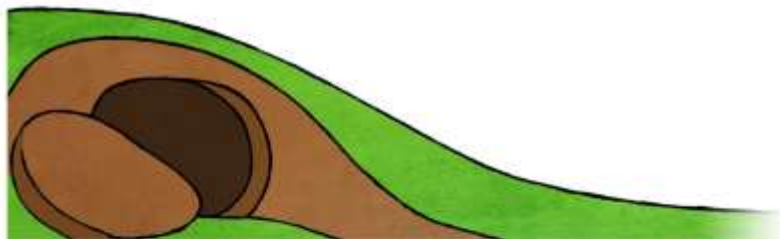


# Crosstalk 60p


The Parish Magazine of  
St Bartholomew with St Chad

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester



April  
2026

**Hosanna!**  
**Crucify him!**  
**Finished!**  
**He is risen!**  
**Alleluia!**



## "Cross Talk Subscription for 2026 is £6"

These are now due for 2025. If you see your deliverer please pay them.

Alternatively either post a cheque for £6.00 payable to Thurstaston PCC,  
to St Chad's Church Office, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH

or pay on-line at 40.52.40 00018674,  
putting your surname and mag subs as reference.

- I live in the parish and would like (to continue) to have Cross Talk delivered to my house. I enclose £6.00
- I don't live in the parish and would like (to continue) to have Cross Talk posted to my house. I enclose £16.00 (£6.00 subscription + £10.00 postage)
- I would like to pick up my reserved copy of CrossTalk from Church. (Please indicate whether St Chad's or St Bartholomew's). I enclose £6.00

I no longer wish to have Cross Talk delivered/posted to my house

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)

**Safeguarding is  
Everyone's  
Responsibility**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* "Your magazine needs you" \*  
\* Please send your contributions \*  
\* (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting \*  
\* articles etc.,) \*  
\* to office@thurstaston.org.uk \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

.....  
The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.  
.....

## Contents

4	<i>From your Rector</i>	16	<i>What's the Big Idea - Lamentations</i>
5	<i>A message from Ailsa</i>	17	<i>The seven deadly sins - Envy</i>
6& 7	<i>APCM and Draft Minutes 2025</i>	18	<i>Mouse Makes</i>
8	<i>Social Events</i>	19	<i>Wordsearch</i>
9	<i>Easter Poem</i>	20	<i>Tots and Tines/Flowers for church</i>
10	<i>Celebrate St George</i>	21	<i>Warm Hub</i>
11	<i>Reflected Faith Series: Same Old, Same Old</i>	22	<i>Hall Hire/Facebook</i>
12	<i>Easter Story biscuits</i>	23	<i>Irby Artists</i>
13	<i>Marmalade</i>	24-26	<i>Advertisers</i>
14	<i>God in the Sciences</i>	27	<i>Contacts List: Who's Who</i>
15	<i>God in the Arts</i>	28	<i>April Services</i>



### **Baptisms**

#### **Weddings**

21st March

Mark Salters &  
Annabelle Robson

#### **Funerals**

19th Mar: June Dean

26th Mar: Will Leising

30th Mar: Bennett Appleyard

## From Your Rector

Did you have ‘a good Lent’? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of His earthly ministry as He set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing He would be killed there? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) **harrowing, and by 3 o’clock on Good Friday** – the hour at which Jesus traditionally died – I am wrung out.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter. No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year – much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

**It’s all summed up in the poem ‘Easter Wings’ by the 17<sup>th</sup> century poet and priest George Herbert** which a friend mentioned to me a few weeks ago. For me, it’s not the words of the poem so much as its shape – **it’s written in the shape of a butterfly’s wings.** Now that’s clever; – to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.

