

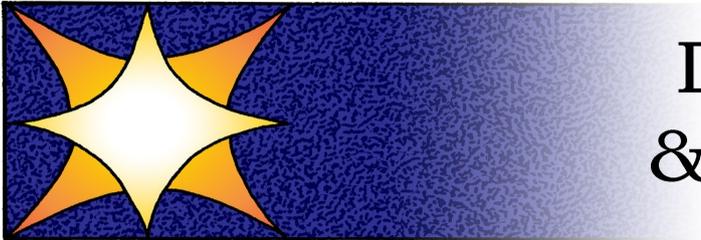
Crosstalk

60p



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

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



December 2019
& January 2020



Unto us is born a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord

Luke 2:11

"Cross Talk Subscription for 2020 is £6"

These are now due for 2020. 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

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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 23rd January

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Diary Dates

Christmas Services

Please see page 27 for a list of all
Christmas service

Notorious

Various dates in December and January
See page 7

Chester Cathedral Year of Pilgrimage services

January 5th,12th,19th,26th
See page 9

Sunday 5th January

10.30 am Covenant Service
At Irby Methodists

From the Registers

Weddings

*We ask for Gods Blessing upon the
marriage of
23rd November
John Gerrard and
Wendy Wolstencroft*

Funerals

*We commend to God's eternal care
9th December
Valerie Elliott
11th December
Clive Ledsham*

From Your Rector

Dear Friends,

Wake up! It's Christmas!

Do you remember the excitement of Christmas Eve when you were a child? There was so much to look forward to the next day, and when you went to bed that night, probably later than usual, you were buzzing with excitement. Eventually you fell asleep and then the next morning you were woken by either a sibling or a parent, saying 'Wake up! It's Christmas!'

As we get older the excitement of Christmas probably fades somewhat and we perhaps feel overwhelmed by all that has to be done and worn out by the busyness around us. But still it is good to 'wake up to Christmas' in the sense of becoming conscious again of what the Christmas season is all about.

What are we celebrating really? The coming of the Saviour of the world, born as a little babe in the stable at Bethlehem. God's salvation plan coming to pass, and the opportunity for us to be brought into relationship with Him again. These are wondrous truths, and we need to wake up again to the meaning of Christmas.

Bethlehem was a busy place when Christ was born. The inns were full, with visitors returning for the census, there was no room for the young couple from Nazareth. In the busyness many must have missed what was happening right before their eyes that night as the babe was born. The greatest event in history but because they were not 'awake' they missed it!

Don't be asleep this Christmas time. Don't be so busy that you fail to notice the significance of what we are celebrating. Let the wonder of it capture your heart again and create in you a sense of gratitude and thankfulness for all that God has done for you. The Saviour has come, rejoice and be glad!

God Bless You, *Rev'd Jane*

The News Quiz for 2019



How well did you read the News this year? Try this quiz and find out...

1. What is a Gillet jaune?
2. The famous fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld died this year leaving his £150 million fortune to Choupette. Who or what is Choupette?
3. In March an aeroplane left London City airport flight with number BA3271 to Düsseldorf. Where did it land?
4. Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky won the Ukrainian Presidential election in April. What was his job before the election?
5. There was a serious fire at Notre Dame in April. Who wrote a book in 1831 about the cathedral and to draw attention to the restoration it then needed?
6. What is Pteridomania? The Victorians had it.
7. Blackpool Tower celebrated its 125th anniversary in May 2019. What landmark inspired it?
8. Which former member of the cabinet was named after a battleship?
9. Which country has coins nicknamed loonie and toonie?
10. Politicians talked about red lines. What was the thin red line?
11. What would you use a French press to make?
12. In July we were told to look out for a "Painted Lady Summer". What is that?
13. What were male members of the RAF allowed to grow this year that that they have never previously been allowed?
14. What were seashiders advised to stare at to stop them stealing chips and bothering them?
15. Which person has the following titles in other languages? (All one person)
Leading Star
The Son of the Big Boss
The Sun Looks at Him in a Good Way
The Helper of the Cows (literally he whom the cows love so much they call for him when they are in times of distress)
16. Which territory did Donald Trump say he was interested in buying for the US?
17. Where would you find a small copper and an Essex skipper?
18. What did Goldsmiths, University of London, ban the sale of to try to fight global warming?

