

# Crosstalk

60p



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad  
[www.thurstaston.org.uk](http://www.thurstaston.org.uk)

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

March 2021

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Love  
JOY  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

**"Cross Talk Subscription for 2021 is £6"**

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **"Your magazine needs you"** \*  
\* Please send your contributions \*  
\* (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting articles etc.) \*  
\* to office@thurstaston.org.uk \*  
\* no later than 21st February \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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## Diary Dates

**Please see the back page for  
Church Service dates and times**

### *From the Registers*

*Funerals*  
*We commend to God's*  
*eternal care*

*26th January*  
*Fred Hallifax*

*10th February*  
*Lil Ormsby*



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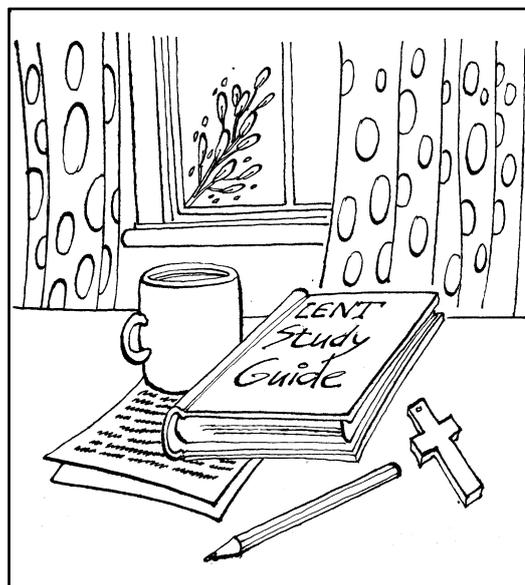
## From Your Rector

It was just over a year ago that the WHO discussed the coronavirus that was starting to spread around the world. None of us could have foreseen the devastating effect on our world, with over 80 million people infected and nearly 2 million deaths. How has the pandemic challenged our faith over the last year?

Firstly, it has forced us to face up to the **reality of our situation**. We cannot underestimate the health, social and economic effects of the virus on our lives, churches and communities. We have learned how to do church online, but the future shape of church life is uncertain! As the apostle Paul writes: *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus'* (2 Cor 4:8-10). The pandemic has challenged so much of what we take for granted, but also demonstrated that God is alongside to help us in these circumstances.

Secondly, alongside the fear and uncertainty of this year, we have also learned to find **new faith and hope in Jesus**. The experience of Jesus' death and His resurrection provides a pattern for us in facing the future: *'so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.'* (2 Cor 4:10-12).

During the season of Lent, it's good to focus on the promise of sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we consider our present struggles, are we ready to surrender them afresh to Jesus?



Rev'd Jane



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March. 7.30 - 8.30

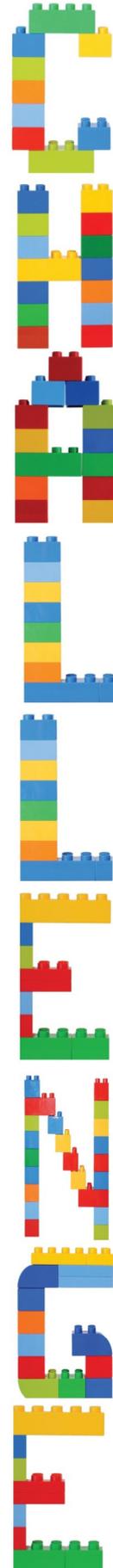
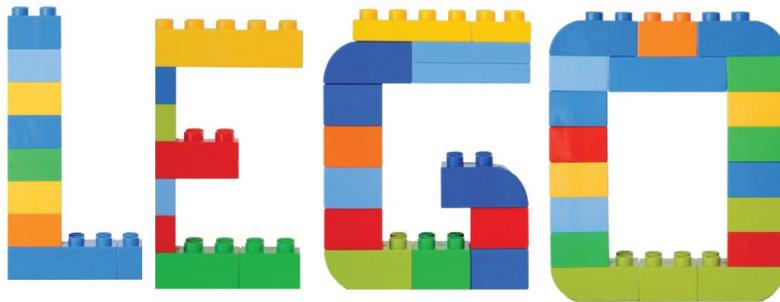
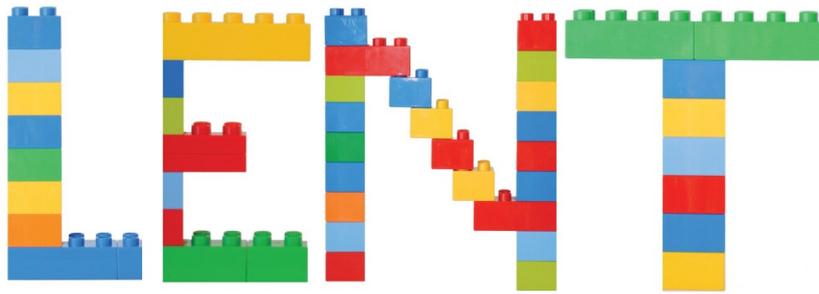
Come along to learn practical ways you can make a difference in the fight against modern slavery. Email [wirralhopeforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:wirralhopeforjustice@gmail.com) to request an invite for the zoom session.

