

Crosstalk

60p

*The Parish Magazine of
St Bartholomew with St Chad*

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



August 2026



**The Lord supports those that stumble,
and lifts up those who are down. Ps 145:14**



...Rodney, I've been meaning to have a word with you about your carbon footprint!

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

**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.

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Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

24th July - Eryl Williams

To a Fish of the Brook

Enjoy thy stream, O harmless fish
And when an angler for his dish,
Through gluttony's vile sin,
Attempts, a wretch, to pull thee OUT
God give thee strength, O gentle trout,
To pull the rascal IN!
By John Wolcot (Peter Pindar) 1738 – 1839

The Apple Rhyme

Apples ripe and apples red,
Grow they high above my head.
Alack-a-day! For I am small
And apple-trees are mostly tall;
Dreary me! But what is sadder,
Nobody can find a ladder!
From a poem by Madeline Nightingale

*If you visit the seaside over the
Summer you may find this prayer
helpful to contemplate the vastness of
Creation...*

A Breton fisherman's prayer

Protect me, dear Lord;
My boat is so small,
And your sea is so big.



From Your Rector

I heard a story last week:-

“Techno-dinosaur and curmudgeon that I am, I have clung to my old plug-in satnav for far too long. It has finally given up the ghost, and I have listened to the superior wisdom of Madame-my-wife, and started to use my smartphone, held in place via a holder on the car’s dash, to navigate around areas I’m not familiar with.

Except of course, this morning, I thought I knew better than the info on the phone which advised an unusual route as I set off in the direction of my hydrotherapy session. (Techno-dinosaur, curmudgeon AND falling to bits- what a combination!). And ran into a long traffic queue at the new and extensive road works in the next village. Serves me right.

There’s value in listening to someone who knows. The data on the phone had already taken into account the fact that the traffic queue would make me late, and had re-routed me away from the bottleneck. But curmudgeonly dinosaurs often think they know better- to their cost.”

The art is, of course, in knowing who knows best. There are many false guides in this world, but it is the witness of Christians throughout time and throughout the world that listening to God - in prayer, or through His word - is a trusted way of navigating our way through today’s world where many voices clamour for our attention, not all of which are trustworthy.



That great Welsh hymn ‘Guide me O thou great Jehovah’ is one of many which sings of our trust in God to guide us. It talks of being pilgrims through a land without waymarks, and it asks God to ‘hold me with Thy powerful hand’. Here is Someone who knows and who is worth listening to. God Himself has said ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’ (Hebrews 13:5; we can trust the One who will not leave us to guide us down good paths. It’s a life-time’s work to learn to trust in God, but we can improve, we can know the One who says ‘My sheep know My voice’ more clearly.

May God guide us on all our journeys, and be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path.

Revd Jane

NEWS

from your

PCC



Following a PCC Away Day on 30th May, the PCC met again on Monday 29th June. Our aim was to identify three areas of ministry on which to focus for the next few years. And we are now ready to share them with you: -

1 POP UP Church

To increase our work with children and families initially by introducing a new monthly service called PopUp Church.

isingpop.org/popupchurch



2 Pilgrim Place

To think about the possibility of St Bartholomew's becoming a Pilgrim Place based on Archbishop Stephen's initiative and to increase prayer opportunities.

faithinthenorth.org/pilgrim-places



To be more outward looking – initially by increasing our understanding of Revd Ailsa's work at the Army Foundation College and understanding how we can support her and the young soldiers whom she serves.

