

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
14th March 2021 - Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday**



Collect

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters
and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this
present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be
revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

**Give thanks for all who have played
a mothering role in your life**

For our Community:

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers
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: Please pray for family and friends of Dorothy (Dolly) Harrison

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.



**P.T.O. For prayers for those who find
Mothering Sunday difficult.**



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

**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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

GOSPEL READING: John 3 :14-21

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Loving Father, we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of heartache rather than celebration.

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending. Amen

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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 (8.00-11.00am). 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. 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.