What does the Lord  
require of you  
but to



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,  
to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

*Micah 6: verse 8*



**From  
15th March to 3rd April  
not including Sundays.**

**Each Day on our facebook page there will be:-**

- a new build challenge
- some information linking the build challenge into the Easter story.

**It would be great if you were able to share a picture of your build on the facebook page in the comments for the right day.**



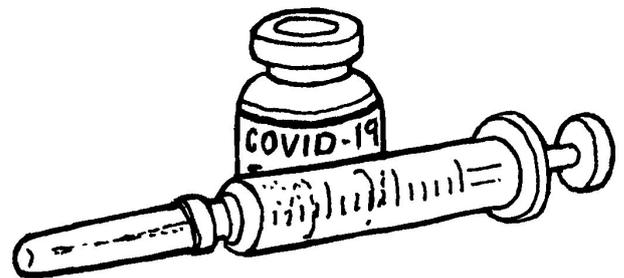
**St Bartholomew's and St Chad's  
on Facebook**

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

**If you can't access facebook,  
let Revd Jane know and she will email you a document with  
all of the challenges so that you can still take part.**

As February is now here my thoughts have returned to February 2020. For my birthday my sister had got tickets to see the Cirque du Soleil at the Albert Hall. The Corona virus just being talked about, but the severity of it was not obvious. I did wonder whether it was wise to go to London. I went! We had a wonderful day, Lunch at the Ivy, then the show, which was fantastic. We travelled on crowded trains and buses and only saw one person wearing a mask. Later that week we went to the Saatchi Gallery to see the Tutankhamun Exhibition, wonderful, but social distancing had definitely not been invented! My birthday this year will be very different.

My most exciting news now is that I have had my first vaccination. Let's hope that this is the beginning of the end. Life hasn't changed much, I try to get out for a walk most days, weather



permitting. I haven't done much in the garden, again I blame the weather and I have run out of rooms to decorate. I must admit that I am becoming quite lazy, I do enjoy curling up with a good book.

The only other thing of interest is the leak that has appeared at the front of my property about a month ago. I initially contacted the council who were not interested, so I contacted United Utilities. They came, eventually, and ascertained it wasn't their problem and told me to contact the council. I did and this time they sent an Inspector out who agreed that it was very concerning. I am waiting to hear from them what they are going to do.

On a lighter note I have been enjoying the Sunday evening service on zoom. The service is really good and helps to keep me going for the whole week. Evensong is a service I have always liked.

I haven't seen my family, but we keep in constant touch. I like so many others, can't wait until we all meet up again, I just want a hug!