We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it – yes, live the Resurrection in ourselves -as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to **‘do little things with great love.’**

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the more boundless I find it to be. Which I guess is why God gives us a season – seven weeks up till Pentecost – to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, your Easter bonnets, your egg-hunting; in fact, **have a great Easter. But don’t let the Resurrection pass you by. It’s the gateway to what Jesus calls ‘life in all its fulness’.**

**Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,  
Though foolishly he lost the same,  
Decaying more and more,  
Till he became  
Most poore:  
With thee  
O let me rise  
As larks, harmoniously,  
And sing this day thy victories:  
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.**

**My tender age in sorrow did beginne  
And still with sicknesses and shame.  
Thou didst so punish sinne,  
That I became  
Most thinne.  
With thee  
Let me combine,  
And feel thy victorie:  
For, if I imp my wing on thine,  
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.**

Revd Jane



## A message from Ailsa



### New Beginnings, Big Hopes, and a Lot of Ironing Boards

Following the fantastic graduation last month, this month has been one of extraordinary energy and emotion at AFC Harrogate. Over the course of just two weekends we welcomed around 600 new recruits as they took their first brave steps into military life. For each of them, this marks the beginning of a journey shaped by hope, challenge, and determination.

Arriving with kit bags, and nervous smiles, these recruits bring with them a wide range of hopes and dreams. Some speak of serving their country with pride, others of learning skills, finding direction, or becoming the best version of themselves. Many are taking their first steps away from home, family, and familiar routines, and that in itself is no small act of courage.

The first weeks are really, really tough. The pace is relentless, the expectations high, and the learning curve steep. Early mornings, unfamiliar discipline, and the pressure of doing everything right all at once can feel overwhelming. There are moments of self-doubt, homesickness, and sheer exhaustion. Yet it is in these demanding early days that resilience begins to take root.

One unexpected focus of these first weeks has been the humble ironing board. For those of us who have spent years perfecting the art of smoothing a stubborn crease, it may raise a smile to see how significant this everyday object becomes. For many recruits, mastering ironing, folding, and presentation is as challenging as the physical training. There is frustration



**when standards aren't met, laughter when things go wrong, and a growing sense of pride when a perfectly pressed uniform is finally achieved.** These small victories matter, teaching patience, attention to detail, and perseverance.

As chaplain, I am constantly reminded that transformation often happens in the ordinary. Conversations over a cuppa, quiet moments of reflection, or shared laughter about ironing mishaps all create space for growth. Behind every uniform is a young person learning not only military skills, but also teamwork, self-discipline, and trust in one another.

**And I know, back home, you're all praying for these boys and girls!** Your prayers, encouragement, and interest make a real difference. These recruits are not just trainees; they are sons and daughters, friends and neighbours, each carrying hopes that deserve to be held with care.



**As we give thanks for last month's graduation and for the arrival of these 600 new recruits, we also pray for strength for the weeks ahead. May they discover courage they didn't know they had, friendships that sustain them, and a deep sense of purpose. And may we remember that even the toughest journeys often begin with small steps — sometimes taken alongside an ironing board!**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
**SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2026 in St Chad's, starting at 6.00pm**

During the two meetings, we will hear reports on the activities and finances of the church during 2025. We will also appoint members of the congregations as Churchwardens, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod representatives.

The first meeting is the Meeting of Parishioners and is very brief. The second meeting is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**St Bartholomew's, Thurstaston and St Chad's, Irby, Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 23 March 2025 at St Chad's**

The Rector opened the meeting at 6.00 pm.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr M Jones, Mrs K Robson, Mr P Samson and Mrs T Samson.

Twenty-four people were present.

## **The Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28 April 2024)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published in the church magazine in March 2025 and were available at the meeting. Mr J Oliver, seconded by Mrs P Neil proposed that the minutes should be accepted as a full and accurate record of the meeting. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

**Election of Churchwardens**

No nominations had been received.

