory feast that will both delight the senses and stimulate the brain as it explores the essential human question: 'What is everything I need?'

Building on Tchaikovsky's famous ballet score and Hoffmann's lesser known story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* this delightful film draws us into the mind of Clara, played brilliantly by the teenage actress Mackenzie Foy. Deeply upset by the recent death of her mother, Clara has retreated to an attic, where she uses her precocious skills in science and engineering to build a fabulous contraption for catching mice.

Demonstrating this to her younger brother she recounts Newton's Third Law of Motion - that every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

The wider social and cultural application of this principle gradually becomes evident as Clara then journeys into a fantasy world where the inhabitants of four realms (flowers, snowflakes, sweets and amusements) are at war. Clara has entered these realms in search of the key to a locked egg-shaped box that was left to her by her recently deceased mother, who said 'everything you need is inside'. But what is everything I need? What formula will be unlocked by this key? Gradually she discovers that the solution is not simplistic and one-dimensional, indeed there is much to learn even in the process of the quest itself.



This evocative film offers great opportunities for a stimulating shared experience. As well as marvelling together at the beautiful sets, costumes and dance it provides an excellent post-viewing opportunity to discuss what might be 'everything I need', and what we also can learn from our own quest for answers to life's big questions.



Released on November 2nd

ETHOS MEDIA.org

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

The nearly four weeks leading up to Christmas is Advent. It means 'coming'. It refers to Jesus' first coming as a baby, but it also looks forward to a day when Jesus is expected to return in triumph at his 'second coming' to establish perfect justice and a new order of peace. Originally Christians marked Advent as a time when they refrained from excessive eating and drinking. Then Christmas Day reintroduced them to the joys of feasting. Christmas celebrations lasted for twelve days, with gifts exchanged as a climax at Epiphany (6 January). Today, however, Advent is more likely to be associated with accelerating festivity, with the days following Christmas something of an anti-climax until 'twelfth night', on which decorations are removed. Many Christians worldwide are trying to revive the spirit of Advent by

four
weeks
advent
coming
Jesus
first
baby
return
triumph
second
establish
perfect
justice
new
order
peace
eating
drinking
celebrations
days
gifts
epiphany
twelfth
decorations
revive

H	T	E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y	E	S	J
C	P	N	Y	E	S	S	E	C	O	N	D	E
B	E	M	E	B	Y	I	I	I	O	U	E	S
K	T	A	U	V	A	L	L	I	A	E	I	U
R	W	C	E	I	D	B	T	N	C	N	A	S
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	K
P	L	T	F	F	R	T	T	F	M	E	S	E
E	F	U	U	O	R	S	G	N	I	T	A	E
A	T	A	C	R	U	E	T	U	N	R	V	W
C	H	E	E	J	N	R	P	J	G	I	S	R
E	D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	V	M	S	T
S	T	F	I	G	W	I	R	E	D	R	O	E
I	F	R	U	K	N	E	R	T	W	H	R	I

An On-Going Story

We all like a good story. When God wanted to grab our attention, He gave us a book of stories. The Bible is full of God's encounters with people. At Christmas, we remember the story of Jesus born in Bethlehem. But this story begins back in Genesis and as we go through the Old Testament books, there are many pointers to Him.

Some prophets announced His coming, stating where He would be born, what He would be like and what He would do. They prepared the way for the arrival of the Holy Child.

Perhaps, Mary, on seeing her old cousin Elizabeth pregnant, reminded her of the amazing conceptions and births which God had given to Sarah, Rachel and Hannah. And now the angel Gabriel had announced that she, of all women, would bear the Messiah. No wonder Mary praised God with all her heart.

The Christmas story is so attractive, with memorable ingredients: angels; poignant dreams; a pregnant mum on a long and tough journey; the lack of a clean room at an inn and a stable for a birth. The story has a wealth of characters: an innocent young girl, a kindly older man, bright angels, rough shepherds, wealthy men from the East and a tyrannical ruler out to kill the baby. And over all hangs that mysterious lone star that marked the place where Jesus lay!

But the story of Jesus doesn't end here. He grew up. Jesus became the teacher and miracle worker - He became the Messiah. It culminated with His death, resurrection and ascension. This is a story of sacrificial love. A Saviour who died on a cross to remove our sin and give us eternal life.



And the story hasn't finished, as WE are its final part! Our response to the Christmas story determines our future. Are we living in the light of Christ, in service, worship and prayer? We are now part of God's continuing story and the last chapter has still to be played out. We are involved in it. Now, that is something to celebrate!

