

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
24th May 2020 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter**



<p>Collect Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.</p>	<p>Post-Communion Prayer Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
<p>FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK Prayer prompts based on the readings for today:- God of time and eternity, we hold fast to your unending grace despite the uncertainties of our times. Like those first disciples we confine ourselves to where we are staying. Like them we have glimpsed the things of heaven but now must content ourselves with daily life. Like them we devote ourselves to prayer and trust the effort will confirm our hopes. Ah! Leave us not to mourn below, Or long for Thy return to pine; Now, Lord, the Comforter bestow, And fix in us the Guest Divine. If every one that asks may find, If still Thou dost on sinners fall, Come as a mighty rushing wind; Great grace be now upon us all. <i>Charles Wesley 1707-1788.</i> Pray for those for whom time and waiting is troublesome: the bored and dejected, those hard pressed by too much work, those without work and struggling to make ends meet, and those who must make hard decisions where timing is crucial. May we experience anew the reassurance of casting our anxieties on the God who cares for us. Where the pandemic has exacerbated divisions and inequalities amongst people, we pray in the hope of new begins where every life is valued and given the chance of fulfilment. Pray for those marginalised and excluded. In our fretful waiting, Lord, give us the reassurance that eternal life is this 'to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.' For the world: Please pray for China and Hong Kong. Please pray for those affected by cyclone Amphan in eastern India and Bangladesh For the Sick: Please pray for Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Lynne Rose, Audrey Fernyhough (Wendy Gerrard's Auntie), Roy Fordham, Sally West (Judith Hodgson's friend's daughter) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital. For the Bereaved: Family and friends Lilian Watson, Stan (friend of Chris and Susan Smale), Fiona Lorimer (Pat Hulme's sister) From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Bishop Johnson N Ekwe, Niger West; Bishop Christian Onyia, Nike (Nigeria).</p>	

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GOSPEL READING: John 17:1-11

All: Glory to you, O Lord

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

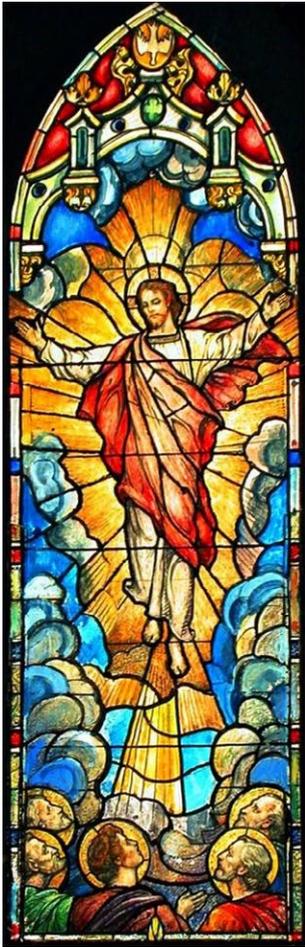
All: Praise to you, O Christ

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.



Jesus is King and I will extol Him
give Him the glory, and honour His name;
He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens
Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,
gone through the curtain and touching the throne;
we have a Priest who is there interceding,
pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,
clothed in His glory and bearing His name,
laying our lives with gladness before Him –
filled with His Spirit we worship the King:

“O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;
thrilled with Your goodness
we give You our praise!”
Angels in light with worship surround Him,
Jesus, our Saviour, for ever the same.

New Testament theologian Tom Wright in his book “Surprised by Hope” says this of the Ascension:-

‘Heaven relates to earth tangentially so that the one who is in heaven can be present simultaneously anywhere and everywhere on earth: the ascension therefore means that Jesus is available, accessible, without people having to travel to a particular spot on the earth to find him.’

Hearts for Homes

Thank You from one of the nursing homes:-

My name is Dawn, I am magic Moments Assistant at Charlotte house . I would like to thank you , and your friends for thinking off ourselves at this difficult time. The hearts you made have been attached to keyrings with a photograph , and message for residents family's , The residents fully enjoyed carrying out these activities.

The finished hearts should be approximately 6.5cm high x 6.5cm wide. They can be knitted or sewn in any bright colours. They need to be in pairs - one for the resident of the care home and one for the relative - so they feel united in these weeks when they can't physically see each other.

Bags for nurses (12"x15" with drawstring) also still being received and distributed.



And the latest part of the project is Aprons. Elizabeth has adapted a pattern which can be shared with any other talented sewing machine users who would like to have a go.

If you can't knit or sew - you can still help. Do you have pillow cases, old sheets, duvet covers, table cloths etc that can be re-purposed?

Please drop off items in my porch or contact me (07599 186 893) and I will collect.

All finished items can be dropped off into my porch 11 Heathbank Avenue Irby (Julie DeBoorder)

Thank you again

A Note of thanks and encouragement from the Treasurer:-

During April 2020:-

12 people have set up a new standing order totalling: £681

4 people have increased the amount they give each week/month

Regular weekly (Green) envelopes plus donations in cash or by cheque delivered to the Rectory have totalled £2250

Our total income for April 2020 has totalled £4337

Well Done all. Many Thanks, Kevin



In April 2019, we had total receipts of £7239. This means our April income is down by £2902. We are making savings elsewhere which helps to balance this a little bit. We obviously have an additional loss of income from Hall Hire and as a result we have temporarily reduced our parish share payments to the diocese.

WHILE BUILDINGS REMAIN CLOSED ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:-

Mr K Marley (Treasurer), c/o The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Rd, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

OR IF POSSIBLE BY BACS TRANSFER: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort code:40/52/40 Account: 00018674

In the "Reference Box" – please make sure to include your name – and if space allows the words "regular giving". It would then be helpful if you emailed the Treasurer with the start date, frequency and amount.

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Lectio 365

Prayer App

Need help praying?

Try this App

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>



LOCAL FIRMS DOING HOME DELIVERIES

Lewis Butchers Greasby, Tel: 0151 678 7990, Bank transfer or cash in envelope on doorstep.

Derek Massey butchers, Telegraph Road, Heswall, Tel: 0151 342 5646.

Fine Fruits Pensby Road delivers veg boxes. Tel: 0751 691 4095

**PLUS Billy's Corner (Birkenhead Market)
FREE home delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables
(your choice of fruit and veg in your specified quantities) across the Wirral
Call Keith - 07958 108 221 or email deliveries@keith-ryan.co.uk**

Wirral Coronavirus Helpline 0151 666 5050  **WIRRAL**

 **STAY AT HOME**

 **PROTECT THE NHS**

 **save lives**

www.wirralinfobank.co.uk

Welcome to the online resource to help you find support services near you. We are here to support Wirral residents requiring advice, guidance and additional help during this ongoing and difficult coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.