Well until next time, take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

# News-Feed

Providing emergency food for local people in crisis

Issue 11 January 2021



Unit 14, Wirral Business Centre, Dock Road,  
Birkenhead, CH41 1JW  
Tel: 0161 638 7090  
Em: [enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk)

## A message from our Chair



One of the greatest strengths of Wirral Foodbank has always been the generosity of Wirral residents. This generosity has been redoubled in response to the covid 19 pandemic. We already knew how we would like to extend our work, if we had the money to pay for it, and the generous gifts we have recently received will enable us to move forward in some strategic ways.

In response to an increased demand for the services of our resident benefit and debt adviser, Nicola Connor, we have committed some of these funds to employ a second adviser. At present, both advisers are working remotely, but when conditions and regulations allow face to face consultations to resume they will be available in our distribution centres, as previously.

We look forward to announcing other developments at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting, which will be held remotely (via Zoom) at 7 pm on Thursday 15 April.

The other thing for which we have been very thankful during the pandemic has been the flexibility shown by our staff and volunteers, who have repeatedly adopted new ways of working in response to changing demands and restrictions. At present, we know neither when we are likely to emerge from the current lockdown nor when the relaxation of social distancing requirements will enable us to return to our normal mode of operations. We also do not know whether the number of clients requiring our help will increase or decrease. We are keeping all options open until the future becomes clearer, and we continue to be grateful to our staff and volunteers for their willingness to work with us in doing everything we can to meet the needs of individuals and families who need our help. *Revd. Colin Hart. Chair, Wirral Foodbank.*



## 14,753 reasons to say thank you for supporting Wirral Foodbank

That's the number of people supported by Wirral Foodbank in 2020. This was only possible through the generous support of our donors and volunteers, in food, money and time.

Behind the statistics are individuals, families and children. Here are some of the comments received from those who used the foodbank in 2020:

*"The volunteers were absolutely incredible; I couldn't believe how nice they were. They sorted me out with plenty of food, shampoo etc. and cat food. I was beyond grateful x"*

*"They have given me the help I need when in crisis. It has been an absolute godsend for me and my daughter; I don't know how we would have coped"*

Another comment from a person who was referred to Wirral Foodbank Plus:

*"Yay I was accepted for DHP (Discretionary Housing Payment) thank you so much....It's made my life so much easier xx"*

## 201 tonnes of food donated in 2020

*That's equivalent to over 200 transit vans full of food!!!*



*Thank you*

## Every donation counts!

Every donation counts; follow the incredible journey of a foodbank donation via the following link:

[The incredible journey of a foodbank donation. - YouTube](#)

Visit [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk) for latest information

Despite the unprecedented challenges we all face, the people of Wirral continue to support the Foodbank with such enthusiasm and generosity.

During the first lockdown, Wirral Foodbank combined forces with Wirral Council, supporting nearly 7,000 people. We received an incredible 73 tonnes of food (48% increase on April - July 2019).

During Lockdown, Wirral Council arranged the home delivery of emergency food.

We are now in lockdown again. Wirral Foodbank is still open for business, working with Wirral Council to provide emergency food.



Wirral Council collecting food for the Wirral Food Hub



## Our year in numbers

We supported **14,753** people...

...which equates roughly to **132,777** meals

**13,560** volunteer hours donated



over **188 tonnes** of food given to people in need



We operated **7** centres to provide food parcels to needy families

**201** tons of food donated by Wirral residents during 2020!

**1** huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year.



## Thank you to all our volunteers



Pictures of some of our volunteers, at the Warehouse, Office, Foodbank Centre and Wirral Council Food Hub.



Wirral Foodbank AGM, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 7pm (via Zoom) - further details to follow

We are grateful for the support of the following organisations:



Wirral Foodbank, Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered in England – charity number 1167967

Wirral Foodbank is committed to protecting your privacy and will process your personal data in accordance with current Data Protection legislation. Wirral Foodbank collects information to keep in touch with you and supply you with information relating to our work. A full data privacy statement is available from the foodbank on request. If you do not wish to receive further information from Wirral Foodbank, please email [manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk) with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line, and your full name in the body of the email.