## **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (28 April 2024)**

Mrs J DeBoorder, seconded by Mrs J Oliver, proposed that the minutes should be accepted as a full and accurate record of the meeting. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

**2) Electoral Roll Report**

At the APCM in 2024 the electoral roll consisted of 149 members from 101 households. Every 6th year the electoral roll has to be wiped clean and started again. That was the case this year. The new electoral roll has 97 members from 63 households.

Helen Williams (Electoral Roll Officer)

Four more electoral roll forms had been returned after the closing date, and there was a need to follow up with some individuals who were regular worshippers who had failed to returned the form.

**3) Approval of the Annual Report**

The following reports were considered:

Proceedings of the PCC

Activities of the Parish generally

- i Safeguarding
- ii Junior Church
- iii Bell Ringers
- iv Warm Hub
- v Tots and Tinies
- vi Community Outreach and Social Events
- vii Dawpool School
- viii Charities
- ix Rainbows, Brownies

The following comments were made during the review of the Annual Report:

Regarding the Rector's Report – the update on the installation of a toilet at St Bartholomew's was appreciated. Then a question was asked about the implications of not having any Churchwardens to which the Rector stated the responsibilities of being a churchwarden had been shared between members of the PCC, with the greatest concern being with regard to safeguarding. Applying for faculties was usually the responsibility of a churchwarden but the Rector was covering this role at the moment. The time when having churchwardens was essential was when a parish went into vacancy as they became the representatives during the appointment process.

Bell Ringers – the Tower Captain invited anyone who were interested out of curiosity or if they wished to find out more and consider joining the Team, to attend ringing practice on a Wednesday evening.

Warm Hub was acknowledged to be a 'good thing'.

Dawpool School – there was a question about whether a new Head Teacher had been appointed, and the Rector confirmed that Mrs Helen Griffiths had been appointed who was currently Deputy Head in a Church of England school in Frodsham.

Mr P Robson, seconded by Mrs J Oliver, proposed that the meeting should accept these reports. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **4) Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish during 2024 and the Independently Inspected Annual Accounts for 2024, published in the Annual Report**

Mr P Robson, seconded by Mrs E Whitehead, proposed that the report and the accounts should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given for Mrs Butler for all that she does regarding the accounts, as she goes over and above her responsibility as bookkeeper.

#### **5) Appointment of an independent Examiner of the Accounts for 2024**

The Rector proposed that Mrs M A Walker should be re-appointed. This was proposed by Mrs J Trigg and seconded by Mrs M Reed and unanimously agreed.

#### **6) Reports on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches**

As this report was usually the responsibility of the Churchwarden no report had been written for this Annual Report, but such items had been covered in the Rector's and PCC Secretary's reports.

#### **7) Report on matters discussed by the Deanery Synod during 2024**

The report was received unanimously.

The Rector reminded those present that any member of the congregation would be welcome to attend any meeting of Deanery Synod, as these meetings were open to all.

#### **8) Election of three members of the congregations to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod**

There were three vacancies for two years until 31 May 2026. These were not filled.

#### **9) Election of up to two members to serve on the PCC.**

Two vacancies had arisen and the following church members had been proposed and seconded for re-election.

Mrs P Neil Proposed by Mrs K Robson Seconded by Ms C Goddard

Mrs E Whitehead Proposed by Mr A Peat Seconded by Mr A Jones

These two individuals will serve on the PCC until 2028.

#### **10) Other Business**

There was no other business.

Mr Smale gave a vote of thanks for all Revd Jane does in the parish.

The Rector gave her vote of thanks for all involved in the parish, with individuals giving their time and talents as without their support the parish would not offer such a variety of activities or run as smoothly as it does.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm followed by Compline.

