

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
9th May 2021 - Sixth Sunday of Easter**



Collect

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed
your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your
command
and draw the nations to the fire
of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water
of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of
goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers
Please pray for all victims of abuse

For our Church:

Pray for our PCC - next meeting 10th May - and especially for Elizabeth Barton who joins the PCC for the first time following the elections at the APCM

Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode and as we plan to return to "in-person" services .

For the world:

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

For the Bereaved: Please pray bereaved family and friends of Kevin

For the Sick: Please pray for Ian Kenworthy, Margaret Fordham, Muriel McKie, Valerie and Norman Prescott (Dot Turner's friends), Pat Hulme, Molly (aged 2), Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.



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.

READING from Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 John 5:1-6

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ¹ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

All: Glory to you, O Lord

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

All: Praise to you, O Christ



Panda Prayer Trail.

From Ascension Day (13th May) until Pentecost (23rd May) there will be Panda's at St Bartholomew's Thurstaston, St Chad's Irby, Irby Methodist Church, Irby Evangelical Church and a couple of other random places in Irby.

**Can you find all 11?
How would you answer their questions?**

The article below is from **The May Edition of Chester Diocesan News.**

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f20800211eb6/content/pages/documents/cdn-may-2021.pdf>

As a parish we are taking part in the "Thy Kingdom come" initiative and most of you will by now have received a copy of the Prayer Journal in the post. If you would like an electronic version, you can download it here:-

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2021>



There are also children's and family resources:-

For children - Cheeky Panda's Videos - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

For Young People - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/youthreflections>

For Groups - Escape Room - <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/tkcescaperoom>

Pray with us

As we approach Pentecost we are encouraged, once again, to join with millions around the world praying 'Thy Kingdom Come'... and how urgently we need to pray this.

Maybe we feel this need especially after the year we have just inhabited. Issues like isolation and loneliness have been very evident, alongside financial challenges and physical or mental health questions that have accompanied so many during lockdown. I love the way that the archbishops are encouraging us to reflect on Luke 15 and those pictures of God as a tireless and persistent searcher. We are called to think of five people to pray for in these next days, that they might come to know the love of Christ for themselves. Pray, like the shepherd searching for the lost sheep, for those who have realised during the pandemic that they might be part of Christ's flock. For people who have joined us online, that they might continue to grow in faith and fellowship. For those who have received practical help, that they might be drawn into rich fellowship that feeds the whole person in God. Pray, like the woman searching her home for a lost coin, for those already in the church but who have really struggled over the last year. Thy kingdom come!

As we pray, we also need to reflect the last year we have had in the diocese; a really good year in so many ways, but a challenging one

too. We have been confronted with our past failures in safeguarding. We have been challenged about our institutional racism. We have faced these, and so many other things whilst not being about to meet, and having constantly to reimagine how we can be church in the image of Christ. It has been an interesting time to arrive in the Diocese, not least with the loss of Bishop Keith due to his retirement in March. How do you pray 'Thy kingdom come!' when times are challenging without resorting to simplistic formulae?

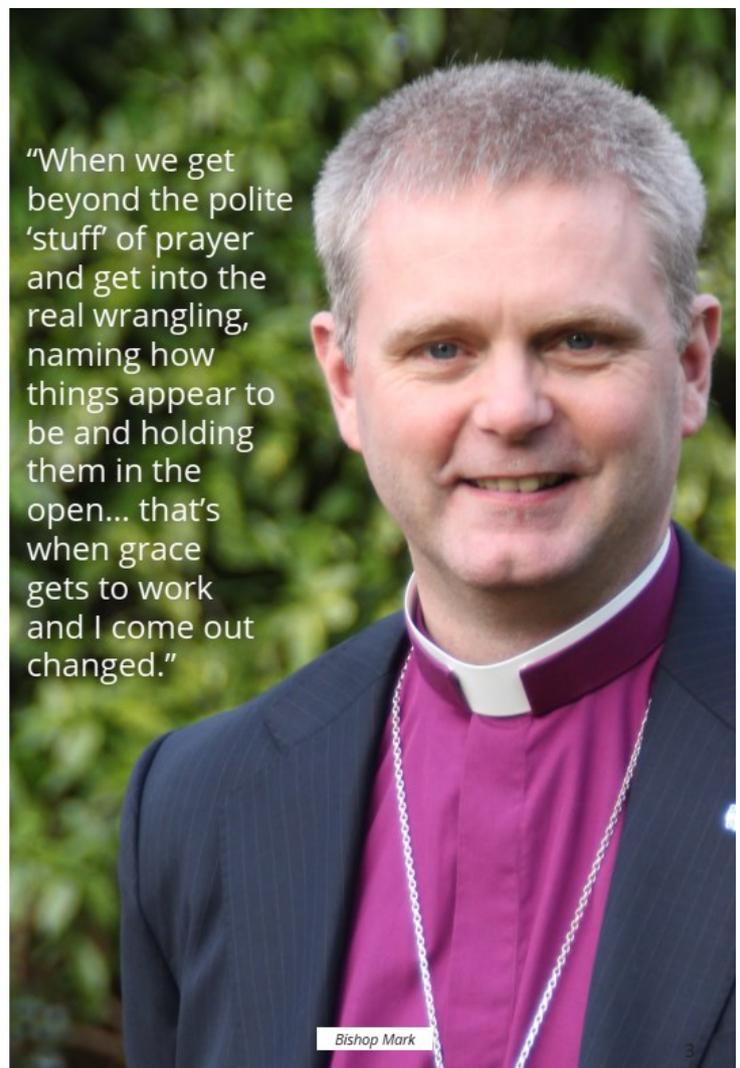
I ask, because I find there is great richness here. When we get beyond the polite 'stuff' of prayer and get into the real wrangling, naming how things appear to be and holding them in the open... that's when grace gets to work and I come out changed. The Lord is far from finished with us yet, and His future unfolds as His kingdom comes and His will is done. So pray with us.

[Join us in praying online from the Chapel at Bishop's House \(Mondays at 5.30pm and Thursdays at 8am\)](#)

I am really excited about what God has for us in the coming months and years. Let's pray. Let's share the great news we have in Christ. And let's look forward in the hope of Christ!

Mark Tanner
Bishop of Chester

"When we get beyond the polite 'stuff' of prayer and get into the real wrangling, naming how things appear to be and holding them in the open... that's when grace gets to work and I come out changed."



Bishop Mark

MAY 2021 SERVICE PATTERN

ZOOM Services:-

Joining details available
by emailing the Rector

May 2nd **6.00pm All-Age Service**

May 9th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th May (Ascension Day)

8pm Evening Prayer

May 16th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 23rd 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 30th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

ZOOM Coffee and Chat:-
Wednesday mornings 10.15-11.00am
5th May, 12th May, 19th May

Joining details available
by emailing the Rector

No agenda just turn up and chat

SERVICES IN CHURCH:-

Assuming Step 3 of the Govt Roadmap happens on 17th May we will return to "in person" services. **YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK FOR THESE SERVICES - details on the website and in the parish magazine.**

Sun 23rd May 9.30am HC at St Chad's

11.15am HC at St Bart's

Wed 26th May 10.15am HC at St Chad's

Sun 30th May 8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's

9.30am MW at St Chad's

the
prayer
course

Meetings on Zoom

(joining details

from Revd Jane)

Wednesday Evenings

7.30-8.30pm

May 12th - Petition

May 19th - Intercession

May 26th - Unanswered Prayer

HALF TERM

June 9th - Contemplation

June 16th - Listening

June 23rd - Spiritual Warfare

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>



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.