## **GOD IN THE SCIENCES:**

### **What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times**

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, and vaccinations and better weather may make handling the pandemic a little easier. On the other hand, marking a year from the start of the first UK lockdown will be painful for some, especially as many of us are likely to be experiencing restrictions or ongoing hardships for quite some time. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

#### Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying creation can also help us connect with God.

#### Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!



#### Lament and praise

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

#### Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

#### Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

#### Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

#### Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.

## GOD IN THE ARTS :

### Behold the handmaid of the Lord

'*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' (Behold the handmaid of the Lord) is the title of this month's painting of the Annunciation by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. We shall hear those words in the Gospel for this feast on 25<sup>th</sup> March, when Mary responds to Gabriel's message that she is to be the mother of our Saviour.

It is a scene that has inspired artists throughout the history of Christianity. Over those years certain traditions emerged: in many paintings Mary was often shown at prayer, dressed in blue, in a room that was filled with elaborate furnishings of the period, all opening out onto the wider world.



Rossetti's painting of 1850 is very different. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and as both a poet and a painter, he soon became its recognised leader. But the work of the Brotherhood was not without its critics. When Rossetti's painting was exhibited, it was dismissed as 'absurd, affected, ill-drawn, insipid, crotchety and puerile' because it was such a contrast to the more traditional portrayals of this scene in Luke's Gospel.

Here there is a claustrophobic feel to the painting. Mary and Gabriel fill the tiny, cell-like room. There is a window, but it does not open out to scenery and nature: just a solitary tree. Rossetti called '*Ecce Ancilla Domini*' his 'white picture.' That is the colour that dominates: the robes of Mary and the angel, the stones of the floor, the paint on the walls, the flowers that Gabriel offers. Blue, the traditional colour for Mary, is relegated to the screen behind and the sky outside. Other colours are provided by the yellow flames of Gabriel's feet and the tapestry in the foreground on which Mary has embroidered lilies. These flowers, like the whiteness, are symbols of purity.

The model for Mary was Christina, his sister, the author of 'In the bleak mid-winter', and in portraying her, Rossetti has captured the adolescent vulnerability of Mary. A small dove linking the two characters is a sign of God's spirit coming to bring new life to this young girl. How does she respond? What is the expression on her face? Does she see the adult world of responsibility and motherhood opening up before her? Is it anxiety or wonder or awe? Or are all of these responses captured in her expression?

The stillness of the scene, the whiteness of the room – they are like a blank canvas on which God can paint His Gospel, His Good News of life and hope. Just as it opened up a new world for Mary, so the Gospel can open up a new world for all of us. We may respond with anxiety and worry, or with wonder and awe to that invitation. Or those feelings may be transformed into trust and service like Mary in Luke's Gospel: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord: let it be with me according to your word.'

## Wear your daffodil and unite in memory

Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life care charity will this year celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> annual Great Daffodil Appeal, which is held every March across the UK. The money raised from this appeal enables the charity to continue their vital work providing care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families.



The coronavirus continues to have a devastating effect on Marie Curie's fundraising, as activities up and down the country have had to be cancelled. However, there's still lots of ways people can get involved, with things like the Step into Spring Challenge in March where people walk 10,000 steps a day, they can host a virtual collection or buy and wear one of the charity's iconic daffodils in memory of a loved one.

This year will be even more special as the charity encourages the nation to come together to reflect, grieve and remember for a National Day of Reflection. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 will mark one year since the UK first went into a nationwide lockdown and Marie Curie is inviting the nation to unite and remember those who died and show support and solidarity for those who have been bereaved. The charity knows how important it is for people to grieve and the emotional and psychological impact of not being able to say goodbye properly and grieving in isolation can have.

Due to the pandemic, Marie Curie won't have their normal collections on the street, so donations are more important than ever. To support the Great Daffodil Appeal, you can donate at [www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil) or you can buy your daffodil pin in store at a number of high street stores including Superdrug or Savers.

## Walk and pray for your community in 2021

Our communities have all been being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: our schools, hospitals, neighbours, churches, friends and families, so when we're out on our daily walk, let's turn the time to prayer.

