

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
7th March 2021 Third Sunday of Lent**



Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are
promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers
especially all involved in education as they prepare for return of all children and students tomorrow
Please pray for all victims of abuse

For our Church:

Pray for our Lent witness through facebook, through Lent groups, and as individuals.
Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode.

For the world:

Please continue to for countries world-wide struggling with the effects of Covid pandemic

For the Bereaved:

For the Sick: Please pray for Molly (aged 2), Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, Sue Maggs (Chris Rostock's friend), and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**A prayer for the discernment process
Appointment of new bishops**

Almighty God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom
and calls us to follow him.
Guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,
to show humility, love and mercy as we seek your Kingdom.
We pray for those you are calling
to be the next bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead
and for those discerning that call.
Lead and strengthen them to answer your call;
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 20:1-17

20 And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message of 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;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL READING:

John 2 :13-22

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God ♦
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- ² One day pours out its song to another ♦
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- ³ They have neither speech nor language ♦
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ Yet their sound has gone out into all lands ♦
and their words to the ends of the world.
- ⁵ In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, ♦
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
- ⁶ It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again, ♦
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; ♦
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; ♦
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; ♦
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, ♦
more than much fine gold, ♦
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant taught ♦
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can tell how often they offend? ♦
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
- ¹³ Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins ♦
lest they get dominion over me; ♦
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, ♦

Baking through Lent is going well for those taking part. If you want the recipe booklet so that you can give it a try, simply ask Revd Jane.



Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone 24 hour Helpline
0808 2000 247

Irby Pharmacy is a safe space

How to access a Safe Space

- Walk into any participating pharmacy in the UK.
 - Ask at the healthcare counter to use their Safe Space.
 - A pharmacist will show you to the Safe Space. Which will be the consultancy room.
 - Once inside, you will find displayed specialist domestic abuse support information for you to access, to make that call or access Bright Sky safely.
- Safe Spaces are open and ready for you to use.

Have you or your loved ones had your coronavirus vaccine?

Give thanks with a donation to Christian Aid to help protect the most vulnerable people across the world, while the vaccine is out of reach. Find out more:-
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>



PCC UPDATE RE CHURCH SERVICES following PCC meeting on 1st March 2021

The PCC acknowledges the need to remain cautious and patient, and aware of the most vulnerable and still shielding in our congregations. We need to allow for vaccination program to have its fullest effect and for the science to back up the proposed government roadmap. It was therefore agreed that we will not restart Sunday services until, as a country, we are able to move into Step 3 (May 17th at the earliest). Services will restart as soon as is practical after that date.

We will provide ZOOM services for Palm Sunday (6.00pm all age), Maundy Thursday (8pm), Good Friday (2pm) and Easter Day (10.30am). We will also open St Bartholomew's for private prayer on Easter Day. During Holy Week, there will be an Easter Trail starting in Thurstaston and finishing in Irby (with a prize!). And we hope to have a "make an Easter Garden" challenge - with invitation to display them outside of church.

More details regarding all of these things will follow in due course.

We will continue to provide a sermon via facebook, the weekly emails (including notice sheet, sermon, family together at home resource and other bits and bobs), and Evening Prayer via Zoom. We will continue Wednesday morning Zoom - bring your coffee and chat meeting - 10.15-11.00am.

We would encourage you again to connect with each other and use the phone contact groups from Lock down number 1. If you were not in a phone contact group back then and would like to be in one now, just let Revd Jane know and she'll get you linked up with some other folk.

Revd Jane is always available to you and please don't hesitate to pick up a phone and have a chat - about anything - even if you are just bored and need someone else to speak to.