*To celebrate Cheryl's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday she is inviting you to drop in for tea and cake at St Chad's on Thursday 16 April between 2pm and 4pm. The greatest gift for Cheryl on the day will be your presence, but if you would like to give something further she is asking for donations towards a Home Communion set for the parish.*

## Social Events

**Thursday 16th April Bodnant Gardens and Betws-y-coed**  
[timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8428-bodnant-gardens-and-betws-y-coed](http://timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8428-bodnant-gardens-and-betws-y-coed)

**Saturday 25th April Harrogate Spring Flower Show**  
[timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8358-harrogate-flower-show](http://timewells.co.uk/itineraries/8358-harrogate-flower-show)

These are both day trips with "Timewells" to book your place call 0151 526 3209 or [www.timewells.co.uk](http://www.timewells.co.uk), pick up is from Hamilton Square. Can you let Julie know if you have booked on and she can possibly arrange lifts to Hamilton Square

## Easter Dawn

Creation holds collective breath  
In darkness, cold and deep;  
Has hope and joy been claimed by death?  
Has love been laid to sleep?

The solid seal, the heavy stone  
The chill of Friday's gloom  
Leave faith to flicker all alone  
Beside a borrowed tomb.

But, as the night begins to fray  
The soldiers faint with fright!  
An angel rolls the stone away  
At dawn's first glint of light.

No linen shroud can hold Him now  
The grave has lost its prize,  
No thorns are seen upon His brow  
As Love and Triumph rise!

Let hallelujahs wake the earth!  
Let bell-sound rend the skies!  
For Christ has won our second birth  
By His triumphant rise!

The empty tomb, the open door  
Proclaim the darkness gone;  
Death was defeated evermore  
On Easter's glorious dawn!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## Celebrate cross of St George as symbol of unity for everyone in England – bishops

The cross of St George, the flag of England, should be celebrated as a symbol of unity in our nation, rooted in our Christian heritage, a group of leading Church of England bishops from across the country have said.

In a joint statement, they urge people to embrace or rediscover our Christian heritage but also call for a fresh recognition of the meaning **of the cross as the symbol of God's love for everyone.**

They warn against the use of Christian symbols **to intimidate others and call for a "mature debate" on the different impacts of migration, noting that churches can act as "spaces where different response to immigration can be listened to with respect and dignity".**

The statement is issued by a working group of seven bishops set up late last year at the request of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to consider questions of national unity and diversity amid concerns about polarisation within society, as well as equipping local churches to help bridge divides.

Prompted by widespread discussion about the displays of flags in communities across England **last summer and autumn, they say: "We rejoice that the flag of St George is the national flag of England and contains a cross as a sign of our Christian heritage.**

**"This heritage should be celebrated.**

**"However, the flag cannot be owned by any one group or cause. Rather it is a symbol of unity, inclusion and our common life around which we all gather."**

They warn against the use of Christian symbols, such as the cross or flags to intimidate others, **observing: "Sadly, in recent months, we have seen these symbols used by people who, far from working for unity in the nation, are seeking to sow division and misunderstanding.**

**"This leaves many in our society feeling anxious and afraid and is a long way from loving our neighbour in the way that Jesus taught."**

Drawing from their own experience of inter-faith engagement, the bishops argue that **"the vast majority" of people of all backgrounds and faiths accept the country's Christian heritage and "want to unite behind the flag as a symbol of national unity and inclusion, based on our Christian heritage and broader values of respect, compassion and care for all."**

And they make a central invitation to people to come to their local church to explore the **"true significance of the cross of Jesus Christ"**.

**"There is little point claiming it as our heritage if we don't understand its meaning," they write.**

**"Thousands of local churches across the country stand ready to explore this meaning with people of all backgrounds in the communities we continue to serve."**



## Reflected Faith Series: Same Old , Same Old

Last time I wrote I suggested you listened carefully to your own internal thoughts and feelings before and after listening to a sermon – be it in church live or on a video or broadcast.

Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be?

Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be 'same old, same old' and the preacher could just repeat last year's sermon. Let's face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a 'long' time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go.

Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes.

Things might repeat but they are never truly 'the same'.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community?