See Page 14 for the answers

God in the Sciences: The Incarnation: fearfully and wonderfully made

*My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:15-16*

You began life as a single cell. For a few hours you were a miniscule but highly complex blob of jelly, until it began to divide: two cells, four, eight, sixteen, a ball, a hollow ball, and then something more recognisably like a living organism. You were still tiny, but developing a nervous system, a head, a body, arms and legs.

Until recently I hadn't thought much about Jesus being an embryo. Somehow, I find that thought even more shocking than His birth. How could God, who made the universe, have become something so completely and utterly vulnerable? Maybe in the past, when the development of a child happened in 'secret', it was possible just to let that part of the Christmas story go untold.



Today, when we see images of a developing child, or even embryos outside the womb, it is harder to ignore the process of Jesus developing into a baby. The incarnation meant that God's Son went through all the stages in the diagram in my developmental biology textbook: 'zygote', 'morula', 'blastocyst', implantation, and so on.

Jesus was there in the beginning, and all life owes its existence to Him. But instead of remaining aloof, He chose to become one of us. The Son of God shared the same kind of DNA as every other organism on the planet. He knows what it feels like to have a body, to feel hungry and thirsty, pain and pleasure, dark and light.

In Psalm 139, the writer is meditating on God's intimate knowledge of Him, which began when He was an embryo. There is nothing God doesn't know about Him, and even darkness cannot obscure Him from God's sight. The incarnation means that God's intimacy with us now extends even further. He became one of us, lived alongside us, and shared our very fragile material nature.

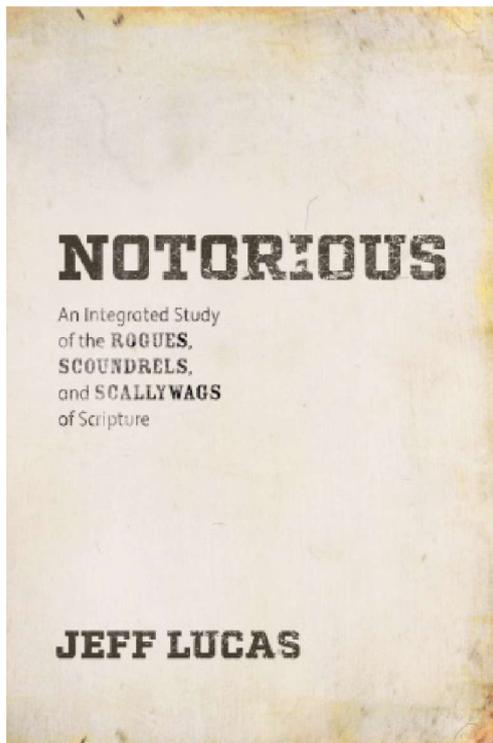
The transcendent God is also immanent, longing for us to relate to Him as Father. He became as fragile as we are so He could rescue us from the messes we so often find ourselves in. With His help, we can remember what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

NOTORIOUS

An integrated study of
the ROGUES, SCOUNDRELS
and SCALLYWAGS of Scripture.

The Bible is full of men and women who strayed from the path of good: the rogues, scoundrels and scallywags. But is there something good these bad people can teach us? How does King Saul's daughter help us understand kindness? What can we learn about faithfulness from the mob at Thessalonica?