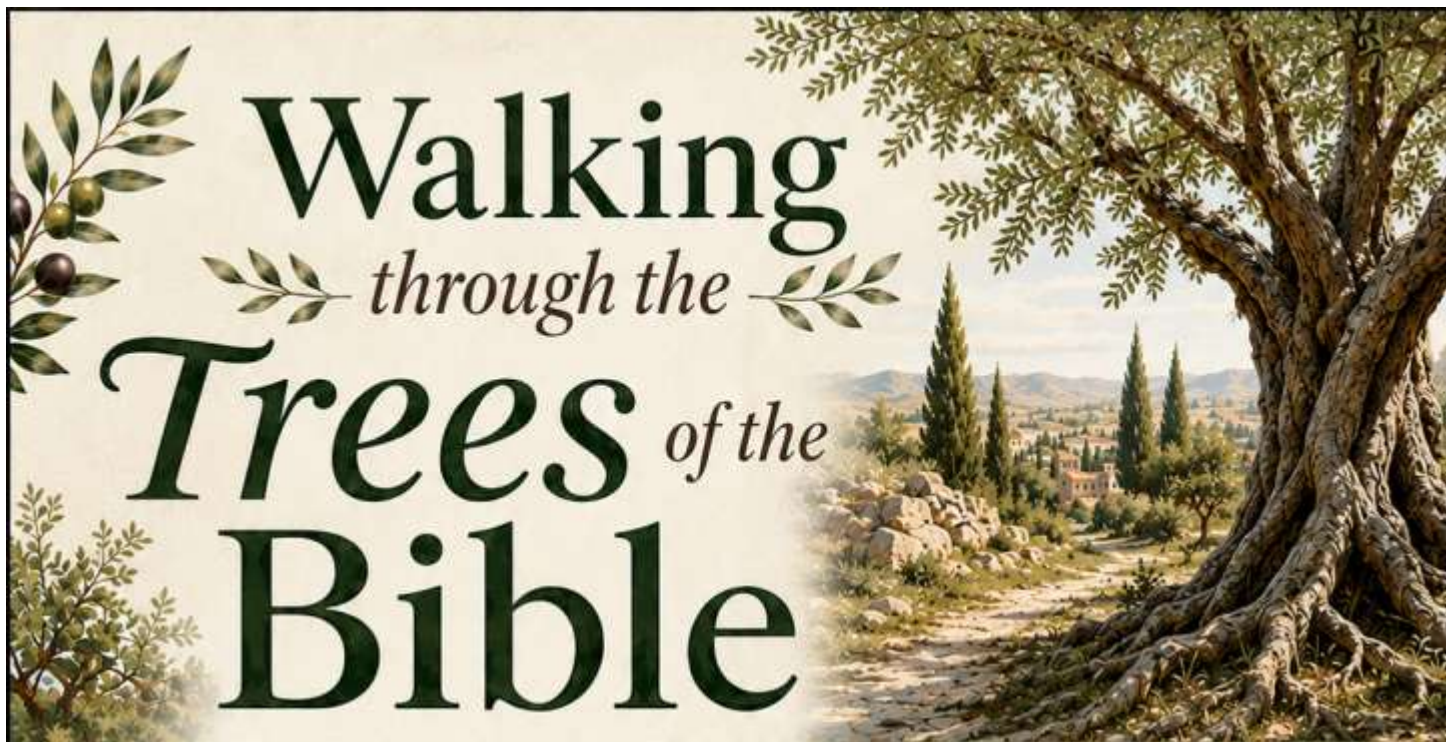


All of these will need to be explored further and worked on. Watch this space for more details as we move forwards.

Interested in getting involved? 

If you are particularly interested in any of these and would like the opportunity to be more involved as we plan, please speak to **Revd Jane** or any member of the **PCC**.

Serving Christ in Thurstaston and Irby



Walking *through the* *Trees* of the Bible

Wednesdays at St Chad's
7.30–9.00pm



Sept 2nd | Olive Leaf, Fig, Oak



Sept 16th | Acacia, Almond, Ebony



Sept 30th | Palm, Frankincense, Pine



Oct 14th | Balsam, Myrtle, Bay



Oct 21st | Cedar, Wild Olive, Willow



Oct 28th | Myrrh, Apple, Poplar



Nov 4th | Pomegranate, Broom, Sycamore



Nov 11th | Terebinth, Carob



Nov 25th | Good and Evil, Life

*The trees of the Lord are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.*

– PSALM 104:16 –

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PURCHASE YOUR OWN COPY
OF THE BOOK

(THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS)

Both books have the same content,
so you can purchase either one.



Walking
through the
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the Bible:
A Devotional

ISBN-13:
979-8761818675



Walking
through the
Trees of
the Bible

ISBN-13:
979-8778541818

A time to grow in faith as we explore God's Word through His creation.

Ruths Reflections

Hello everyone, First apologies for not having written anything for a while, there are several reasons for this, partly my health and having been away on holiday.

I have been outside this morning, gardening before it got too hot and I have to admit I am pleased with the results. The garden looks lovely, I have had a good crop of strawberries this year and they were delicious. I was given several plants for my birthday and I am pleased to say they are all doing well and the apple tree I bought last year has a quite a few apples on it.

