

The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad Thurstaston and Irby 29th January - Epiphany 4



Collect

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have
proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for all who serve us in our local community and for local businesses and community groups
Please pray for all the people living in your street

For our Church:

Please pray for Bishops Mark, Julie and Sam, & Archdeacons Mike and Ian
Please pray for Revd Malcolm Cowan and others who serve in the Chaplaincy department of the hospital

For the world:

Please pray for all countries of the world where people suffer from war, natural disasters and the effects of climate change

For the Sick: Please pray for Brian Tucker, Kate McMahon (relative of Elizabeth Barton), Amanda Fletcher (Margaret and Tonys daughter in law), Dot Turner, Robin Blythe (Yasmin Whitehead's father), Roger Dennison, Tony Fletcher and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For the Bereaved: Family and friends of Margaret Mude (Beverley Appleyard's Mum), Betty Beacall (funeral 2nd February 1pm at St Barts), and Baz Ward (Elizabeth Barton and Joyce Kenworthy's brother)

Forthcoming Services

Morning Prayer St Chad's Prayer Room 9.00am MOST Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
(check with Revd Jane for cancellations due to other meetings or commitments)

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sun 29th January 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bart's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Barts

Sun 5th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bart's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Barts

Sun 12th February 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bart's
10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's

Church Office: Mrs K Butler, St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH Tel 648 8169.
Website: www.thurstaston.org.uk E-Mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
Revd Jane Turner 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday). E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' ¹¹ As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' ¹² But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' ¹³ Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.' ¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

New Testament Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

GOSPEL READING: John 2:1-11

All: Glory to you, O Lord

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

All: Praise to you, O Christ



Heart Bomb

Irby Heart Bomb

Hearts for everyone

Put up hearts everywhere

Join in the joy

Everyone is Loved

February 11 – March 11



February



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 CANDLEMAS FEBRUARY 2ND	7 Send a Friend a Card Day	8 Kite Flying Day	9 Pizza Day	10 Umbrella Day	11 Random Act of Kindness Day	12 Autism Sunday
13 Love your Pet Day	14 Valentines Day	15 Ash Wednesday	16 Lent Begins	17 Fairtrade Fortnight	18 World Cancer Day	19 Full Moon
20 Polar Bear Day	21 Shrove Tuesday	22 Lent Begins	23 Lent Begins	24 Lent Begins	25 Lent Begins	26 Lent Begins
27 Polar Bear Day	28 Lent Begins	29 Lent Begins	30 Lent Begins	1 Time to Talk Day	2 World Cancer Day	3 Full Moon

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
27 February - 12 March



LOVE THEME
RESOURCES
AVAILABLE



February

Seedbombs

Chalk messages

chart the weather

watch the stars

Create a bird feeder

Plant some seeds

Litter picking

Window message

Phone someone

Share encouraging messages

#

Recycle toys

Sit and be still

Turn off the lights

Smile at 5 people

Paint a picture and leave it in the rain

Treat yourself

Volunteer to help someone

Send your neighbours a message

Compost

sit outside with a warm drink

Write a thank you note

Write a note

Meet a friend

Create something

MONDAYS IN LENT 2023

7.30-9.00pm Everyone Welcome



St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH
Issues Facing the Church (and the World) Today

27th February Revd Peter Mackriell

Head of Diocesan Counselling Services

"Be transformed..." Mental health matters; exploring together how to stay connected with self, with others and with God.

6th March Rt Revd Julie Conalty

Diocesan Lead Bishop for Safeguarding

"Good Samaritans and Good Shepherds"

13th March Revd Mike Loach

Chair of Diocesan Environment Forum

"Can human beings be taught to share"

20th March The Ven Michael Gilbertson

Archdeacon of Chester

"Good News for the poor"

27th March Ms Julie Okundaye

Chair of Diocesan Race and Ethnicity Forum

"Allyship" -the quality or practice of helping or supporting other people who are part of a group that is treated badly or unfairly

3rd April Padre Ailsa Whorton

Chaplain to "1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards"

"What's it like to have a son as a trained killer?"

How I've learned to work alongside those in the British Army

*Each Session will be "standalone"
so you can come to whichever sessions you are able.
It would be lovely to welcome you to all of the sessions.*

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 24th April 2023 in St Chad's, starting at 7.30 pm.

During the two meetings, we will hear reports on the activities and finances of the church during 2022. We will also appoint members of the congregations as churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod representatives.