St Chad's Extension
Thursdays 8.00-9.15pm (9.30pm at the latest!)
Everyone Welcome



5th December
Michal, Daughter of King Saul

12th December
Jezebel

9th January
Judas Iscariot

16th January
Herod "the Great"

23rd January
The Mob in Thessalonica

You DO NOT NEED a copy of the book but if you would like one it is available from the Christian Bookshop in Birkenhead or online bookshops. It is also available as an eBook.

He gave us eyes to see them: Gauguin's Portrait of a Breton Girl at Prayer

During this year we have been exploring the wealth of paintings in the National Gallery in London. Each year the Gallery has exhibitions highlighting the work of one particular artist, and until 26 January there is a major exhibition, 'Gauguin Portraits.' It celebrates in paintings and sculptures the life and work of Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). He is best known for the art he painted when he fled Europe to live in Tahiti in the South Seas. But from 1886 to 1891 he lived in rural Brittany at Pont-Even.



This month's painting is from those years when Gauguin was influenced by folk art and impressed by the simple faith of the Breton peasants. He has captured that faith in this painting of a Breton girl at prayer. His own catchphrase was 'I shut my eyes in order to see.' The girl has her eyes closed as she offers her prayers, but we sense that the inner eye of her heart is open in trust to God's will for her.

At this time of the year children step into the limelight of church and school life with nativity plays. They invite us to journey with them in that same simplicity and trust to Bethlehem, just as St Francis of Assisi invited the people of Greccio to a cave outside the town in 1223. As they looked into the cave, they saw the animals and the hay, and in the centre, a newborn babe. St Francis talked to them of the simple message of God's love revealed in all humility and openness in this birth of the Christ-Child. He invited the people to respond with those same gifts.

As we look at this painting, we see something of the simplicity and trust called of us, whether young or old. Too often as we get older, we find our lives weighed down by responsibilities and pressures. We find time is swallowed up in the busyness of this season, and somehow we lose that innocence and simplicity of life.

But, pondering the Christmas story and pondering this painting, we can put our hands together and pray for that openness and childlike trust. Fr Faber wrote a hymn with the lines:

*'If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our hearts would find assurance
in the promise of the Lord.'*

Chester Cathedral Year of Pilgrimage

In January Chester Cathedral is beginning its Year of Pilgrimage during the Epiphany Season with four special services at 3.30pm each Sunday:

5 January - Epiphany Sunday

The Magi's journey to Christ with seasonal readings and carols.