# Prayerwalk<sup>21</sup>

That's the challenge from HOPE Together, which is encouraging Christians to walk and pray in 2021.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director, says: 'Whatever time, wherever you live, whilst we're able and permitted to walk – let's walk and talk to the one who has the power to act and bring change.'

HOPE is bringing together resources and ideas for prayer walking from many UK prayer ministries. An app is also being developed to track where Christians have walked and prayed throughout the UK. This is part of a worldwide Every Home for Christ initiative called Oikos, which aims to take the Christian message of hope to every home on the planet over the next 20 years.

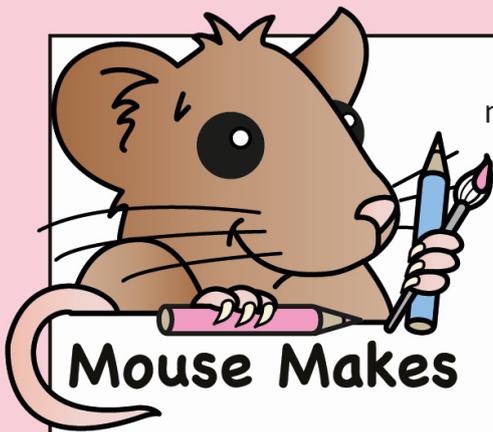
To find out more visit [www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayerwalk21](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayerwalk21)

## Wordsearch for March

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give Him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil’s temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!

Holy  
Spirit  
Jordan  
Wilderness  
Tempted  
Devil  
Fasted  
Hungry  
If  
Bread  
Alone  
Kingdom  
World  
Authority  
Glory  
Worship  
Me  
Serve  
Jerusalem  
Pinnacle  
Temple  
Stone  
Foot  
Angels  
Bear  
Strike  
Test  
Temptation





## Mouse Makes

### Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

**CAIN and ABEL**  
*Genesis 4:1-2*

**JOSEPH**  
*Genesis 30:22-24*

**ISHMAEL**  
*Genesis 16:15*

**TIMOTHY**  
*2 Timothy 1:5*

**RUBEN**  
*Genesis 29:32*

**GAD**  
*Genesis 35:26*

**SAMUEL**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**OBED**  
*Matthew 1:5*

**ISAAC**  
*Genesis 21:3*

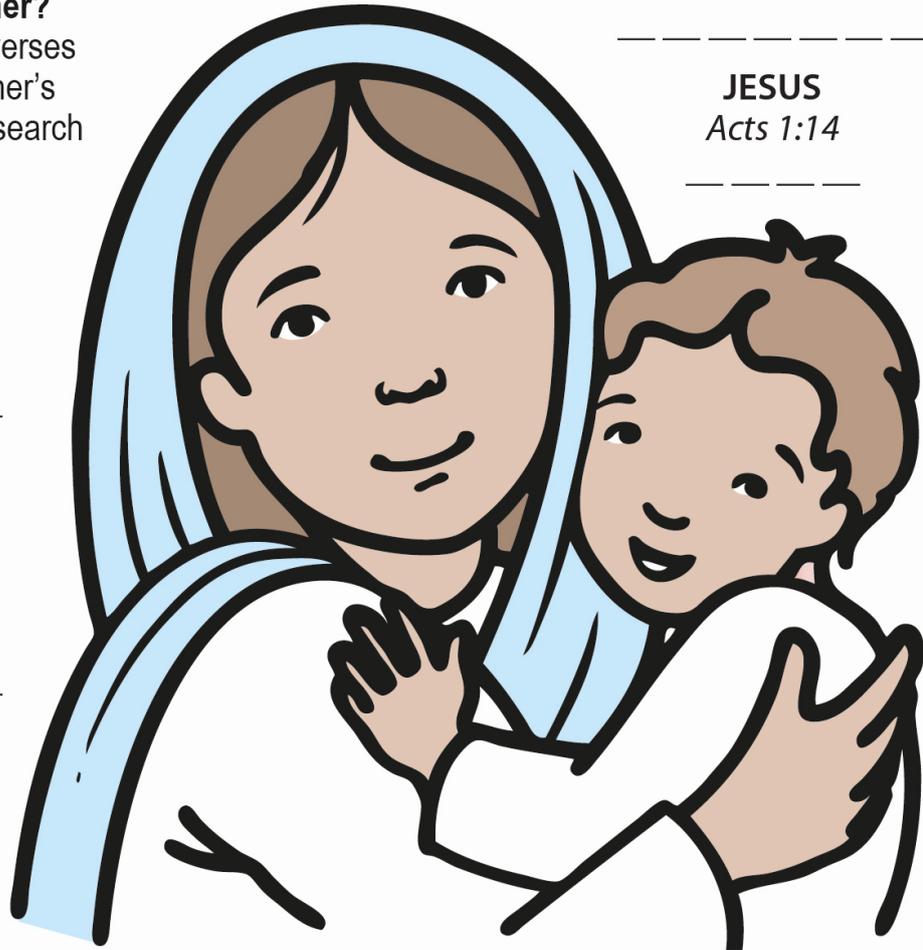
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

