

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
26th July 2020 – Seventh Sunday after Trinity**



Collect

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the
source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and
be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community: Please pray for local shops and businesses as they remain open, begin to re-open or remain closed. Pray for those exited by the easing of lockdown and more freedom to do things they have missed. Pray for those who remain anxious and uncertain about going out. Pray for those still shielding and unable to go out until next week.

For PCC: Working towards re-opening our buildings . Please pray for wisdom and please be patient - Safety is our first priority.

For wedding couples: Jarrad and Nicki planning for their re-scheduled wedding on 22nd August.

For the world: Please pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.

For the Sick: Please continue to pray for Molly (will be 2 in August) in Children's hospital - large cyst removed from her liver on 9/7/20 - recovering well - please keep praying.

Please also continue to pray for Samuel Williams (extended family of Linda and Graham Barley), Karen Fox, Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough (Wendy Gerrard's Auntie), Roy Fordham, Moira and Peter DeBoorder (Sister and Brother in law of Julie DeBoorder) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

Julie would like to pass on the good news that her friend Lynne Rose is now in remission, thank you for all your prayers.

For the Bereaved: Please continue to pray for family and friends of Cecil Jones whose funeral took place on Wed 15th July

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle: Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, San Diego; Bishop David Rice, San Joaquin (The Episcopal Church, USA).

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

All: Glory to you, O Lord

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

47 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

"Yes," they replied.

52 He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

All: Praise to you, O Christ

I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING AND MAKE THE KINGDOM OF GOD MY **TOP PRIORITY**, RIGHT?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

ACTUALLY, JESUS IS THE MAN WHO **SELLS IT ALL*** TO BUY FIELD WHICH IS THE WORLD. HIS **PEOPLE ARE HIS TREASURE****.



*PHIL 2:7 **PS 135:4

YOUR TOP PRIORITY IS NOT TO **HAVE** TREASURE, BUT TO **BE** TREASURED.



MATTHEW 13:13-33, 44-52



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An Update from the Treasurer (June 26th 2020):-

Once again - THANK YOU for your continued donations which is helping us to continue to pay essential bills.

In June the newly set-up (in response to Covid-19) D/Ds totalled £ 745
Regular weekly (Green) envelopes plus donations in cash or by cheque delivered to the Rectory have totalled £1769
So **income** (which would have come in through church services had we been physically meeting) totalled **£2514**
This compares to a total in June 2019 of £3409

As we prepare to open our buildings there will be new additional costs.

We have just spent £105.79 on initial supplies of anti-bac gel, disposable gloves and face coverings.

We must also thank those who have long-standing direct debits (which are not included in the figures above for either 2019 or 2020) for your continued support.

We are making some savings as a result of not physically meeting which helps to balance this a little bit. We obviously have an ongoing 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

Church Remains Online for the time being

We are not yet ready to open. Please be patient. Safety of everyone is our first priority.

The PCC is currently working through over 60 pages of documentation from the Church of England regarding what is required before we can open for services. We are looking into whether we need a booking system for services (which most churches who have opened now have). We are looking at how we can safely "steward" one way systems, use of anti-bac etc etc. We are looking at how we can quarantine service books after use - or whether to use only the screen We are looking at how we maintain online as well as in church - because initially there will be more people staying at home than there will coming to church - simply because of how few people we will be able to get in the buildings. We are looking at how we can continue the ministry of baptisms/weddings/funerals alongside Sunday services, when we have to quarantine the building for 72 hours between services. We cannot re-open until all of these things have been properly thought through and a risk assessment has been agreed by the PCC.

Church will feel very different when we return. We will not be able to greet each other in the ways we are used to as we need to maintain social distancing at all times. We will not be able to sing. We may need to tell you where to sit e.g. filling up from the front. Initially we may only have services of Morning Prayer. Communion (if we can work through the complexities) will be very different - it maybe that the priest will come to you rather than you to the communion rail, and as before lockdown you will only be able to receive bread.

Many churches, including plenty in our deanery, are using July and August to plan and prepare for opening in September. **Please be assured that your PCC are working very hard to make difficult decisions and we will let you know as soon as we can when we are ready to re-open the buildings for services.**

In the meantime, be assured that we will continue to provide resources for you to use at home and we will continue to upload a weekly sermon to facebook.

Wirral Coronavirus Helpline 0151 666 5050  **WIRRAL**



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.