12 January - Plough Sunday

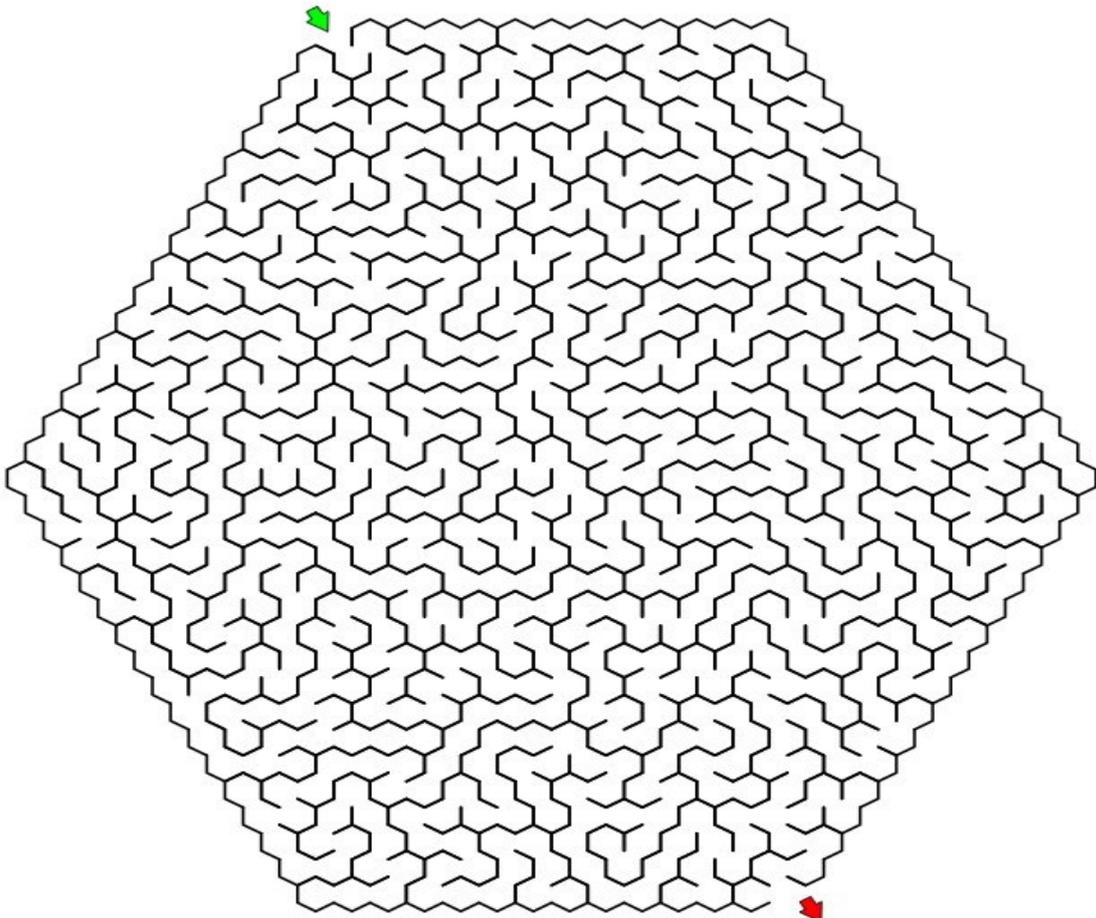
Tractors and ploughs will descend on the Cathedral from across the countryside on this special day.

19 January - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Sunday

Ecumenical service with Christians across Cheshire marking St Paul's journey to Malta and welcoming Lord David Alton as our preacher.

26 January - Eve of 75th Anniversary of the Holocaust

A service to remember the journeys of horror and the hopes for an end to anti-Semitism, prejudice and hate - with meditational music and readings.



Every Day is Christmas
by Anonymous

Every day is Christmas
when you have the kind of mind,
That stores up all the goodness
and the sweetness it can find
When you don't need an occasion,
to spread a bit of cheer,
But just keep on a-giving,
of yourself throughout the year

Every day is Christmas,
with a gaily wrapped surprise,
When you to see the friendship,
in someone else's eyes.
When you try a little harder,
and complain a little less,
Holding fast to all the fervour
of the faith that you possess

Every day is Christmas,
when you've found that you can be
More concerned with words like "you"
and less with "I" and "me".
When it's fun to do a favour,
and to lend a helping a hand,
When being understood means less,
than when you understand

Every day is Christmas,
with a beauty deeply cast,
When you find it doesn't matter,
if you're first or if you're last
When you can face your conscience,
and be glad of what you are,
Then every day is Christmas,
with a stable and star.

*Poem submitted by Pat Crick along with the following note:-
"I wondered if you would like this poem for the magazine. I came
across it many years ago, when I used to entertain with poetry read-
ings. In these materialistic times, it just might strike a note."*

Experience the Joy of Advent

'Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.' Luke 2:10

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (which this year is 1st December). The word 'Advent' is from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming'. Sometimes called 'Little Lent', it's a time to prepare our hearts for the future Second Coming, as well as the birth of Christ.



We celebrate the season with advent calendars and candles (symbolising Christ as Light of the world).

Here are seven simple tips to help you experience and share the joy of Advent!