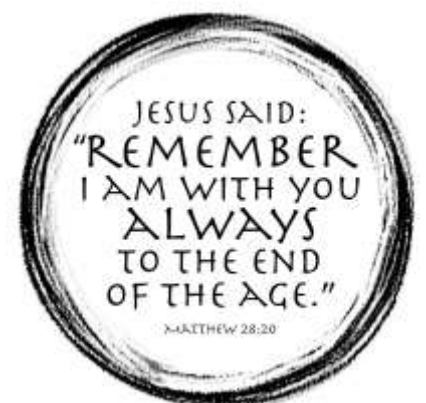
Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what's happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

I shall hear those words differently this year than ever before. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

### ***This month***

Before you listen to this year's Easter Sermon, think about the changes you've had in your life since last year and the world around us. How much more do you need a living Christ today? May you say in your depths, with me: *Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!*



## Easter Story Biscuits

Prep. Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 day

Ingredients:

1 cup pecan nuts

1 tsp. vinegar

3 egg whites

1 pinch salt

1 cup sugar

large plastic bag

wooden spoon

tape

Bible

**Have you ever tried to explain the Easter story to a younger member of the family? Why was Jesus offered vinegar to drink? What did the soldiers do to him while he was on trial and what's the significance of sealing the tomb?**

Well here's a novel well of re-living the story, while making biscuits.

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 150C.

Place pecans in the plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing...

Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts.

Drop, teaspoon by teaspoon, onto non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave them in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers felt despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

## What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com).



### My New Car

My old car was a little tired;  
It failed its MOT!  
So then it was I felt inspired  
To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run  
And helpful as can be!  
But now my troubles have begun –  
It's cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once  
For music on CD  
But now – I must be such a dunce –  
I can't find BBC!

I got it playing from my phone  
By Bluetooth link maybe?  
But then what truly made me moan –  
I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off  
And played some awful sound;  
I tried to speak, I tried to cough  
But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car  
To get from A to B,  
Don't forget you first require  
A technical degree!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## God in the Sciences: The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.



But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

*This article is extracted (with permission) from [New Life: Reflections for Lent](#), edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).*

God in the Arts the screen at the east end

**“I am the light of the world,”** our Lord says in St John’s Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century candles were placed on the altar.

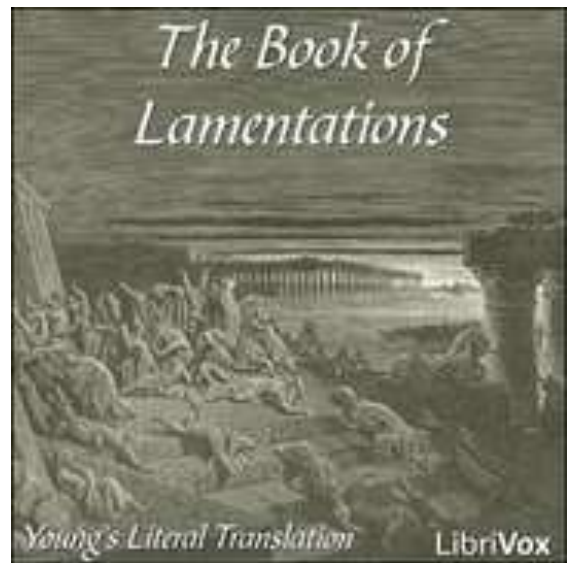
Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find **nourishment and guidance for life’s pilgrimage in communion at that table.** Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper’s masterpiece.



## What's the Big Idea? April

### An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament : Lamentations

The Book of Lamentations consists of five laments over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah's leading inhabitants to Babylon. Tradition ascribes the book to Jeremiah, who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC. Each lament is an *acrostic* i.e. each verse begins in order with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (except the fifth).



The themes of the laments can be summarised as follows: Jerusalem in Agony (1); the LORD's Anger (2); Judah's complaint against Adversity (3); Jerusalem's Anxiety (4); and Judah's prayer to the Almighty (5). Lamentations portrays the overwhelming sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of the city, along with its Temple with its worship and sacrifices. However, the book is not simply concerned about Jerusalem's destruction, but for the lessons that can be learned from it.