**SOLOMON**  
*1 Chronicles 3:5*

**JOHN**  
*Luke 1:57-60*

**ESAU and JACOB**  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

**JESUS**  
*Acts 1:14*



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

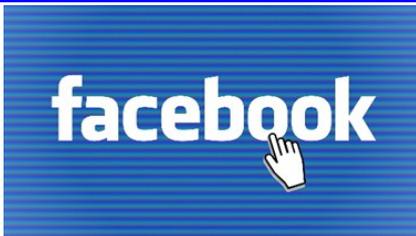


## Need a Meeting Room?



At St Chad's we have a large hall and several options of different sized rooms.

Bookings can be made by phoning the Hall Booking Secretary  
Mrs Jean Heath: 648 6015  
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](https://twitter.com/StBartsStChads)



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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**

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**Viking**

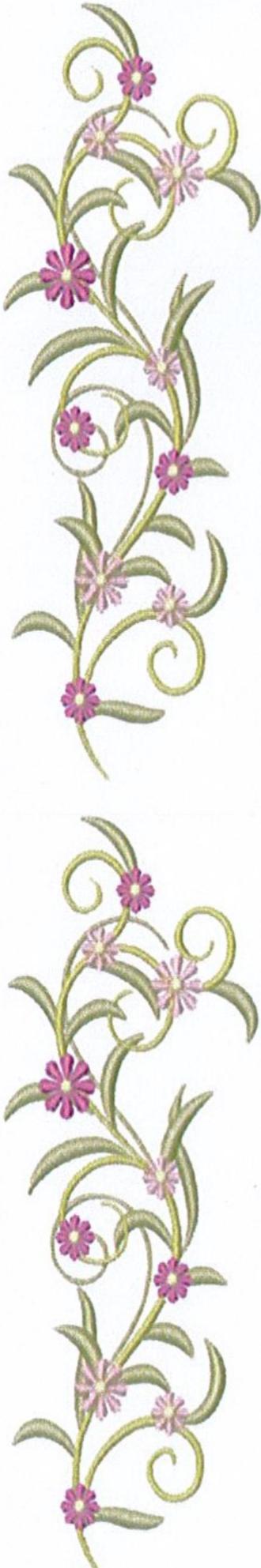
**ASDA**

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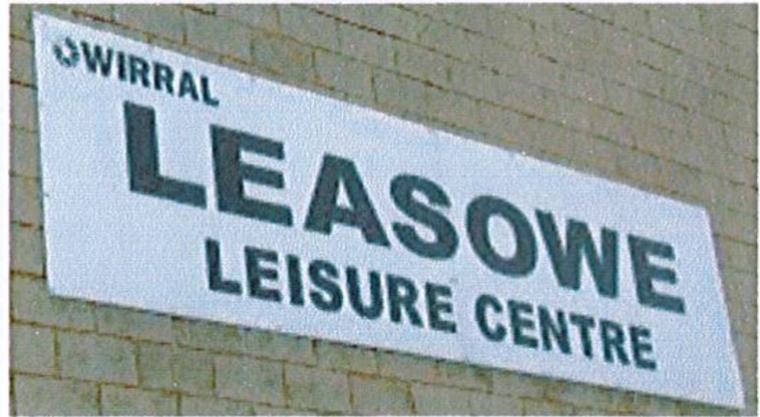
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**Visit:** [easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby)