1. Connect with your inner child: Think back to the time when you were a child, on the simple things that made you happy at Christmas. Focus only on the good and feel the joy of Christmas come flooding back!
2. Keep it simple: This year, go for gifts and cards that share the meaning of the season, shop early and stay within your budget.
3. Be people focused: Remember the story of Mary and Martha – keep meals simple and allow yourself time and space to focus on enjoying the company of your guests.
4. Make Room for Jesus: Take some time at the beginning of each day to read your Bible, meditate on Scripture and pray. Focus on giving thanks to God for His gift of Christ to the world and for all He has done for us.
5. Me Time: God wants us to prosper in body, soul and spirit, so try to eat healthy, don't overindulge, take time for long walks and enjoy the good and simple things in life!
6. Wear a smile and share the Joy! Finally, being joyful is a choice, it's not about your circumstances. So, decide to be thankful this season. Wear a smile, act and talk positively, do small things with great love, be on the lookout for opportunities to do good to people. Give to the homeless, visit the sick, or take gifts to lonely neighbours.
7. If people ask you about your joy, don't be afraid to share your faith. Simply explain to them that 'Christ lives in my heart, and He can live in yours.'

'Tis the season for Angels!

Angels make a big appearance in the story of Christmas, but over the next few weeks other kinds of angels will be making appearances throughout the country, on streets and inside nightclubs.

Teams of Street Angels and Club Angels will work hard this month to help to keep communities and people, especially within the night-time economy, safe.

At an hour when most of us are safe at home in bed, these volunteer angels will be out on patrol, offering people in need some flip-flops or a plaster, a bottle of water or time to chat. They will make a massive difference as a result.

Paul Blakey, founder of Street Angels, tells how earlier this year one of the Street Angels teams came across a young man holding his head and kneeling over, very dazed, having had his head bashed against a wall. "The team took him to a safe hub and left him. Three months later this same man came to say 'thank you for saving my life'. It turns out the safe hub team had got him to A&E and a brain scan revealed a bleed on the brain.

"We are called to be angels! We can all be God's hands and feet, delivering good news of great joy through words and action. We can all take the time to look out for others. We can all ask God to make his Kingdom known through our daily living.

"So, this Christmas do pray for our teams out on the streets and in clubs. Or maybe you could even consider volunteering - take a look at www.streetpastors.org/locations/wirral/

Meanwhile, if you are going on a night out yourself, have a SafeNightOut.party (see next page)



safenightout.party



Ouch



Ladies - carry a pair of slip-on shoes in your handbag so that when your high-heels are no longer comfortable you don't need to walk bare-foot.

'Ker Ching'



Keep your taxi money in another part of your handbag/wallet so you don't spend it. Always sit in the back of a taxi if you're travelling by yourself. Take a photo of your taxi drivers ID and text it a friend

Ooops



Pick a venue right for you - if you feel out of place, leave! Most fights start over something minor - someone knock you, spill your drink - apologise! Don't get involved in breaking up a fight - that's the job of the door -staff! Someone pestering you - try and ignore them and if that doesn't work ask the bar or door staff to help you.

Aarrgghh



Always stay with your friends, don't go off alone, have their contact information on you somewhere other than your phone and over a big dinner beforehand try to think about your drinking limits for the night and stick to them!

