

The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad Thurstaston and Irby

6th December 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent



Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes
again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and
purity of his first coming that, when he comes
again, we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for local businesses as they adapt to the new Tier system of restrictions.
Please pray for the hospital chaplain (Revd Malcolm Cowan) as he unceasingly supports patients who can't have visitors.
Please pray for our schools as they prepare for Christmas Online Nativity and Carol Services

For our Church:

Please pray for those participating in Advent groups and using Advent Resources, that they may encounter afresh the Comfort and Joy which God provides

For the world:

Please continue to pray for countries struggling to reduce the number of Coronavirus infections and deaths.

For the Sick:

Please continue to pray for Molly (aged 2), Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, Mary Wishart, Rebecca Crone (Judith Hodgson's granddaughter) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For the Bereaved:

Please pray for family and friends of Sheila Denton.

From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:



Comfort and Joy
#ComfortAndJoy
is the Church of England's 2020 Christmas campaign.
To find out more and to sign up for daily reflections, visit:
churchofengland.org/comfortandjoy



0800 804 8044
Daily HOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
3 A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
6 A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."
9 You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
2 You forgave the offence of your
people ♦
and covered all their sins.
8 I will listen to what the Lord God will
say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people
and to the faithful, that they turn not
again to folly.
9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who
fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other;
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from
heaven.
12 The Lord will indeed give all that is
good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8

All: Glory to you, O Lord

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"¹

³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with¹ the Holy Spirit."

All: Praise to you, O Christ



WIRRAL FOODBANK

Can you help with donations for Wirral Foodbank? Items can be dropped off at Dawpool Primary School - enter through the pedestrian entrance and place your items in the lime green donations bin. In order to avoid congestion at drop off and pick up times, we suggest that you drop your items between 10.00-11.30am. If you can't get to school, items may also be dropped off to 38 Heathbank Avenue (box in front of the garage)

The following items will be much appreciated so they can be given out during the month of December

RICE PUDDING
 CEREAL
 TEA
 COFFEE
 SQUASH
 HOT CHOCOLATE
 TINNED SPAGHETTI
 TINNED POTATOES
 TINNED /PACKET SOUP
 TINNED MEAT
 TINNED FISH
 RICE
 INSTANT MASH
 PASTA SAUCE
 TOOTHPASTE/TOOTHBRUSH
 DEODRANT
 SHAMPOO
 CHOCOLATE
 BISCUITS
 SUGAR
 JAM
 SPONGE PUDDINGS
 NAPPIES SIZE 5&6



A special thank you to those who continue to remember to collect their used stamps for RDA (Riding for the Disabled) and a reminder, with Christmas not too far off, to save all those Royal Mail stamps.

Leprosy Boxes—Thankyou

Many, many thanks to those who have sent cheques for the Leprosy Mission. Such generosity at a time when all charities are asking for donations, is outstanding. To date I've been able to send cheques totalling £280. Unable to give individual receipts, I trust when your cheque is cashed will be sufficient acknowledgment, if not, please contact me and I will send you a personal receipt.

Pat Hulme.

We now have an Amazon smile account. The Link can be found on the website at www.thurstaston.org.uk, on the first page, scroll down until you see the amazon smile banner. If you click on the banner it will take you directly to amazon, any purchases you then make Amazon will donate money to the church with no cost to you.

Children's Society Boxes—Thankyou

This year despite being unable to collect in all of the boxes, we had a **record total** of £1020.07. Many thanks to all who donated.

Jean Heath.

Support
 The Parochial Church Council
 Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of
 St Bartholomew, Thurstaston
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The Jesse Tree takes its name from a passage in the book of the prophet Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." It is, in short, the family tree of Jesus illustrating his descent from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of David.

Revd Jane will be creating a Jesse Tree outside the Rectory, so feel free to stop and take a look - if you need to walk up the drive to do so that's fine.

The symbols which will appear this week will be:-

The SECOND week of ADVENT

Joseph (Genesis 42:1-45)

Symbol: Coloured Coat

Joseph's brothers thought that he was dead but he had become a very important leader in Egypt. There was a famine in the land and everyone was hungry. His brothers came to him looking for food but they didn't realise who he was. Joseph gave them a bag of grain.

Generous God,

you showed your loving care through Joseph.

Help us to be filled with generosity and love so that when Jesus comes at the end of time he may find us watching and waiting.

