

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



Solving Christ III

April 2020



Diocese of Chester

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As you will appreciate this is a continuously changing picture. We have been keeping up with the latest government and Church of England advice, which we will continue to do.

We will be keeping in touch with people by email (if we have your address) and will endeavour to ensure that the website is up to date to reflect any changes.

From the Registers

Funerals

Baptisms We commend to God's eternal care We welcome into the Lord's family

From Your Rector

Dear Friends,

"Why have you forsaken me?"

'*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*' (Psalm 22:1 & Matt 27:46). *Where is God?* is a common question voiced today and shared by Jesus on the cross on the first Good Friday. This question is answered in the psalm, as we look through the lens of Jesus' crucifixion.

It is a real question: Both David and Jesus question God about the pain and darkness of their experience. It is a real question for all suffer, yet they are still able to hold onto a God of love, who has their lives in His hands: '*Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.*' (3).

It requires faith to ask: Their complaint about the apparent absence of God is not a sign of losing faith in Him. David remembers those who have trusted God in the past and been saved from their troubles: '*In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.*' (4). Just like Jesus on the cross, we are able to entrust ourselves '*to Him who judges justly*.' (1 Peter 2:23).

It is answered in experience: When David cried out to God, he experienced his deliverance: '*For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*' (24). As a result, David was able to praise God and witness to His faithfulness.

The fulfilment of these verses are seen in Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. He was vindicated by God and has become the source of life and hope for all who trust themselves to Him.

In answer to the question '*Where is God?*', we hear the answer, '*Look to the cross of Jesus!*'

May you know God's peace in your life this Easter.

Revid Jane



- 1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?
- 2 Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.
- 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were saved. They trusted in you and were never disgraced.
- 6 But I am a worm and not a man. I am scorned and despised by all!
- 7 Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying,
- 8 "Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him!
- If the Lord loves him so much, let the Lord rescue him!"
- 9 Yet you brought me safely from my mother's womb and led me to trust you at my mother's breast.

10 I was thrust into your arms at my birth. You have been my God from the moment I was born.

11 Do not stay so far from me, for trouble is near, and no one else can help me.

Not official advice: but this is food-for-thought about our attitudes.

Golden Rule One. Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

Golden Rule Two: Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

Golder Rule Three. Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

Golden Rule Four. Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 - 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

And, along with just over half the adults in the UK, don't forget to pray. Here's a suggestion from the Revd Louise Collins, a Team Vicar in Borehamwood, Herts:

Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbour in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen. +Alan St Albans

And from Bishop Keith

This prayer is included in the Common Worship services of Wholeness and Healing. I offer it as a prompt and help in our praying for one another and for those on the front line wherever that may be:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

With love in Christ

+Keith

God in the Sciences - How Can a Christian be a Scientist?

by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz,

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered, who could make it in the world of science and still hold onto their faith? Soon enough I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, some of whom were at my own university. So what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges that a life in science holds for a Christian?



Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things in the world, and coming up with general

principles about the way things are. Exploring the world is a great thing to do to express our gratitude to the Creator. There is a sense of awe and wonder that comes when we expand our minds and our horizons by discovering things about the universe can feed into our worship.

Of course, there may be things in science that some Christians don't want to get involved in because of what they believe. But there should also be ethical issues that make them want to get stuck into new research that will help people, protect creation, or tackle injustices. I am glad to see that many senior scientists do their best to find appropriate ways to make their own faith visible, so that people like my younger self can find role models and mentors.

Another helpful thing about science is that although our beliefs may at times affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they shouldn't affect the outcome of experiments themselves. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of that worldview.

In my work at <u>The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion</u>, and my involvement with <u>Christians in Science</u>, I have the privilege of meeting a great number of scientists who are also Christians. One of the most famous living biologists is Francis Collins, who was Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA. He wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." (Francis Collins, <u>The</u> <u>Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief</u> (Simon and Schuster, 2007)

He gave us eyes to see them': Murillo's 'St John the Baptist with the Lamb'

The nursery rhymes we learnt as children often focused on lambs: Mary had a little lamb, Baa baa black sheep, Little Bo-Peep and Little Boy Blue. They come to mind in springtime when we see lambs in the field jumping for joy or bleating as they run to the ewes for warmth and safety.

Murillo, a 17th century artist from Seville, had that world of childhood in mind when he painted 'St John the Baptist with the Lamb.' He looks back to the little child of Isaiah 11 leading the animals, but also we are called to think of the adult John the Baptist, who sees Jesus walking by and exclaims, "Look, here is the Lamb of God." In the painting, St John is a child with his arms around the lamb. He stands on rocky ground with a reed cross at his feet that has the words 'Behold the Lamb of God' on the ribbon.

The painting hangs in the National Gallery, and it certainly lacks the strength and brilliance of other Spanish artists. But Murillo is telling us how the drama of salvation is played out by children and lambs. He is inviting us to look from that world of childhood to another part of Isaiah's prophecy, where he talks of the Messiah led like a lamb to the slaughter. We enter that drama of salvation in Holy Week this month. On Good Friday Jesus was led to His crucifixion, just as the lambs were being killed for the Passover.