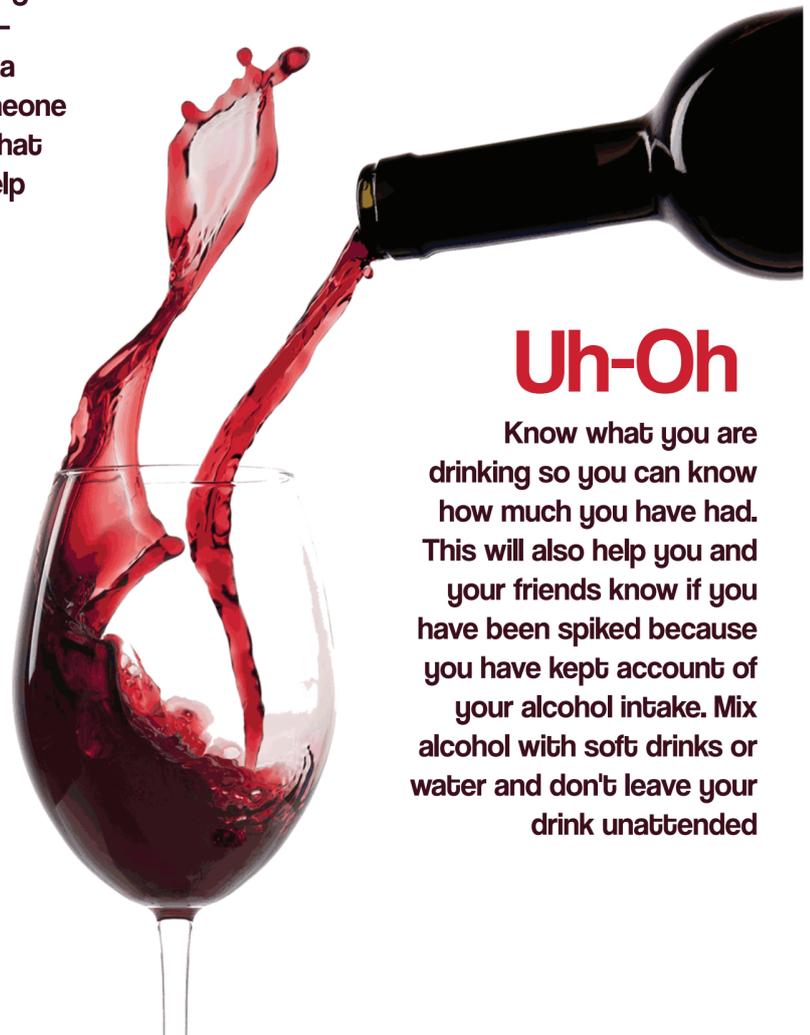
Fill Up



Always eat before a night out - never drink on an empty stomach. Get a takeaway before you go home - don't start cooking once you get home especially in a chip pan!

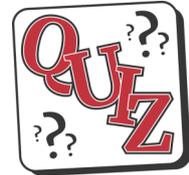
Uh-Oh

Know what you are drinking so you can know how much you have had. This will also help you and your friends know if you have been spiked because you have kept account of your alcohol intake. Mix alcohol with soft drinks or water and don't leave your drink unattended



Answers to the News Quiz of 2019

1. *A Gillet jaune is the yellow reflective vest French drivers have to carry by law in their cars. It became associated with protest.*
2. *Chouquette is a cat, a very rich cat.*
3. *It landed in Edinburgh by mistake.*
4. *He was a comedian.*
5. *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame by Victor Hugo*
6. *Love of ferns.*
7. *Eiffel Tower in Paris.*
8. *Penny Mordaunt was named after the Arethusa-class cruiser HMS Penelope.*
9. *Canada. The loonie is the type of bird featured on the dollar coin. Toonie refers to the two-dollar coin.*
10. *The Thin Red Line refers to an episode in the Battle of Balaklava during the Crimean War. Around 500 men of the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders), aided by a small force of 100 walking wounded, 40 detached Guardsmen, and supported by a substantial force of Turkish infantrymen, led by Sir Colin Campbell, fired at the Russian cavalry.*
11. *Coffee*
12. *Lots of butterflies.*
13. *Beards.*
14. *Seagulls. (Please do not try this at home. It probably does not work!)*
15. *HRH Prince Charles*
16. *Greenland. It was not for sale.*
17. *They are butterflies. You might find them in a churchyard.*
18. *Beef*





20 November 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach this General Election, we also herald the season of Advent, the birth of Jesus Christ and the reminder of his return as our judge. In Christ's birth God chooses to come and live among us, intervening in our imperfect world, and offering the hope of life reordered and restored. At his return he promises the setting right of all things. It is time to set aside apathy and cynicism and to be people of hope.