The first meeting is the Meeting of Parishioners and is very brief. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The Meeting of Parishioners

The only business during the Meeting of Parishioners is to elect or re-elect churchwardens. Churchwardens are appointed for one year, working closely with the Rector and the PCC particularly in relation to the buildings and the church grounds. There is a time limit of six consecutive years on an appointment as churchwarden.

The appointment of churchwardens is especially important this year. Mrs Whitehead has now been in that role for six years so cannot be reappointed. Churchwardens are essential members of the parish team and are one of the links between the congregations and the Rector. They are supported and assisted by the Rector, PCC members and others. Although one churchwarden can cope with all the requirements, it is much better if two churchwardens are appointed to share them.

If you have any interest at all in becoming a churchwarden, please speak to the Rector or Mrs Whitehead as soon as possible.

The Rector must receive nominations for churchwardens on the proper forms before the meeting begins. The forms will be available in the churches and on the Church website (link shown below) for downloading. Nominations for churchwardens may not be made after the meeting has begun. Anyone who lives in the parish can vote in the Meeting of Parishioners.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard, the buildings and their contents. With the minister, it steers the life of the church in its mission, witness and service in the parish.

PCC members are elected for three years, with four members retiring each year. We are hoping for new members who can bring new ideas and fresh thoughts to our discussions and decisions. Four members have reached the ends of their terms of office and may be re-elected and there are three other vacancies.

We also need people to represent us at meetings of the Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod members are elected for three years and are automatically members of the PCC. There will be at least two vacancies for Deanery Synod representatives.

Anyone who has any interest in becoming more involved in helping with church activities should speak as soon as possible to the Rector, the Honorary Secretary or to any PCC member. Everyone can offer something – do not be put off just because you think you don't know enough about it.

During the meeting, we shall also receive written reports on what the PCC discussed and decided in 2022, the church accounts and the organisations associated with the church. These will be available on the Parish website for downloading before the meetings.

Notices with more details of the meetings will be displayed on the church website, in both churches and by email, with nomination forms for PCC members, deanery synod representatives and churchwardens.

Finally, if there are any matters that you wish to bring forward for discussion, please inform the Rector or the PCC Secretary before the meeting.

G.J Barley (Hon. Secretary)

The link for the nomination for the nomination forms (copy and paste into browser) is:

<https://thurstaston.org.uk/pcc-information/apcm-annual-parochial-church-meeting/nomination-forms-and-electoral-roll-application-form.php>

Your P.C.C. needs you

As we approach our Annual Parish Meeting, I would urge you to consider putting your name forward for election to the Parochial Church Council.

Often the object of jokes and comedy sketches, depicting hostility and even outright warfare between vicars and, on the one hand, traditionalists and, on the other, progressives in their congregations, the PCC actually performs a vital function in any parish. Members discuss (always, in my experience, in a respectful and civilised manner, even when there are differences of opinion) all matters to do with the running of the parish and its two churches, as well as initiatives put forward by the diocese or national church.

We are a democratic body; it certainly isn't the case that the Rector makes the decisions and tells us what to do. And we are also the Trustees of the Parish, which is registered as a charity.

At the present time we need fresh blood, particularly from those below the age of fifty (and for those who are worried, I promise that it isn't particularly onerous). We also need people with a range of interests and skills and who have had different life experiences. But above all, we need people who are committed to finding ways of enabling our parish to build God's kingdom here in Irby and Thurstaston.

Could you be one of those people? If so, don't hesitate to have a chat with any current member of the P.C.C. I hope you'll be prepared to bring new life and fresh ideas to the council.

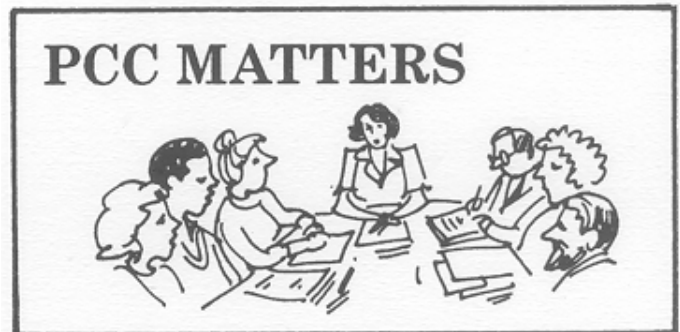
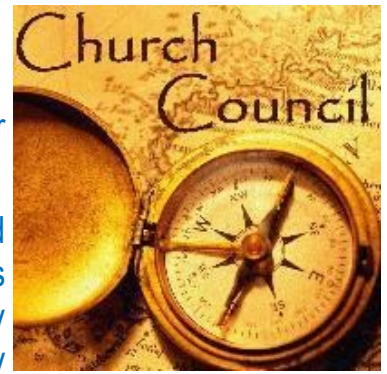
Chris Smale

As we come into another year for the church, please have a think if you could join the PCC. I have been on the committee for a long time and will be re-standing this year.