Jeremiah sees the Babylonians as human agents of God's judgment upon Judah's sin. It was God Himself who destroyed the city and temple. However, God's action was not arbitrary, for the people had deliberately sinned against Him and broken their covenant with Him. Although the people's tears and cries for vengeance are understandable, God looks for a sincere heartfelt sorrow from the people. The book begins with lament, *'How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she who once was great among the nations!'* (1:1), but finishes with repentance, *'Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old'* (5:21).

However, in the middle of the book there is a reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness: *'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'* (3:22-23).

## The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy

*'A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.'* (Proverbs 14:30).

This month we are looking at the Deadly Sin of *envy*. As a consuming desire to have what others have got, it's a major source of unhappiness.

It is different to jealousy: *'Envy is wanting something that someone else has. Jealousy is the fear of losing something you already have to someone else'* (Brene Brown). We can envy things like wealth, looks and, possessions, resulting in resentment, bitterness and anger. The pursuit of possessing what others have will always leave us empty and dissatisfied, as the use of social media demonstrates.

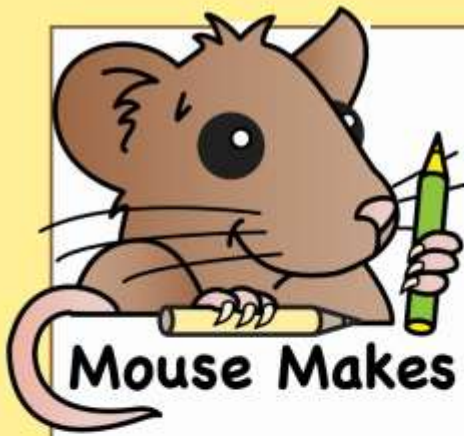
How do we overcome envy in our lives?

*Gratitude: 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A grateful heart has no room for envy, when we focus on God's love for us and what He has given us, rather than looking at others' gifts and opportunities. God has created us uniquely to be the people we are and different to others. As a result, we are better able to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

*Trust: 'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'* (2 Corinthians 9:8). One of the chief causes of envy is FOMO: Fear of Missing Out! We can trust that God knows everything that we need and so we don't need to worry about missing out. By entrusting our lives to Him, we can confidently depend on God meeting all our needs.

Is God truly enough for me? *'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.'* (Psalm 23:1).



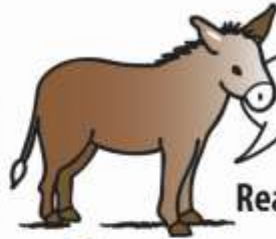


G O O D N E W S  
 O H O S A N N A  
 D E A T H Q B V  
 V N C O E E U I  
 U A H N A A R O  
 M I R E V S Y U  
 A L I V E T D R  
 R I S E N E O K  
 Y O T H O R N S  
 P A L M S Q K A  
 R P I L A T E N  
 C R U C I F Y G  
 R H I Q U A K E  
 O C J E S U S L  
 S T O M B V D Y  
 S R Y E M P T Y

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel



Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

## Wordsearch for April 2026

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with his disciples, he warned them he was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and his blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethesane that this fearful cup might be removed from him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Jesus  
Ate  
Last  
Passover  
Meal

Disciples  
Warned  
Betrayed  
Bread  
Blessed

Wine  
Thanks  
Drink  
Covenant  
Law

Old  
New  
Body  
Blood  
Gethsem-  
ane

Cup  
Removed  
Will  
Easter  
Approach  
God



## Donations of Flowers for Church

You can make a donation  
“in memory of”, “in celebration of”  
or just because you like seeing flowers in church!



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.