I have been out with the W.I., The last outing was for a trip on the Ffestiniog Railway. We went by coach to meet the train, seeing some spectacular scenery on the way. We then went on the train to Porthmadog where we spent a couple of hours before being picked up and returned home. We had a lovely time and the weather was perfect, cloudy but warm. There are several more outings and activities planned, which we are looking forward to..



I am still bellringing, but it is not very comfortable in this heat and I have done very little photography lately, I really must get back into it soon!

I mentioned last time that I was going to Italy with my friends and I have to admit it was uncertain if I would be able to go but I did and luckily there were no major problems. The journey was long but quite interesting, Munich is a huge airport and we seemed to walk miles from one plane to the next! The hotel was lovely, right on the beach and the food was delicious. We managed to swim in the sea a couple of times but mainly in the hotel pool. We joined in some of the hotel activities including a hilarious game of Boules. We came 3rd [out of 4] which was a surprise as we had not played before! We also went out on a couple of organised trips to some very interesting places, it was very hot but thankfully the coach was air-conditioned.

Hopefully, I will be able to write an article for next time, but as I am waiting for a date to go into hospital for an operation I might not get one written.

Anyway, I will say goodbye for now, take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

Support for Styal Prison

Matthew 25v36

*I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear.
I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'*

During our weekend away at Scargill, we began a conversation over a meal about the possibility of supporting prisoners. We have now spoken to a member of the Chaplaincy team at Styal prison, and they would be delighted to receive: -

Baby clothes - birth to 18 months (this is the age that they can stay with their mothers in Styal)

Clothing for the women for interviews or going to work in preparation for their release from prison.

Journals/notebooks (non-wired) to help the women record things and help them work out issues / emotions etc

Fleece blankets - these are used in Chaplaincy sessions when women are dealing with difficult emotions. They can offer a level of comfort when things are tough (particularly for those women going through medical issues such as cancer treatment etc).

Ladies, could you use the Summer months to sort through your wardrobe? Do you have work clothes that you no longer need or no longer fit you? Parents, do you have good as new baby clothes (birth to 18 months) that you could donate? Everyone – have you been got a journal/notebook (non-wired) or a fleece blanket that is just sitting around in your home surplus to requirements?

Please be careful when selecting your donations, as for the safety of the women they cannot receive anything which contains wires, pins or other sharp things.

We will collect any donations at St Chad's and arrange to deliver them to Styal during prison's week in October.

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.
We pray for those in prison.
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends,
prison staff and all who care.
Heal those who have been wounded by the activities
of others, especially the victims of crime.
Help us to forgive one another.
To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ
in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

WHAT IF



THERE REALLY WAS

GOOD NEWS?

Christianity
Explored

Christianity Explored St Chad's Extension 7.30pm Sunday Evenings

**27th September
11th October
25th October
1st November
8th November
22nd November
29th November**

**Please let Revd Jane know if you would
like to join this group – this will ensure
enough resources for everyone.
rector@thurstaston.org.uk
Tel: 0151 648 1816**

**Over seven conversations,
Christianity Explored offers
an introduction to Jesus
through the Gospel of Mark.**

Combining a short film with guided discussion, Christianity Explored helps you engage directly with what Jesus said and did. Explore his identity, his mission, and the invitation he offers in a way that's clear, grounded, and open to everyone.

God in the Sciences: Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.



The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

God in the Arts : the church roof and ceiling



Each month we have been making our way through the church building and pausing to ponder different areas. This month we look up to the roof and ceiling of the church. In Gothic buildings our hearts are lifted high as the architecture soars upwards, trying to touch the very skirts of heaven. Norman churches in an earlier age by contrast seem weighed down by the stonework with heavy pillars and simpler windows.

This August we travel to a church consecrated much later – at the beginning of the 20th century. It is a wonderful monument to the Arts and Crafts Movement: St Andrew's Church at Roker, near Sunderland. It was commissioned by a shipyard millionaire, and there is a vivid sense of an upturned boat as we enter the nave. The building abounds with riches: a font with its cover by Mouseman Thompson of Kilburn, lettering by Eric Gill on plaques around the walls, and a beautiful lectern by Ernest Gimson. But our eyes are drawn to the east end – to the reredos tapestry of Burne-Jones, and then above, a ceiling by Eric Gill's brother, MacDonald, that proclaims the glory of creation.