# Leasowe Swimming Club for the Disabled



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**SATURDAY**  
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88 Twickenham Drive, Leasowe  
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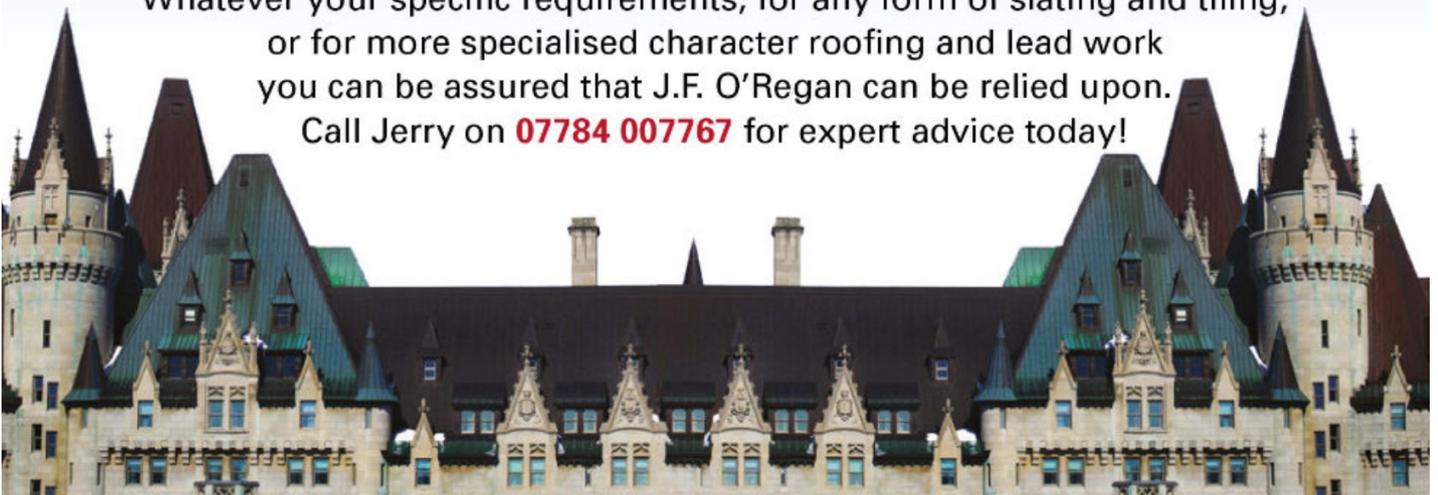
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- Churches
- Decorative Slating
- Westmorland Green

- Tonne
- Welsh Slates
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## MARCH 2021

### **ZOOM Services:-**

*Joining details available by emailing the Rector*

**Mar 7th - 6.00pm All Age**

**Mar 14th - 6.30pm Evening Prayer**

**Mar 21st - 6.30pm Evening Prayer**

**Mar 28th - 6.30pm Evening Prayer**

The PCC agreed on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 that we would not hold services in church (except funerals and weddings (in exceptional circumstances)) until the latest Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3 (and transmission rates are much lower and vaccination programme has begun to take effect).

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.

Contact the Rector if you want to be added to the weekly email list.

**ZOOM Coffee and Chat:-**  
**Wednesday mornings 10.15-11.00am**

*Joining details available by emailing the Rector*

No agenda  
just turn up and chat  
with whoever else appears

### **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.

### **RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner**

**PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday**

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB  
Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: [rector@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:rector@thurstaston.org.uk)

### **CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs K Butler St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH**

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OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

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