We often forget that our political leaders face huge responsibilities and challenges, and these come with personal sacrifices too. In our prayers for this election we should be thankful for those who put themselves forward for public service and ask that they will seek the common good and justice. We should take part as important decisions are being made that will affect us all. That includes fulfilling our democratic duty to vote.

As followers of Jesus Christ each of us is called to honour the gift of truth, both to speak it and to seek it. We all have a responsibility to speak accurately, to challenge falsehoods when we hear them, and to be careful to separate facts from opinion.

Offering facts and opinions should be done with humility and in love. People who hold different political views are not our enemies. Two people can look at the same facts and in good faith interpret them very differently. Issues need to be debated respectfully, and without resorting to personal abuse. We should engage responsibly, especially on social media. If we leave our echo-chambers and make a conscious effort to listen to people and ideas we disagree with it will help us understand where others are coming from in this election period, even though we may disagree vehemently. As Christians, in recognising God's image in others who are not in our own image, we can start to build relationships that bridge political divides.

We will be praying for debates that seek to unite rather than divide, to bring us together and to rebuild trust in each other, in our institutions, and in our politics. As Jesus did, through his birth in poverty, his actions and words and his warning of judgement for those who seek only their own wellbeing, we must put the vulnerable and those on the edges of society first. Taking part in a democracy is a privilege and a responsibility, so let us be guided by a love for our neighbours, near and far, and seek that common good that truly benefits us all.

That includes justice for the oppressed, protection for the persecuted, and a commitment to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. It also includes a just economic system, open and encouraging to aspiration and ambition, supportive of those who struggle.

We call on all standing for election to reject the language of prejudice and not to stoke stigma or hatred towards people on the grounds of their religion, their culture, their origin, their identity or their belief. Several groups, especially in Jewish and Muslim communities, feel threatened and are in much anxiety. No individual or community in our shared society should have reason to lack confidence in their belonging or security, so parties must make it an absolute priority to offer positive reassurance and avoid anything that increases the perception of fear.

Let us seek the wisdom and guidance of our Heavenly Father, the source of all wisdom, who inspires us as we wrestle to address the questions and challenges of our time and is both authority and judge over all human beings. May His wisdom and His vision guide our debate, campaign and vote, for those who will be elected as our representatives.

As we head into the season of Advent, as Christians, let us be filled with hope and call on Him, who is the ever-present guardian and final judge in our nation and in our politics.

In the Name of our Risen Lord, who was and is and is to come. Amen.

+ Justin Cantuar :

+Sentamu Eboracensis

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon John Sentamu
Archbishop of York



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



EMU (Evening Mother Union) meets:-

One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)

December—No Meeting

Future Events

January 29th The Potting Shed.

Please speak to Jayne Oliver if you wish to come along

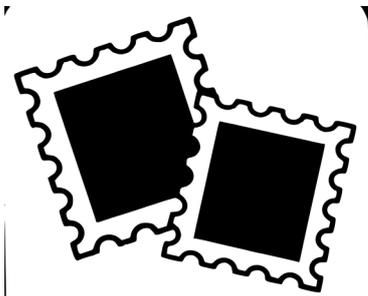
ALL WELCOME



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(Riding for the Disabled).

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facebook

Bartholomew's and St Chad's now have their own Facebook page.

If you are already on Facebook it is easy to find and "like" the page. Just search for "stchadsstbarts" or "St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby" and you will find us.

If you "like" the page you will receive notifications when we add events and other informative posts.

From our page you can also share individual posts and events with others you may think would like to hear about us and our events.

There have been small business cards around the church buildings which have details of our Facebook page too.