We think of the world of Old Testament sacrifice, where the high priest on the day of Atonement would enter the Holy of Holies and sacrifice a ram. And we focus on Jesus who is for us both priest and sacrifice, and realise that there is a divine chemistry at work that leads us from Good Friday to Easter Day. The writer of Hebrews meditates on this theme and proclaims that in Jesus we have a high priest of the good things that have come - eternal redemption. We are invited to appropriate that great gift for ourselves in this Holy Week of our salvation. So, we journey from the childhood days of Murillo's painting to Calvary and the Easter garden. And we can also journey beyond to the heavenly city, where Revelation tells us that all the nations walk by the light of that Lamb - the Lamb of God.





It was Palm Sunday, but five year old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"



Although it was a memorable service, the new showbiz couple in the parish hadn't quite got the idea of a donkey for Palm Sunday.

Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

On the hop

Higher power

Q: What do you get when you cross the Easter Bunny with an over-stressed minister during Holy Week? A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?"

A: An Easter Basket Case

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."









EMU (Evening Mother Union) meets:-One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)

Next Meeting

Will be notified once the Social Distancing Advice has been lifted

Passionflower

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back



to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned

Morning Prayer

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.

Nahum 1.7

Opening Sentences

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

You may wish to say Psalm 23 or another psalm here, such as Psalm 16 or Psalm 139.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ◆ therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil;
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ◆ you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ◆
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

You may wish to use the weekly pattern of short readings given below, or choose a passage of your own.

Sunday Morning

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Isaiah 43.1-3a

Monday Morning

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14.1-6

Tuesday Morning

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things

that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4.8-9

Wednesday Morning

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.16,17

Thursday Morning

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Ephesians 2.19-22

Friday Morning

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Romans 19.9-12

Saturday Morning

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12.22-31

16

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger; order us in all our doings and guide us to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, our kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. **The Conclusion**

Night Prayer

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

Opening Sentences

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord **who made heaven and earth.**

Pause and reflect on the day that is past.

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

Bible Reading

You may wish to say here the psalm given below, or Psalm 27, or another chosen psalm.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦ and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; ◆ his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;

- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦ nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦ to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ◆ to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦ lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ◆ the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; ◆
 I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; I am with them in trouble,I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦ and show them my salvation.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

You may wish to use one of the following short readings or choose a passage of your own.

Sunday Evening

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Monday Evening

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength. Isaiah 30.15

Tuesday Evening

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11.28-end

Wednesday Evening

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.6,7

Thursday Evening

Jesus said, 'I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!'

John 16.33

Friday Evening

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5.9,10

Saturday Evening

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

John 8.12

Prayers

Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing and tender care this night those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest upon your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep; for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

The Lord bless us and watch over us; The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us; The Lord look kindly upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**

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There have been small business cards around the church buildings which have details of our Facebook page too. https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/

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Contacts

Churchwarden Mrs Liz Whitehead	606 9083			
Reader Mr Alan Jones	648 1400	Evening Mothers' Union (EMU) Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)	6481112	
Retired Clergy		Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's) Mrs Elaine Jones	648 1400	
Revd David Trollope	342 2648	Flower Guild (St Chad's)		
Revd Ray Dent	792 2022	Mrs Dawn Rudd	648 0209	
Revd Margaret Fletcher	648 1025	Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's Mrs June Bibby) 678 8124	
PCC Secretary Mr Graham Barley	648 1867	Cleaning Guild (St Chad's) Mrs Leslie Worrall	648 5590	
PCC Treasurer Mr Kevin Marley pcc-treasurer@thurstast	on.org.uk	Bellringers Tower Captain Dr Peter Robson	648 6691	
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				
Verger Mr Jon Oliver	648 1754	Junior Church Mrs Julie Deboorder	648 6331	
Organist Mr Craig Vickers	648 7405	Seniors/Youth (11 -16) Mrs Janet Trigg	648 8821	
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office	648 8169	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk or		
St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary Mrs Jean Heath	648 6015		1 69 59 01	

CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Aid Representative Vacant

Children's Society RepresentativeMrs Jean Heath648 6015

Leprosy Mission RepresentativeMrs Pat Hulme538 1953

Adoption Society Representative
Mrs Chris Rostock648 1112

Coronavirus

YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN



St Bartholomew's

If you feel in need of a chat,

because you haven't spoken to anyone else today or you are in need of reassurance, or for any other reason then please call any of the following people who will be more than happy to speak to you.

> Revd Jane Turner: 648 1816 Revd Margaret Fletcher: 648 1025 Revd Ray Dent: 792 2022 Revd David Trollope: 342 2648 Mrs Liz Whitehead: 606 9083 Mr Alan Jones: 648 1400 Mrs Pat Neil: 345 5232 Mrs Jean Heath: 648 6015

Our church buildings are closed to prevent infection spread. But the church (which is the people) remains ready to serve our community. If you need help in some way with selfisolating give us a call and we will endeavour to put you in touch with a neighbour who can help. If you have a specific

prayer need, then again, please give us a call and we will circulate that (anonymously if you wish) to our church members who will pray.

As a church, we have a mission in the community. We should all try to keep more in touch with our neighbours and support efforts to protect the most vulnerable.

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 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