Why your Bible App's 'verse of the day' may be skewing your view of God

Do you mostly read the Bible in snatches off an app, or retweeted from friends? Are the verses always encouraging, making you feel better?

That is well and good, but there is more to the Bible than just 'feel-good' verses, and to grow as a Christian you need the 'complete diet'.

Now Dr Pete Phillips of Durham University has pointed out that fundamental to the Christian faith are the 'what we might call *propositional* texts – verses which set out what God has done for us; how we are saved; the power of the cross... but the internet is populated with therapeutic texts rather than propositional texts. Could this result in people thinking the Bible is more about therapy than about God sending His Son to die for us?

'Because we are all wrapped up in the social media filter bubbles of retweets, shares and likes, our experience of the Bible online is often dictated by what works as clickbait rather than doctrine.'

Learn a poem by heart this Christmas - and stay sharp

So here is a challenge for you: learn a poem, by heart, by Christmas. That is the challenge that Gyles Brandreth, actor and broadcaster has set his grandchildren this year.

Memorising poetry is good for everyone. Brandreth cites scientific research to say that memorising poetry can help keep your brain fit and well.

The Duchess of Cornwall, who recently took over from the Queen as patron of The Royal Society of Literature, admits to reciting poems to herself as she goes to sleep. Dame Judi Dench can still recite the whole of *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Christmas Dilemma

What a dilemma for a slimmer
Eating all that Christmas fare,
Getting fatter, what's it matter?
It's only once a year.

Now the party has begun,
Crackers and cheese and party hats
Turkey with trimmings, presents with ribbons,
Figgy pudding – do we still eat that?

Food a-plenty, plates all empty
Waistbands bursting, no room left,
Soon we'll reach for the Alka Seltzer
That's the truth, I do not jest.

Celebrations, assignations,
party frocks with lots of bling,
But the reason for the season
Is the Baby in the manger,
came to earth as a stranger
Peace on earth and joy to bring.

by Megan Carter



A Christmas Party about 1939.

Past recollections of Thurston Mothers Union.

Members and their husbands were invited to Thurston Hall by kind permission of Colonel and Mrs Turner.

After sumptuous refreshments we all went up to the Day Nursery where entertainment had been arranged. Mr Lance Charlesworth (late Rector of Tilston his father a former Rector of Thurston) presided at the piano. We had a conjuror an elocutionist and lady and gentleman soloists.

Mrs Turners daughters Juliet and Elizabeth sang a duet, the old Northumbrian Folk Song "Bobby Shaftoe", who I understand was a distant relative of theirs. We were all enjoying a very interesting evening, when half way through, the Siren sounded. Mr Charlesworth played the National Anthem and all hurried to get home. Those with cars took distant members home.

My husband and I were last to leave, and as we travelled along Telegraph Road towards Heswall, the surrounding countryside was lit by incendiary bombs, it looked like fairy land. I shall never forget this sight inspite of its horrors. Fortunately the Home Guard was soon alerted and there were no casualties that night.

So ended a memorable Christmas Party.

A. E. M.



Men's Breakfast



Aroma Cafe, Irby Village

Eat, chat and share in fellowship.

Contact Matthew James on 07817625122 or mp_james@btinternet.com
for further details.



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 the date and venue are yet to be arranged

please contact Chris Rostock if you wish to come.

All Welcome

Called to Serve

Sat 26th January 2019

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-48478511533>



Many thanks to all our box holders, who this year raised a total of £970.02

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

Perhaps we could make it £1000 in 2019 !



Reverend Joe Edwardson would like to thank everyone who recently helped him celebrate and make his 90th Birthday Special, particularly Reverend Jane for her efforts in co-ordinating everyone.



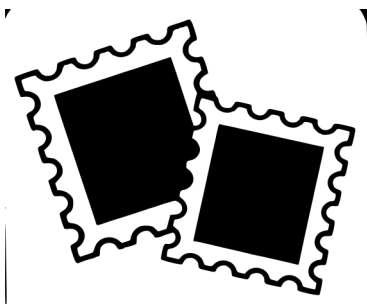
Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

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There is a box in St Chad's foyer and
an envelope at the back of St Bart's.



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 Reminis-
cence work also.

Leaflets are available at both
churches.



Can you Help ?

St Bartholomew's are looking for more volunteers to go
on the cleaning rota, they are desperate for help.

