

The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad

Thurstaston and Irby

21st December - Advent 4



Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

For our Church:

Please pray for Rt Revd Sarah Mullally - Archbishop of Canterbury designate

Please pray for victims and survivors of abuse and safeguarding teams across the diocese.

Please pray for Bishops Mark; Julie & Sam, Archdeacons Mike & Jane

Please pray for Revd Ailsa Whorton and The Army Foundation College, Harrogate

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 Paul Checkland (Leslie Worrall's cousin), Anna Kydd (daughter of Revd Gaynor), Phil Hales, John Reynolds, Robin Blythe, June Dean, Joyce Dennison, Muriel McKie, Caroline Cranny, Revd Anne Samuels, Isabelle Vickers and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

For baptism families: Archer (January)

For the bereaved: Family and friends of Sally Felix

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

Sunday 21st Dec 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bart's
10.30am Morning Worship at St Chad's WITH NATIVITY
6.00pm Carol Service at St Bartholomew's

Wednesday 24th Dec 10.30am HC at St Chads with children's activity tables)

CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00pm Crib Service at St Bart's
11.15pm Holy Communion at St Bart's

Thursday 25th Dec 10.00 am HC at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 28th Dec 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion 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

PSALM 80

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦
you that led Joseph like a flock;
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦
and come to our salvation.
- 4 *Turn us again, O God; ♦*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 8 *Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; ♦
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- 10 You made room around it, ♦
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
- 11 The hills were covered with its shadow ♦
and the cedars of God by its boughs.
- 12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea ♦
and its tendrils to the River.
- 13 Why then have you broken down its wall, ♦
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off, ♦
and all the insects of the field devour it.
- 15 Turn again, O God of hosts, ♦
look down from heaven and behold;
- 16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted, ♦
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.
- 17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down, ♦
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
- 18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, ♦
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.
- 19 And so will we not go back from you; ♦
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.
- 20 *Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; ♦*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Donations & Greenery towards Christmas Flowers please.

The Flower Team will be decorating St Bartholomew's on Monday the 22nd Dec from 10-00am .Any greenery could be left in the porch earlier if convenient.

Cash or cheque donation should be placed in an envelope with your contact details and clearly marked "Christmas Flowers". Or you can donate by BACS transfer (followed by email to the office stating the amount you have donated and indicating that it is for the Flower Fund.

Thank you, from Dawn and the Flower Team

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

All: Glory to you O Lord

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Prayer from The Trussell Trust



Loving God, thank you for this Christmas story.

Thank you for the compassion that you show us and the compassion shared between so many people in the story itself.

As we gather donations, prepare hampers and parcels as we host our food bank sessions and come face to face with each other.

May we recognise you. May we be surprised by you. May we be loved by you.

May we allow your love to be felt in the lives around us and in our own lives,

In the name of Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Could you help with making Gift Aid Claims on behalf of the Church Council

Please see Page 5 of the December edition of Crosstalk for more details.

Could you volunteer to be a Foundation Governor at Dawpool Primary School

Please see the letter from Mrs Helen Griffiths, Headteacher, on Page 11 of the December edition of Crosstalk.

Thankyou

Thankyou to Church Farm Estate for the very generous donation of the beautiful Christmas trees for each of our Churches.

Thank You to all who helped with decorating the trees and to those who have and are helping with decorating each church in other ways.





PARISH GIVING SCHEME

SUPPORTING ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND ST CHAD'S CHURCHES

Donations to the churches are essential for us to maintain the buildings and contents, and continue our mission in Irby and Thurstaston.

One off donations can be made by putting cash on the plate, or by using this QR code with your mobile phone to access The Parish Giving Scheme.



We also welcome new regular givers through the same QR Code. You can make monthly donations which are backed by the direct debit guarantee and can be inflation linked if you so wish.

If you prefer to set up your donations using a paper form or via the website, please ask the minister or the sidespeople, who will be able to give you a pack containing all the information you need including "Frequently Asked Questions".

Donations of Flowers for Church: You can make a donation "in memory of", "in celebration of" or just because! Please sign up at the back of church. You do not have to arrange the flowers - the flower team can do that for you.

Money for your donation (with your contact details and the date for your flowers) should be given to the parish office in a clearly marked envelope, or by BACS indicating that it is Flower Fund, followed by email to the office.



Please continue to collect and **RNIB** bring your used stamps to Church.

RNIB request that, if possible, See differently you leave 1cm of envelope around the stamp. Thank you for your continued support. Jean Heath



Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone
24 hr Helpline
0808 2000 247
Irby Pharmacy is a safe space

A warm welcome at the Warm Hub

Every Tuesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

Open to everyone, so please drop in!

**The warm hub will be closed on
December 23rd & 30th**

**The first session of 2026 will be
on
Tuesday 6th January**

**Guest Speaker
27th January 2026
RSPB Burton**



Member of Places of Welcome

Member of Warm welcome Spaces



Wirral Foodbank are running short of the items on the Shopping list. Please bring any donations to St Chad's Office and Kate will deliver them to the Foodbank.

SHOPPING LIST

TINNED MEAT
TINNED FISH
TINNED VEGETABLES (PEAS, CARROTS, SWEETCORN)
TINNED CUSTARD
TINNED FRUIT
JAM
SHAMPOO
FEMALE HYGIENE
TOOTHBRUSHES/PASTE
DEODORANT

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 about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding



**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**