Moses (Exodus 1:1-14; 3:1-12)

Symbol: Burning Bush

God asked Moses to do a very special job for him. He wanted Moses to lead the People of Israel from their life of slavery to the Egyptians to freedom. God showed himself to Moses in a bush that, although it was ablaze, didn't burn.

Father of Light,

from the flaming

branches of an unburned tree

you called Moses to lead your people to freedom.

Help us to know your presence in our lives,

calling us to freedom from all that separates us from you.

Torah (Exodus 19:16-20)

Symbol: Stone Tablet

After Moses led the people out to freedom in the desert, he went to the top of a mountain to be alone with God. God gave him Ten Commandments to take back to the people. The commandments were how God wanted his people to live.

All Powerful Father,

you spoke to Moses on the mountain

and gave him a law for us to live by.

Help us to listen to you

so that we may be ready for Jesus' coming into the world

Joshua (Joshua 6:1-16)

Symbol: Trumpet

Joshua was an apprentice of Moses, and was appointed by him to be leader of Israel after him. Joshua led the Israelites to victory at the city of Jericho where the trumpet call caused the walls of Jericho to fall down!

God our Father,

Joshua shows us that you do the most amazing things.

Help us to follow you wherever you lead us

and to never stop trusting in you.

Gideon (Judges 2:6-23; 6: 1-6; 11:8-28)

Symbol: Clay Water Pitcher

Gideon was a very unlikely hero and extremely unsure of himself. He couldn't believe that God that God was asking him to do a very important job, so he asked God for two miracles. When Gideon was convinced that God was calling him, he destroyed the town's altar to a foreign god. He gathered together men from different tribes in order to fight the army of Midian who had crossed the Jordan River and who were camped in the Valley of Jezreel. God insisted that there were too many men in Gideon's army and continuously instructed him to send some away until his army had been reduced from 22,000 to 300. Gideon won the battle because he had faith in God and not because he had a great army!

God on High,

Gideon was surprised when you called him

but he finally trusted you and accepted your plan.

You showed him how powerful you are

by giving him victory over the army of Midian.

Help us to trust in you too

and to do everything you ask of us

so that when Jesus comes again

we may share in his victory over death and darkness.

Samuel (1 Samuel ;3:1-10; 10:1)

Symbol: Crown

Samuel was a prophet who asked God on behalf of the people for a king. God was very reluctant to give them a king but answered their request. Saul was chosen and anointed privately by Samuel. Later, Samuel was also given the responsibility to find a replacement for Saul. He went to Bethlehem to a man called Jesse. Each of the sons of Jesse were rejected, except David the youngest.

God our Father, King of Kings,

through the prophecy of Samuel you gave Israel a King.

May we who wait for the coming of Christ the King

live according to his law of love.

David (1 Samuel 16:1-23)

Symbol: Shepherd's Crook

David was the youngest son of Jesse. He was a shepherd boy who was called to be the leader of God's people. This surprised everyone, especially his older brothers! He became a great King. Bethlehem, where Jesus was to be born many years later, was called the City of David.

Almighty Father,

you called King David above all his brothers,

and made him a great king to lead your people..

As we prepare to celebrate

the birth of Christ our King in David's city of Bethlehem

open our lives to his kingdom of light and peace.

December

All services
subject to
Government
permission
for churches
to be open!



	8.00am St Bart's	9.30am St Chad's	11.15am St Bart's	* ZOOM ONLINE	Wed 10.15am St Chad's <i>(following the Sunday)</i>
Dec 6th	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		6.00pm Christingle Service	Holy Communion (9th)
Dec 13 th		Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evening Prayer	Holy Communion (16 th)
Dec 20 th	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship		6.30pm Service including some Carols	NO SERVICE on 23rd
Thursday Dec 24 th Christmas Eve				4.00pm Crib Service	
Friday Dec 25 th Christmas Day		Holy Communion	Holy Communion		
Dec 27 th					Holy Communion (30 th)
Jan 3 rd	BCP Holy Communion	Morning Worship			Holy Communion (6 th Jan)

You need to book a seat for these services:-
 Details on front page of our website
www.thurstaston.org.uk
 or contact Parish Office if you need a copy.

*To join a ZOOM service, please contact Revd Jane Turner
 who will give you the details.
 You can join a ZOOM service online or by landline telephone.

We are very grateful for the one-off donations that many of you usually make when you come to church over the Christmas period. Could you make a one-off Christmas donation on line this year? There is a JustGiving link on the Treasurer's Page of the Website. Or could you drop your gift to the Rectory or through Church letter box in an envelope for the attention of "Mr K. Marley - PCC Treasurer"