Yes there are boring bits about finances and pipes, but also important decisions to be made that cannot happen without members. Being part of all sorts of topics discussed, things like our mission to serve the community, growing people in their faith and supporting each other are the rewarding bits. All opinions are valued and varied ones very much needed.

If you could spare an evening every few months, to help the church grow and to give your ideas and opinions, you would be welcomed and a valued new voice.

Julie DeBoorder



Treasurer Needed

The PCC currently pays a bookkeeper to undertake day to day transactions, banking of money and paying of bills etc. The PCC finance sub committee makes decisions based on the information in the parish accounts, but they would very much value having someone to act as treasurer (who does not need to be a member of the PCC) to assist with producing financial reports for the PCC and the annual meeting, as well as interpreting the more complicated aspects of banking decisions eg parish share.

Please speak to Revd Jane or the PCC secretary

Encounter Days

~ connecting more deeply with God ~



We hope that this year you will take the opportunity to join us at Foxhill. Each Encounter Day is led by a guest leader and starts with tea and coffee at 9.30am, finishing at 3.30pm. £25.00 per person - includes lunch and refreshments.

'Who do you say that I am?'

If Jesus were to ask you that question, how would you answer?

Through 2023 we will be exploring some of the pictures that Jesus used of himself in the 'I am' sayings.

Friday 27th January: **'I am the light of the world.'** with the Revd. Peter Froggatt

I work from Church House as the Director of Outreach, having been an ordained minister on Wirral for 26 years, in three different parishes. I grew up going to church but came to a renewed faith as a student, when the reality of the life of Jesus Christ and the significance of his death and resurrection struck home. I enjoy cooking and eating, watching sport and walking up mountains. I have 22 Munros to go!

Foxhill House & Woodlands, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6XB
Telephone: 01928 733 777 www.foxhillchester.co.uk
Email: foxhill@chester.anglican.org

VISION CAFÉ

Sat 28th Jan 10-12 at St Chads

A warm welcome, free refreshments, activities, conversation, crafts.

Casting the net wide is the Bishop of Chester's quest to discern a new vision for the Church. Please come and tell us how and where we can best respond to serve people's practical, emotional and spiritual needs in these challenging times.

What's the church doing wrong?

How can church buildings be used to the benefit of communities?

If the church was to do one thing differently, what would it be?

www.chester.anglican.org.vision

Pruning of Yew Trees at the Lychgate

Our Church Quinquennial report dated 30th June 2021 states that within the next 12 months we should "Consider pruning or removing the trees adjacent to the north porch and the lychgate."

The PCC have looked into this and on 31st January the yew trees on either side of the lych gate will be given a heavy cut back. This is based on advice from a horticulturist who assures us that the trees will be back to green in 2 to 3 seasons (Yew trees like a serious prune). However, for 12-18 months, they will not look pretty. Cutting back yew trees prompts the tree to produce new green shoots and the aim is to rediscover the path which has narrowed considerably over a large number of years!

A warm welcome
for all
at the
Warm Hub

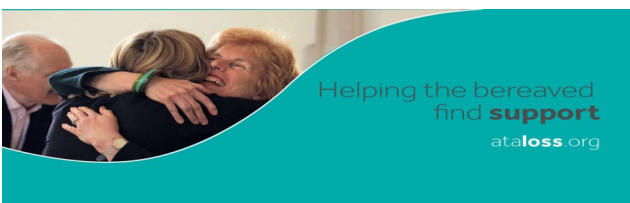
Everyone is welcome to come
and be in a warm, safe space
at St. Chad's Church, Roslin
Road, Irby CH61 3UH
0151 648 8169



Refreshments, free WIFI, disabled access
and a chance to chat with friends.



Tuesdays 9.00am - 12.30pm



Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone
24 hr Helpline
0808 2000 247

Irby Pharmacy is a **safe space**

St Bartholomew and St Chad takes its duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's robust procedures and guidelines. You can find out more



**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**