## St. Chad's Tots and Tinies

St Chad's Church (Roslin Road, Irby)

Every Thursday 9.30-11.30am  
(Term Time Only)

£1.50 for one Adult and one child - All Welcome

Additional children £1.00  
Additional Adults £0.50



Parents/Carers will be responsible for their child(ren) during the sessions

For further information please contact **Allison** via the Parish Office 648 8169

# A warm welcome at the **Warm Hub**

Every Tuesday 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Open to everyone, so please drop in!**

**St. Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby CH61 3UH  
0151 648 8169**

*There are a range of activities  
including quizzes, Games,  
jigsaws, Crosswords etc*

**Guest Speaker  
22nd April 2026**

**Mike Roberts—Ness Gardens**



**The Warm Hub  
belongs to a  
growing national  
network of  
Places of Welcome**



## **Jigsaw Library**

Over the time that Warm Hub has been operating, we have been gifted many jigsaws. While we always have a jigsaw in progress at Warm Hub, there are many waiting for us to use in the future. Rather than these jigsaws just piling up, with the winter nights ahead we would like to make these jigsaws available for individuals to borrow and then return to us. We can't vouch that all the jigsaws are complete as they are donated to us but if you would like to borrow one then we can make them available on a Tuesday morning when the Warm Hub is open - 9.30 to 12.30 at St Chad's

Susan Smale



You can make donations to Foodbank by placing items (non perishable food and toiletries) in the box by the office door at St Chad's.

# Need a Meeting Room?

At St Chad's we have a large hall  
and some smaller rooms.

Booking Enquiries should be made by emailing  
**hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk**

For more information and prices please go to the website  
<https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/hall-and-room-hire/>



facebook

St Bartholomew's and St Chad's  
on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/>

If you are already on Facebook it is easy to find and "like" the page. Just search for "stchadsstbarts" or "St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby" and you will find us.

If you "like" the page you will receive notifications when we add events and other informative posts.

From our page you can also share individual posts and events with others you may think would like to hear about us and our events.

Please do share this page with your friends.

You do not have to be on Facebook to view our posts.

We also have a Twitter Feed:-

[@StBartsStChads](https://twitter.com/StBartsStChads)



*Did you know.....*

*.....back in the year 1976, a committee based at St Chad's Church was trying to raise funds for the RNLI.*

*They decided to hold an exhibition of paintings by local Irby residents. The exhibition was so successful that the artists decided to join together to form an "Irby Artists Association".*

*....and the rest, as they say, is history!*

*The Irby Artists are proud to have had such a long association with St Chad's.*

*We welcome new members and actively provide support to those wishing to try their hand at painting & drawing, with weekly Monday afternoon sessions, indoors during the winter, and outdoors in the summer months, and two exhibitions of members works per year.*

*For more information, contact the Chair:*

*Alan McMahon, Text:07889 404917*

*Or Email: [almac48@virginmedia.com](mailto:almac48@virginmedia.com)*

# **billy hill curtains ltd.**

**Still going strong in  
BIRKENHEAD MARKET  
after 75 years!**



**Nets • Roller Blinds  
Wooden Venetian Blinds  
Curtains • Curtain Poles & Tracks  
Pellets • Roman Blinds**

**Visit us in  
BIRKENHEAD MARKET  
- Open 6 Days A Week -**

*Free Measuring &  
Expert Fitting Service Available  
1000's of **Clearance Fabrics**  
Starting from £1mtr.*

**If you can't  
come to us,  
we will come to you!**

Home visits available

Please call **0151 647 8604** or  
**Mike on 07792 009505**

[billyhillcurtains@yahoo.com](mailto:billyhillcurtains@yahoo.com)   
[www.billyhillcurtains.co.uk](http://www.billyhillcurtains.co.uk) 

# Help St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby raise FREE funds when you shop online!



Every time you shop, you'll raise a donation for us and **it won't cost you a penny extra!**

## 1. Sign up to easyfundraising

Got to

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby) and follow the simple steps to sign up.