<https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/>

Julie Parmenter



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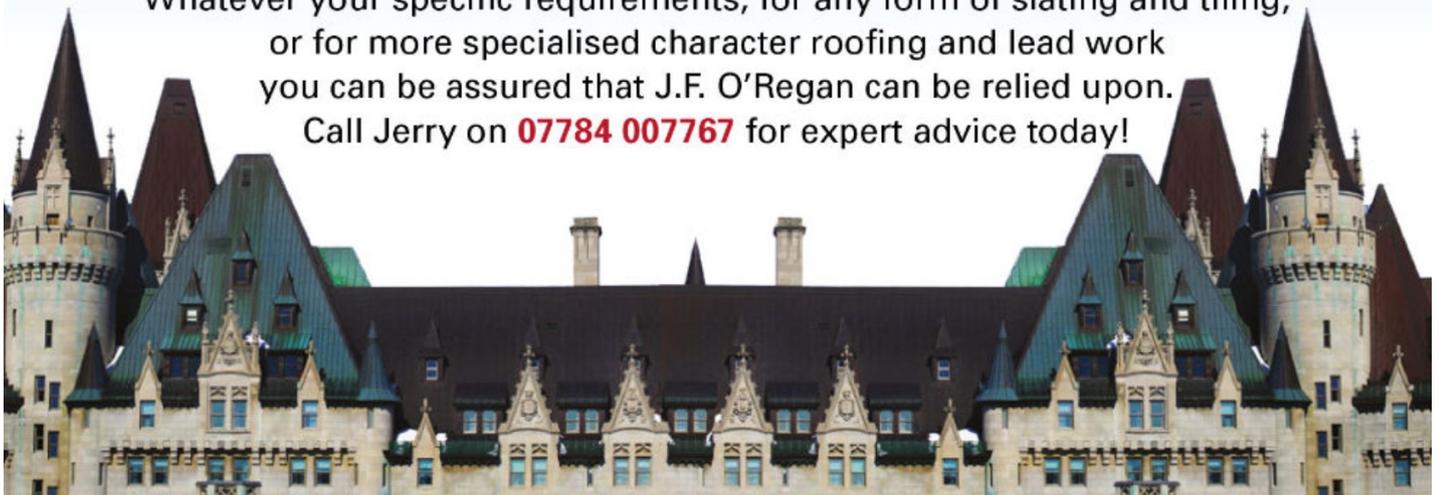
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Contacts

Churchwarden

Mrs Liz Whitehead

606 9083

Reader

Mr Alan Jones

648 1400

Retired Clergy

Revd David Trollope

342 2648

Revd Ray Dent

792 2022

Revd Margaret Fletcher

648 1025

PCC Secretary

Mr Graham Barley

648 1867

Evening Mothers' Union (EMU)

Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)

6481112

Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)

Mrs Elaine Jones

648 1400

Flower Guild (St Chad's)

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648 0209

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Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)

Mrs Leslie Worrall

648 5590

Bellringers Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson

648 6691

PCC Treasurer

Mr Kevin Marley

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

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648 6331

Verger

Mr Jon Oliver

648 1754

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Mrs Janet Trigg

648 8821

Organist

Mr Craig Vickers

648 7405

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

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c/o Church Office

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St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary

Mrs Jean Heath

648 6015

CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

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 2019

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Morning Worship

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am No Service
3.00pm Carol Service

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

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.15am Holy Communion

1st December
Advent Sunday

8th December
Advent 2

15th December
Advent 3

22nd December
Advent 4

24th December
Christmas Eve

25th December
Christmas Day

29th December
Christmas 1

St Chad's

9.30am Family Service

9.30 am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am **Nativity**

10.30 am Family Communion

9.30 am Morning Worship

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

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

See inside Cover for December Services

Church Services January 2020

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

**10.30am Covenant Service
at Irby Methodist**

11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

11.15am Holy communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

11.15am Holy Communion

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

11.15 am Holy Communion

5th January

Christmas 2

12th January

Epiphany

19th January

Epiphany 2

26th January

Epiphany 3

St Chad's

NO SERVICE

9.30 am Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship

9.30am Holy Communion

Weekday Services

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

ALL WELCOME

No Service Wednesday 1st January

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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PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk