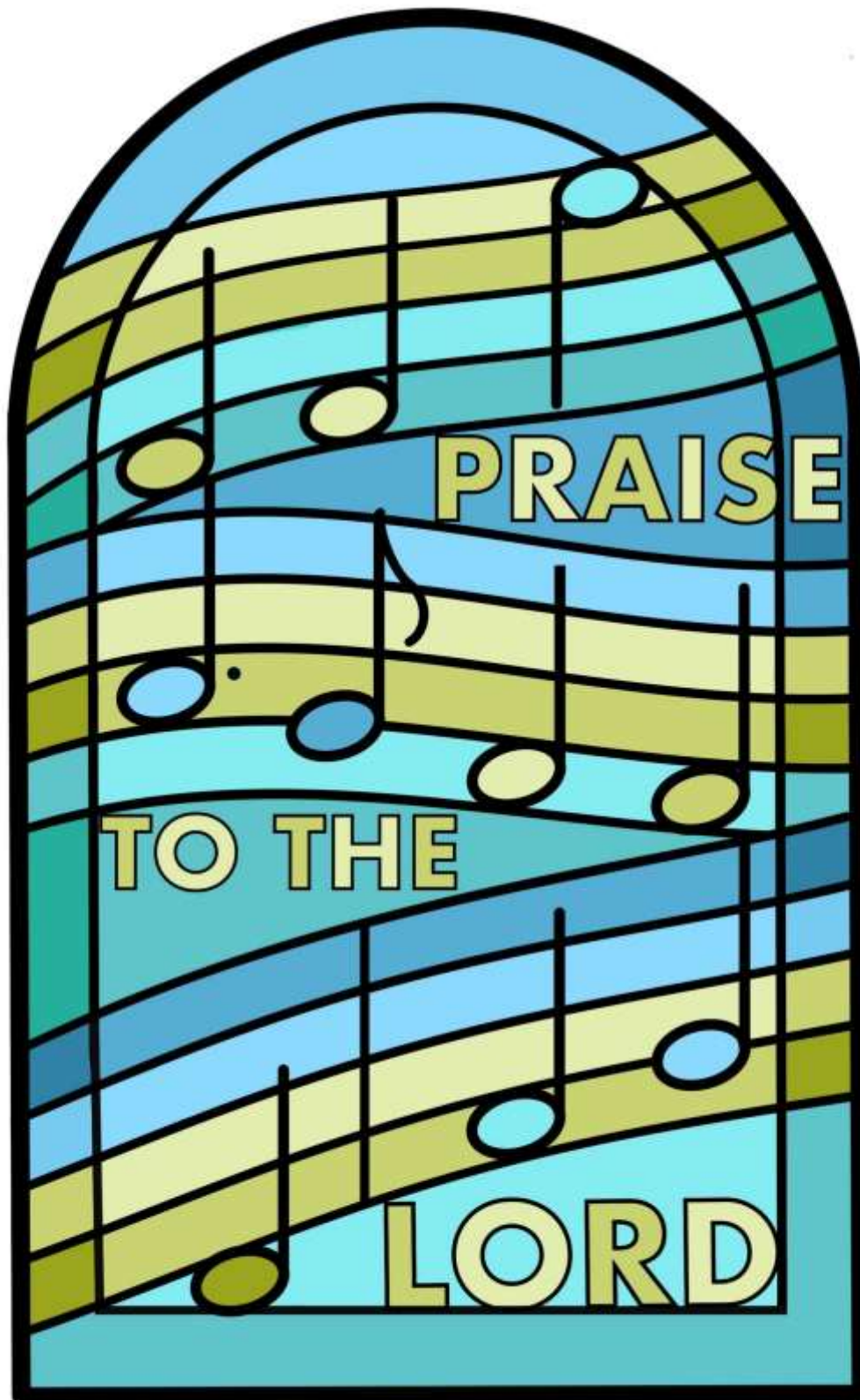


Crosstalk 60p

The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
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Interviews to take place 6th June 2025

Intended start date for job 1st September 2025

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Candidates will need permission to live and work in the UK.
An enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for the successful candidate.

www.standrewsbebington.org.uk www.townfieldchurch.org.uk

St Andrew's & Townfield Churches: A Christ-Centred Family Sharing God's Love

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
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* "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

12th April
Edward Fewtrell & Lynne Gamet

Funerals

16th April - Wendy Blackmore

May brings us Rogation-tide, which is all about asking God for things

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.
– Anon

Genuine prayers will be looking out for answers. – W Plumer

All my discoveries have been made in answer to prayer. – Isaac Newton

We should believe that nothing is too small to be named before God. What should we think of the patient who told his doctor he was ill, but never went into particulars? – Anon

If your troubles are deep-seated or long-standing, try kneeling. – Anon

From Your Rector

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means 'Son of Encouragement' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let's be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

Rev'd Jane



A message from Ailsa



“Run Towards the Light” - or walk if you prefer!

I **hadn't known** that the theme of the last race I did was to do with light and darkness which struck a particular resonance with me as I ran it on Passion Sunday!

As I stood at the starting line of the 10k run beneath the iconic Mersey Tunnel, although the tunnel is well lit, you sensed the underlying and unyielding darkness of the tunnel. And it enveloped me as I found myself thinking of and reminiscent of the sorrow and despair we feel as Good Friday lay ahead. The air was thick with anticipation and a touch of anxiety; there I was, an Army Chaplain positioned not only to run but also to reflect on my journey ahead, both on the track and on my spiritual path.

And I also considered my soldiers and officers returning from the long cold tour of duty they have just undertaken in Poland. Even last week, as cavalry undertaking horseback training, it was still dark and cold as the picture reveals! They now embark on a different journey from darkness to light - back in the UK with their loved ones and arriving home, yes, on Good Friday!

But back to the tunnel! As we took off, the world outside faded away, swallowed by the concrete and shadows. Each step echoed my heartbeat, each breath a reminder of life pressing on in the midst of darkness. Running through the dank tunnel felt akin to traversing the uncertainty and anguish that Good Friday represents. In the shadows of that day, we recount the crucifixion and the silence that cloaked the earth. It was a time of overwhelming grief, the culmination of Jesus' suffering—such a solemn day.

And here I was struggling to run this race. But you know what? You hear people and they shout and cheer. Strangers. Just wanting you to keep going and the cheers of spectators above ground, give a flicker of hope and the encouragement to keep running. Running towards the light.

My run became a tactile metaphor for Christ's journey from the

darkness of the tomb into the brilliance of resurrection. The struggle of the run became a mirror to our spiritual struggles—each uphill battle we face is a reminder that we are not alone in our darkness.

I emerged from the tunnel's confines, and as I rounded the last curve of the tunnel, my muscles ached, but my spirit soared.

The light ahead was not just a goal to be reached; it was a representation of resurrection, of renewal. I thought of the joy of Easter morning when the stone was rolled away, and Jesus rose victorious. That light, radiant and life-affirming, beckons us all, inviting us not merely to run towards it but to live in it, sharing the warmth of hope with others.

The run beneath the Mersey Tunnel serves as a poignant reminder of our spiritual journey. Just as the **Apostle Paul encourages us to 'run with perseverance the race marked out for us,' we are invited to embrace both the darkness of Good Friday and the joyous light of Easter Sunday.**



Revelation for Everyone – 24 Weeks!

**Every Wednesday from 30th April to 30th July (inclusive)
and 3rd September to 5th November (inclusive)**

7.30-9.00pm St Chad's Extension

All Welcome to join in this Bible Study

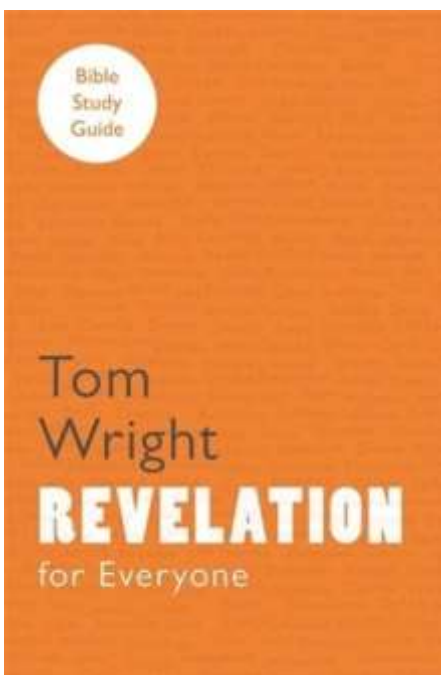
Clearly not everyone would manage every week due to holidays and other commitments, but it would be helpful if you were committed to being at as many sessions as you can.

ISBN: 9780281068654

You will need to buy your own copy of the book.

Putting on this Bible Study was inspired by the group of people who went to the "Threads through the Bible" Exhibition at Liverpool Cathedral in February 2025, who were challenged by the series of embroideries "Threads through Revelation" and wanted to understand more about this book of the Bible.

The Archdeacon of Chester, Mike Gilbertson did his doctoral thesis on the Book of Revelation, and he will be giving us an Overview of the book of Revelation in an introductory session on 30th April and will return at the end of our study (5th November) to answer questions and help us reflect on what we have learned.



Words from the back cover of the Study Book:-

"Many regard Revelation as the hardest book in the New Testament. It is full of strange, lurid, and sometimes bizarre and violent imagery. As a result, people who are quite at home in the Gospels, Acts and Paul's letters find themselves tiptoeing around Revelation with a sense that they don't really belong there. But they do! This book offers one of the clearest and sharpest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation. Here we see how the powerful forces of evil can be and are being overthrown through the victory of Jesus the Messiah, which continues to inspire and strengthen his followers today."

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Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th **May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory.** Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also **peacefully protesting for independence**) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.

The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England
And songs of heartfelt joy,
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting
Had such a dreadful cost
In blood and sweat and mortal threat
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended –
In Europe's shores at least;
Our people brave feared not the grave
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us
For eighty peaceful years.
Yet now, again, some brutal men
Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating
This coming VE Day;
Yet not at ease, but on our knees
For lasting peace, we pray.

By Nigel Beeton



8 May 2025

We're marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day), when the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe. Around the country, events will be taking place to pay tribute to those involved in that conflict, as well as reminding us to pray and work for peace in our communities and in the world.

At 6:30pm, St Bartholomew's Church bells will ring out - an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the peace that so many sacrificed their lives for during the Second World War.

At 7.30pm at St Bartholomew's - A Short Service with hymns, readings and prayers.

If you are unable to get to church you are invited to join in by

Lighting a Candle

to remember loved ones who fought in the war:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/light-candle>



‘Assisted Dying’ Bill fails to protect the vulnerable, Bishop of London warns

The Bishop of London has warned of the ‘serious risk’ that people would opt for ‘assisted dying’ because they felt they were a burden. She said the risks of this happening would be multiplied by the pressures on the NHS and social care – if the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill comes into force in England and Wales.

In a recent submission to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill Committee, Bishop Sarah Mullally, a former Chief Nursing Officer, says there are no measures in the proposed legislation nor are there safeguards that could prevent people opting for assisted suicide because they felt a burden, should the Bill come into force.

Evidence from Oregon and Washington state in the US and Canada where ‘assisted dying’ is legal shows between 43 per cent and 59 per cent of the people who opted to die by assisted suicide reported feeling a burden, she says.

The danger of this happening in the UK would be exacerbated by the pressures on adult social care, in which people increasingly pay for care, she says, and the long-term challenges facing the NHS and palliative care.

“The Church of England’s opposition to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is rooted in the impact the Bill would have on the most vulnerable members of society,” she says.

“This is a concern shared by people of many different faiths as well as people with no faith.”

She adds: **“The irreducible value of every human person means that no one is a burden, every life is precious, every life is worthy of care. No one should feel compelled to hasten their own death.**

“For centuries this has been an unquestioned societal assumption, acting as a bedrock for social and relational flourishing.

“During the last year it has been particularly concerning to see some high-profile social commentators argue that feeling like a burden is actually an appropriate reason to pursue assisted suicide.”

Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May 2025

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: “Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

“The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares.”

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will “never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you” (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

Ruth's Reflections

Hello again and a belated Happy Easter to you all. I hope you all had a lovely time and didn't eat too many chocolate eggs! I had a really good Easter this year, starting with going to Church on Good Friday, Saturday was much the same as usual except I made the mistake of trying to park in Tesco's car park. I needed to go to the Phone shop, but that's a whole other story!

On Easter Day I had the whole family coming for lunch, except for my eldest grandson, who was working. As I had prepared as much as I could on Saturday I had time to go to Church, ringing and even for a quick coffee at the Nest.

Talking of Church, all the roses we planted in the Memorial Bed are thriving, unfortunately so are the weeds! I was hoping to get down there today but it's raining and I don't garden in the rain!

My own garden is looking good and I must admit I am quite pleased with myself. With some instruction from my next door neighbour I managed to Jet wash my patios and I thoroughly enjoyed doing it! I have planted my hanging baskets and they seem to be flourishing and I have bought a tree, a flowering cherry, so hopefully next spring I will have a lovely display.

Ringling continues as usual and we are planning to ring for the service for V.E. Day.

The W.I. are in the process of doing a Display for V.E. Day which will be erected at the start of the drive to Irby Village Hall so do look out for it. It will remain in place for the summer.

I mentioned last time that the W.I. were going to visit Birkenhead Priory. We had a lovely day, starting with lunch out. We had a guided tour of the Priory followed by a talk by a very knowledgeable man, the history of the Priory and Birkenhead is so interesting. At the end of the tour several of us climbed up the church tower[101 steps] and the views from the top were amazing. It was a beautiful day which helped.



We have several more trips arranged, one to a Pottery which I will miss as I will be in Portugal. I am going on a tour of the Douro Valley with the two friends I went on holiday with last year.

Well I will stop now, and have a cup of coffee and a hot cross bun, naughty but very nice!

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament : Ecclesiastes

'*Meaningless! Meaningless!*' This is how the book of Ecclesiastes begins (1:2), as it examines the futility of human experience '*under the sun*'. The author is named as '*The Teacher*' (1:1, Hebrew *qoheleth*), traditionally identified with King Solomon. Although focusing on life in the physical world, the book ends with, '*Fear God and keep his commandments*' (12:13).

Ecclesiastes reminds us of the limitation of human wisdom, which cannot find meaning and purpose without God:

Our strivings '*under the sun*' can only lead to disillusionment (1:5–11). Therefore, we need to accept the life God gives us and enjoy it to the full.

Wisdom is given to those who please God (2:26). Such wisdom cannot solve all problems (1:16–18), or secure enduring reward (2:12–17). We cannot control our immediate future, resulting in uncertainty (6:12), and there are difficult questions about life and death itself (9:1–3). In response, we need to understand our human limitations before God.

God has ordered all things in their time; things we cannot change or fully anticipate: '*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven*' (3:1–15).

However, the world is not fundamentally chaotic or irrational, as it is ordered by God: '*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*' (3:11). We should remember our Creator when we are young before the infirmities of advanced age stop us from enjoying the good things of life (12: 1-8).

In summary, Ecclesiastes shows us how to live meaningfully and joyfully by placing God at the centre of our life, while trusting and obeying our Creator.

To Everything
there is a Season,
and a time
to every Purpose
under Heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism

For the last couple of months we've been thinking about baptism, it's place within church life and what it means to each of us on a personal level.

This month, let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), an especially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows!

Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus.

Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction.

People as far back as the 3rd century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means.

They were allowed to take part in the Sunday service up to the 'Peace' and then they had to leave and went to a separate building for teaching. In other words, they couldn't even watch the Holy Communion part of the service until they had been baptised.

Baptism symbolised their public acceptance of the Christian faith, and it was quite literally their first step in their life as a member of the church, as the actual baptism was carried out in a special building, outside but attached to the main church building. Baptisms were done by the Bishop on a certain day or days each year.

This month: Where were you baptised? Do you have any photos of that day? This month have a look at the fonts in some local churches and see what shapes they are and any decoration they may have.



Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

It runs:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

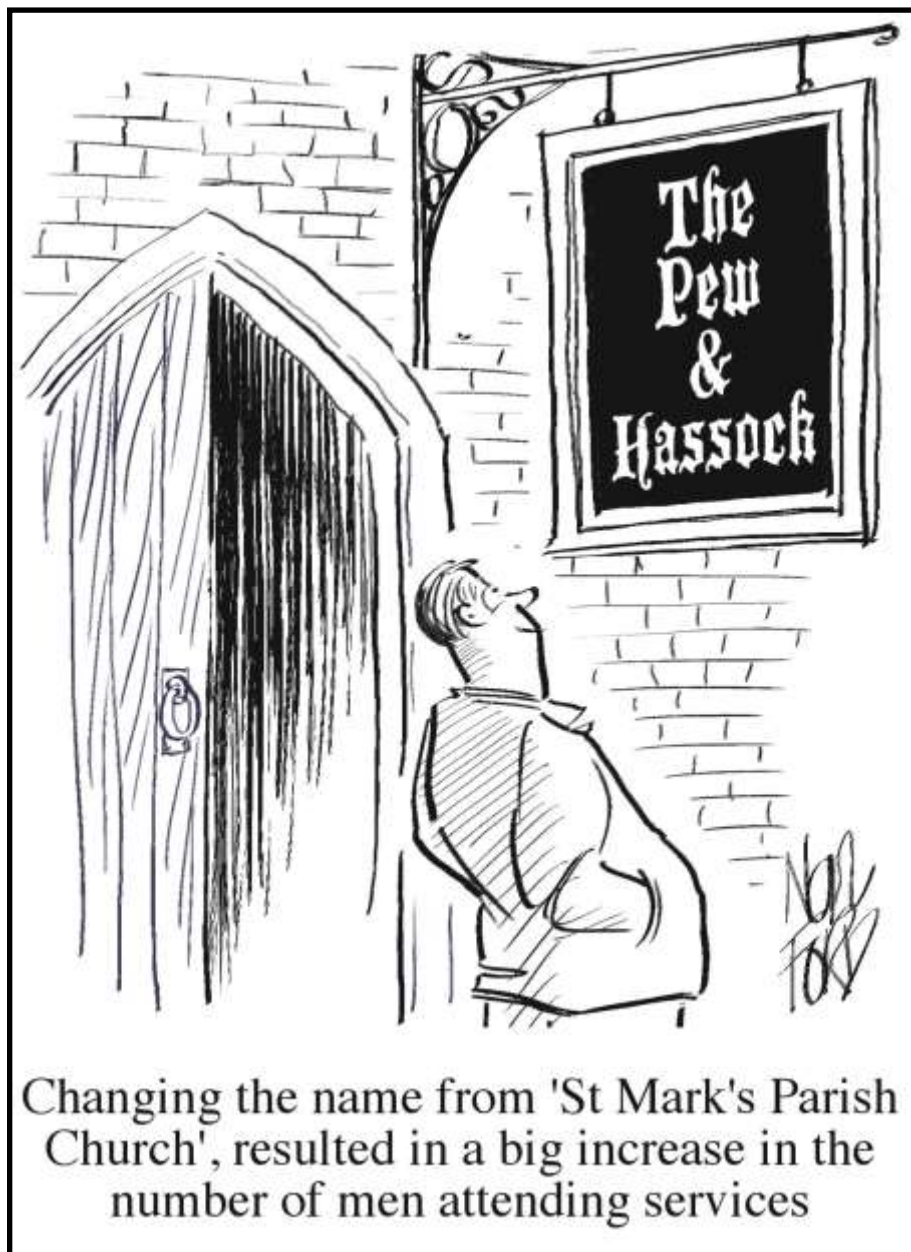
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

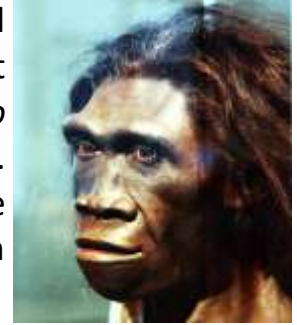
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,



God in the Sciences : Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.



As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

**For resources on this question, try the [Faraday Institute](#), [BioLogos](#), and [Christians in Science](#).*

God in the Arts: : 'The Death of the Virgin' by Bruegel

Upton House in Warwickshire was the home of a millionaire oil magnate, Walter Samuel, in the 1920s and 30s. The origin of that fortune is displayed in the collection of early Shell posters, but the house is now owned by the National Trust.

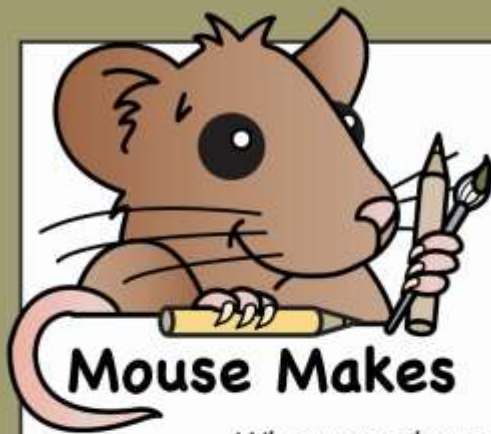


The interiors still breathe the art deco atmosphere of that earlier lifestyle. Outside there are beautiful terraced gardens, imposing cedar trees, and spectacular asters. Inside there is a remarkable art collection with works by Bosch, Holbein, El Greco, Canaletto and Stubbs. And two paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525-69) – 'The Massacre of the Innocents' and 'The Death of the Virgin.' Bruegel's works are full of movement and colour as he depicts the peasant life and landscapes of his day. The mood for 'The Death of the Virgin' is very different. It is a grisaille, painted in grey tones that suit the theme of life ending.

This month of May is often known as Mary's month, with May Queen celebrations and the feast of the Visitation on the 31st. On that day we give thanks for the beginning of new life in the womb of our Lady as she goes to share that good news with her cousin, Elizabeth. In Bruegel's painting in Upton House, it is the ending of her life that is the theme. Local villagers gather around her bed which is set in a typical Flemish room of the period. The source of this story is the Golden Legend. In the Gospels we hear of Mary at the Incarnation and Cana. We know Mary was with the disciples at the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and, as the Golden Legend relates, here they are with her at her death. John, the beloved disciple, seems to be dozing by the fireside, perhaps dreaming of that special moment at the crucifixion when he was entrusted with the care of the mother of Jesus.

Mary holds a candle and is praying as she looks at the crucifix on the pillow at the end of the bed. For all the figures gathered around, Bruegel has depicted the scene as a special, intimate moment, when she is about to be reunited with her son. We can think of Mary praying the Magnificat and Mary praying with the disciples at Pentecost. And prayer suffuses this scene as she commends her life to God's grace. The light that shines forth faintly around the bed will blaze out in resurrection glory as she is welcomed into the heavenly courts.

In the Orthodox Church this moment is known as the falling asleep of Mary. If so, it is a falling asleep to wake into the realm of life eternal. She whose words to the angels began the great gospel of salvation in Jesus; she who told the servants at Cana to do what Jesus asks; she who followed Jesus to the foot of the cross – now in this painting, she places her hope and trust in that same son who showed that death was not the end, but birth into new life. Mary's Yes to the angel is a lesson and example for all of us as we try to follow God's will. As we ponder this scene of Bruegel in her month of May, we can echo the angel's words to our Lady: 'Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you' – now and eternally.



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

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Wordsearch for May 2025

This year is the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Athanasius is the theologian behind that creed, and his feast day falls on 2nd May.

Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first great ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. There he saw the Council debate the Person of Christ. How was He the Son of God and also Man? Did He really exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

When the heresy of Arius, which taught that Christ was not divine, and not eternal, later threatened the church, Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding.

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism (lessening of the Person of Christ.)

Athanasius
Nicene
Creed
Theologian
Egypt

Council
Bishop
Debate
Christ
Person

Worship
Divine
Eternal
Begotten
God

From
Light
True
One

Substance
Devotion

Scholarship
Church
State
Exiled
Flight

Hiding
Triumph
Christology
Alexandria
Christology



Christian Aid Week – 11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.

More info at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

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 27th May

**Alan Jones, Chris Turnbull and
Susan Smale
"Summer Singalong"**



**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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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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.org.uk



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**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

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 (<i>Day off Tuesday</i>)		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	Verger Mr Jon Oliver 648 1754
Curate Revd Gaynor Kydd revdgaynor@thurstaston.org.uk	Organist Mr Craig Vickers 648 7405
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)	Bellringing - Tower Captain Dr Peter Robson 648 6691
Reader Emeritus Mr Alan Jones 648 1400	Flowers for both Churches Team Co-ordinator Dawn Rudd 648 0209
PCC Secretary Cheryl Goddard pcc-secretary@thurstaston.org.uk	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
PCC Treasurer Vacant pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk	Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16) Mrs Julie Deboorder 648 6331
Parish Safeguarding Officer Mr Chris Williams 07956621731 safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk or Freephone 0800 1 69 59 01
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office 648 8169	CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES
St Chad's Hall Booking hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk	Christian Aid Representative Vacant
	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.

May 2025 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sun 4th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's
Sun 11th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's
Sun 18th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's
Sun 25th May	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's with Junior Church
Sun 1st June	9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's 10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's



Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy- turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.