

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
21st February 2021 First Sunday of Lent**



Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of
darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in
wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from
heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our
hope, and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and
living bread, and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for all who work in education - that they may have a good half term break which strengthens and refreshes them.

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers

Please pray for all victims of domestic 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), Karen Jones (niece of Dot Turner), Angela Ryan, Felicity 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.

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:9-15**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Thank you to everyone who
"filled the neighbourhood
with love"
last weekend.



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.



Here – and there

Reflecting on the global pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to the cross



ALL MEETINGS BY ZOOM

Wednesday Evenings during Lent 8.00-9.00pm

STARTING 24th FEBRUARY

contact Revd Jane (rector@thurstatson.org.uk) for joining details and an electronic copy of the resource booklet

**BAKING
THROUGH
Lent**

**Mondays 2.00-3.00pm,
Beginning on 22nd February**

A recipe for each week of Lent, linked to the Sunday gospel reading.

Contact Revd Jane for recipes and readings and for the Zoom link

rector@thurstaston.org.uk

Tel: 648 1816

Two of our Junior Church children learning about Ash Wednesday. Well done!



HOPE FOR JUSTICE

Change lives. End slavery.

There are thought to be tens of thousands of slaves in the UK.

Would you recognise a modern slave if you met one?

What would you do if you had concerns about someone?

Hope for Justice is a charity which exists to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society. A representative from Hope for Justice will be speaking at a zoom meeting on:

Tuesday 2nd March. 7.30 - 8.30

Come along to learn practical ways you can make a difference in the fight against modern slavery. Email wirralhopeforjustice@gmail.com to request an invite for the zoom session.

PCC Decision for Church to go digital ONLY for the time being

The PCC meeting on 11-1-21 made the decision for church to not meet "in person" until Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3.

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 are also introducing a Wednesday morning Zoom - bring your coffee and chat meeting - 10.15-11.00ish for anyone that would be interested in seeing others and chatting.

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.

Stay safe and please pray for the NHS who are under so much pressure in these challenging days.