The sky is studded with stars and the moon, and then surrounded by trees and undulating lines of water. In the centre the sun is a brilliant light, fitting for the east end. And from the clouds we see the creative hand of God raised in blessing. It is the opening chapter of Genesis portrayed in colour and shape above us. There we read that God rested on the seventh day. As we give thanks for that glory we see in St Andrew's Church and in our world around, we can hear George Herbert's hymn telling us how a life of work and rest should always be permeated by praise:

'Sev'n whole days, not one in seven,

I will praise thee.'

Open Garden Saturdays

St Chad's Garden

 10.30am – 12.30pm 



Relax in the garden
with a cuppa and
a natter.



Safe space and
activities for children
(children to be
accompanied please).



 August 
1st • 8th • 15th • 29th



St Chad's
Church



St Chad's Church,
Roslin Rd, Irby, CH61 3UH



Telephone Church Office
0151 648 8169 



READY TEDDY GO!

★ 2pm to 4pm ★
Saturday 22nd August 2026

St Bartholomew's Church,
Church Lane, Thurstaston, CH61 0HW

≡ Celebrate ≡
ST BEARTHOLOMEW'S DAY

Bring your teddy and watch them
parachute off the church spire! ♥

RAFFLE ★

CHILDREN'S
RAFFLE



TEA AND
CAKE



LUCKY
DIP

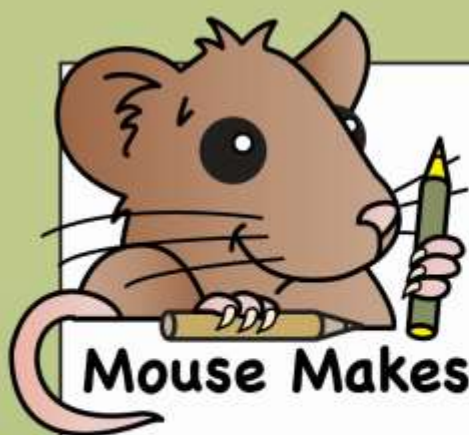


GREAT FAMILY
FUN AFTERNOON



Any queries—please contact Parish Office
office@thurstaston.org.uk





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

9



11

12



JUDEA

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

Wordsearch for August 2026

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

John
Baptist
Rough
Obscurity
Desert

Bugs
Camel
Heat
Sun
Challenge

Muddy
Jordan
Arrested
Dungeon
Head

Cut
History
Great
Unique
prepare



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***

***25th August
Summer Hub Quiz***



**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/>



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



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

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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

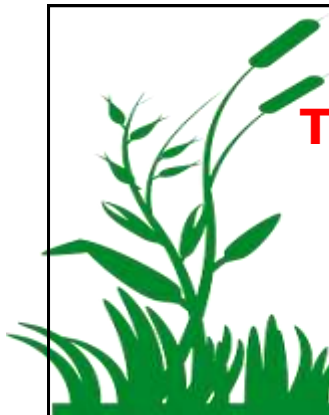
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With every purchase you make you'll raise a donation from the retailer. Your donations are then transferred to **St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby**

easyfundraising
.org.uk



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**St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or
 E-mail: 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

Churchwardens

Vacant

churchwarden@thurstaston.org.uk

Associate Minister

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

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)

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

07599186893

PCC Secretary

Cheryl Goddard

pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk

PCC Treasurer

Vacant

pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk

Rainbows/Brownies/Guides

www.girlguiding.org.uk or

Freephone

0800 1 69 59 01

Parish Safeguarding Team

Peter & Karen Robson and Janet Trigg

safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk

648 6691

CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath

648 6015

Leprosy Mission Representative

Julie DeBoorder

07599186893

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office

648 8169

St Chad's Hall Booking

hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk

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.

August 2026 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sunday 2nd August 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 9th August 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am All Age at St Chad's

Sunday 16th August 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 23rd August 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's

Sunday 30th August 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 6th September 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's

Dear Father,

In this summer month of August, help us to be aware of Your presence.
If we are away on holiday, If we can't have a holiday, On our journeys, In
our homes, With our families or friends, When we're alone, When life is
sweet, When it's like an obstacle course.

At all times and in all circumstances, help us to know that You are in it
with us, sharing our ups and downs, offering Your love and peace and
hope when we connect with You through putting our trust in Your Son,
Jesus.

Thank You Lord. In His name, Amen.