## 2. Hit the shops

When you shop online, visit easyfundraising first, click through to the retailer and shop as normal. Everything costs exactly the same

## 3. Earn donations

With every purchase you make you'll raise a donation from the retailer. Your donations are then transferred to **St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby**

**OVER 2,700  
RETAILERS TO  
CHOOSE FROM...**

**TESCO**



**Argos**

**amazon.co.uk**

**John Lewis**  
johnlewis.com

**at M&S**

**Viking**

**ASDA**

**Expedia.co.uk**

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk



*Visit:* [easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby)



**Gary Furlong**  
**Tree and Hedge Services**  
**07759284091**

**Accounts Un Limited**  
 Patricia Brady ACMA

Personal Tax Returns .  
 Company Accounts . VAT Returns

Home Visits . Friendly &  
 Confidential Service  
 648 4379 or 07968 908779

**BIRKENHEAD MONUMENTAL LTD**

QUALITY MEMORIALS, RENOVATIONS,  
 ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS ETC.

CALL FOR FULL COLOUR BROCHURE,  
 PERSONAL ATTENTION OFFERED.


**Telephone: 0151 608 2578**

**IRBY MOTOR COMPANY**

CARS BOUGHT AND SOLD  
 SERVICE & REPAIR - FREE LOAN CAR

**SERVICE: 0151 648 0200**

**SALES: 0151 648 5488**

**RNIB** 

See differently

Please collect your Postage Stamps  
 throughout the year for RNIB  
 (Royal National Institute Blind).

A Big Thankyou for all the stamps  
 that have been collected this year,  
 there has been a huge response

If you would like to purchase advertising space  
 in this magazine please telephone

St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or  
**E-mail: [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)**

Advertising space is sold in good faith.  
 The Parochial Church Council and/or Editor can take no responsibility for the quality  
 of goods or services offered.

## Contacts

**RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner** PLEASE NOTE: Rector's Rest Day - Tuesday  
The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB  
Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

**CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH**  
Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk  
OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)

### Churchwardens

Vacant

[churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Associate Minister

Revd Ailsa Whorton CF  
(Chaplain to the Forces, Army).

[revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:revdailsa@thurstaston.org.uk)

Ailsa works full time and will reply to emails when she is able around her work commitments

**678 4733** (Evenings only and messages will be passed on to Ailsa via her husband Derek)

### PCC Secretary

Cheryl Goddard

[pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk)

### PCC Treasurer

Vacant

[pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Parish Safeguarding Team

Peter & Karen Robson and Janet Trigg

[safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk)

**648 6691**

### Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

**648 8169**

### St Chad's Hall Booking

[hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk)

### Verger

Mr Jon Oliver

**648 1754**

### Organist

Mr Craig Vickers

**648 7405**

### Bellringing - Tower Captain

Dr Peter Robson

**648 6691**

### Flowers for both Churches

**Team Co-ordinator Dawn Rudd 648 0209**

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16)

Mrs Julie Deboorder

**07599286893**

### Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or

Freephone

**0800 1 69 59 01**

## CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

### Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath

**648 6015**

### Leprosy Mission Representative

Julie DeBoorder

**648 6331**

### Adoption Society Representative

Mrs Chris Rostock

**648 1112**

## Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector,  
Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816  
or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

# April 2026 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Thursday 2nd April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00pm Communion at St Chad's

Friday 3rd April

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00-11.00 MESSY EASTER at St Chad's

- crafts for children and their families,

with Hot Cross Buns and an Easter Egg Hunt

FREE - but you will need to book a place so we

have enough crafts and treats to go around.



2.00pm "Hour at the Cross" at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 5th April

EASTER DAY

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 12th April

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Morning Worship at St Chad's

Sunday 19th April

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 26th April

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's

with Junior Church

6.00pm APCM at St Chads - see page 8

Sunday 3rd May

9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's