If anyone can help or would like more information
please contact June Bibby on 0151 678 8124

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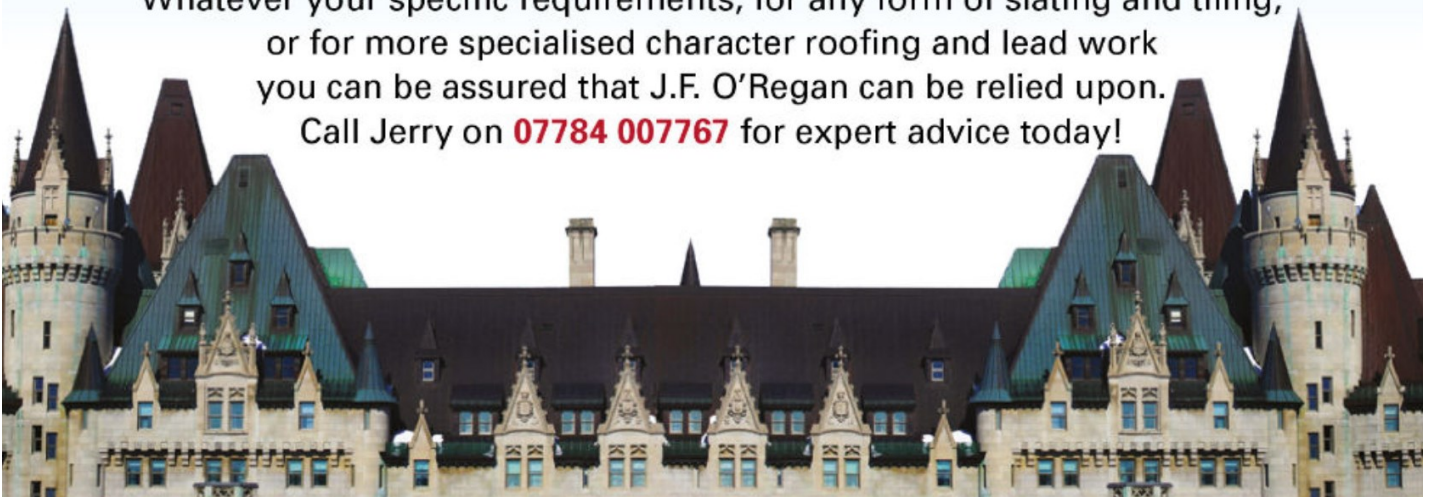
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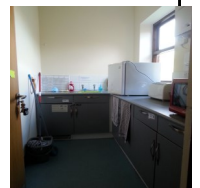
For further information please call Trudi on 0151 342 2614

Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 0AF Tel: 0151 342 2614, Email: trudi@heswallhall.co.uk
Web: www.heswallhall.co.uk
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At St Chad's we have a large hall and several options of different sized rooms.

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Mrs Jean Heath: 648 6015

For more information and prices please go to the website
<https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/hall-and-room-hire/>

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www.helplink.org.uk



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

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648 1400

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342 2648

Revd Ray Dent

792 2022

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648 1025

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Mr Graham Barley

648 1867

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Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)

6481112

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Mrs Elaine Jones

648 1400

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678 8124

Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

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Dr Peter Robson

648 6691

PCC Treasurer

Mr Kevin Marley

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

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Seniors/Youth (11-16)

Mrs Janet Trigg

648 8821

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Freephone

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Organist

Mr Craig Vickers

648 7405

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

648 8169

St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs Jean Heath

648 6015

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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

Church Services - December 2018

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

2nd December
Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship

9th December
Advent 2

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

16th December
Advent 3

6.30pm Joint Carol Service at IRBY METHODIST CHURCH

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy communion

23rd December
Advent 4

4.00pm + 5.00pm **Crib Service**
11.15 pm **First Communion of Christmas** **Christmas Eve**

24th December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

25th December
Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

30th December
Christmas 1

St Chad's

9.30am Holy Communion
4.00pm Christingle Family Service

9.30 am Holy Communion

9.30am **Nativity**

9.30am Holy Communion

10.30 am Family Communion

9.30 am Holy Communion

Weekday Services

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

No Service Wednesday 26th December

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

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OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk

See inside cover for December Services

January 2019

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

6th January
Epiphany

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

13th January
Epiphany 2

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

20th January
Epiphany 3

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15 am Holy Communion

27th January
Epiphany 4

St Chad's

9.30am Family Service

NO SERVICE

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am 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

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler 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