

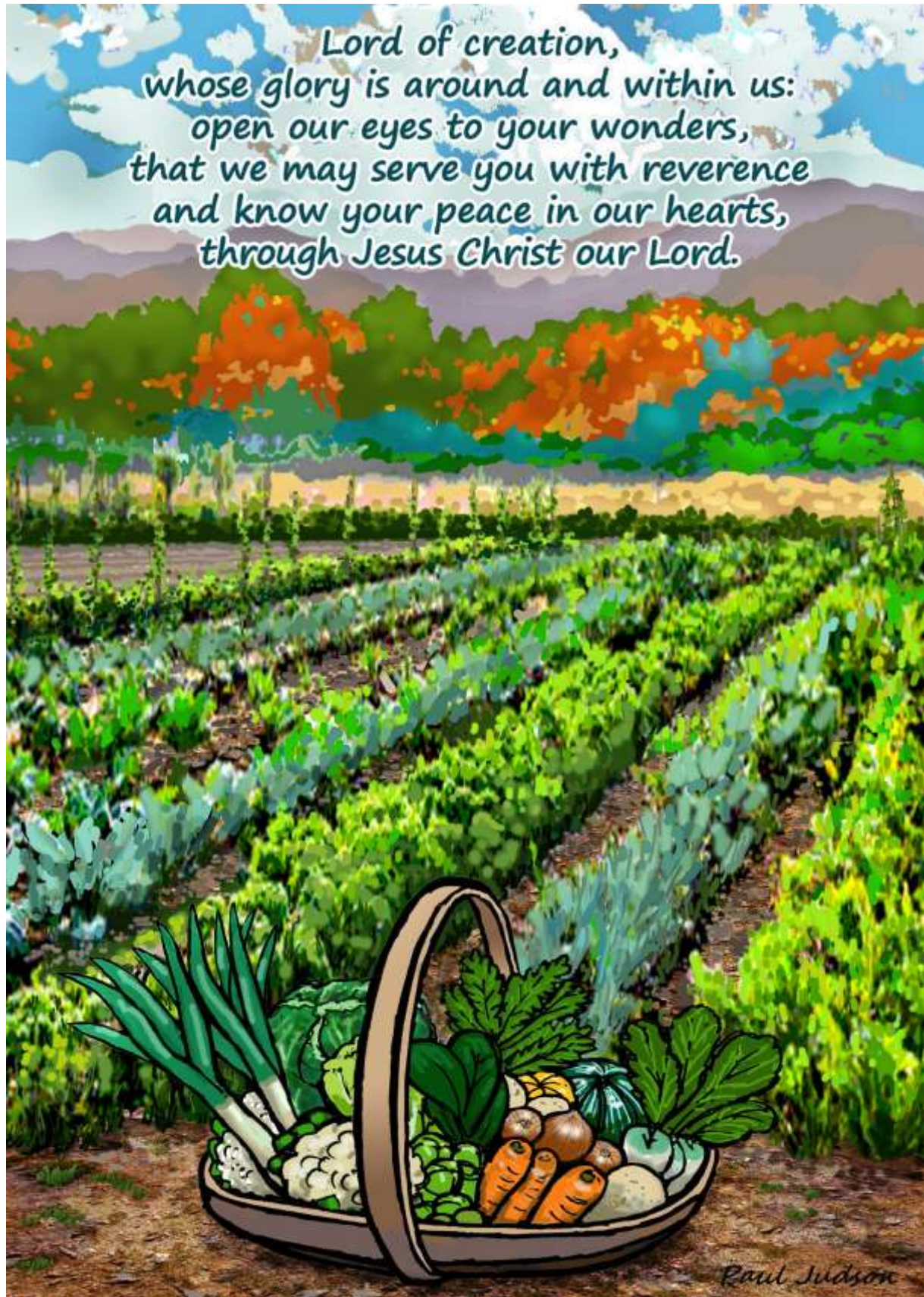
Crosstalk 60p

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



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

September 2025





**Alzheimer's
Society**

Together we are help & hope
for everyone living with dementia

Alzheimer's Society
Suite 2, 1st Floor East Wing,
Plumer House, Tailour Road,
Plymouth PL6 5FS

alzheimers.org.uk

11 August 2025

MASSIVE THANKS
TO EVERYONE WHO
SPONSORED ME

Ravi Jane

Dear Jane

Congratulations on completing Swim for Dementia 2025 - with the wonderful support from your friends, family and church congregation and for raising the sum of £1,214.00 for Alzheimer's Society.

We are very grateful for the fantastic amount of money you have raised. As you may know, we're the UK's leading care and research charity for people living with dementia. Without fundraisers like you, we could not continue to give help and hope to those who need it today and in the future. Please pass on our thanks to your family, friends and colleagues who have been so generous in supporting your fundraising.

Many thanks for everything you have done, you have been absolutely terrific, and we hope that you will continue to support in other ways in the future.

Best wishes,

Sandeep Shikotra
Supporter Care Manager

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.

Contents

2	<i>Alzheimer Thank You</i>	15	<i>Harvest Lunch</i>
4	<i>From your Rector</i>	16	<i>God in the Sciences</i>
5	<i>A message from Ailsa</i>	17	<i>God in the Arts</i>
6	<i>Holiday Destination Quiz Answers</i>	18	<i>Mouse Makes</i>
7	<i>Ruth's Reflections</i>	19	<i>Wordsearch</i>
8&9	<i>General Synod</i>	20	<i>Church Flowers / Tots and Tinies</i>
10	<i>Ancient Anglo-Saxon text</i>	21	<i>Warm Hub</i>
11	<i>The Nicene Creed - Part 4</i>	22	<i>Hall Hire/Facebook</i>
12	<i>What the Big Idea - 2 Corinthians</i>	23	<i>Irby Artists</i>
13	<i>Reflecting Faith - First Impressions</i>	24-26	<i>Advertisers</i>
14	<i>Photography From my Travels & Children's Society</i>	27	<i>Contacts List: Who's Who</i>
		28	<i>September Services</i>



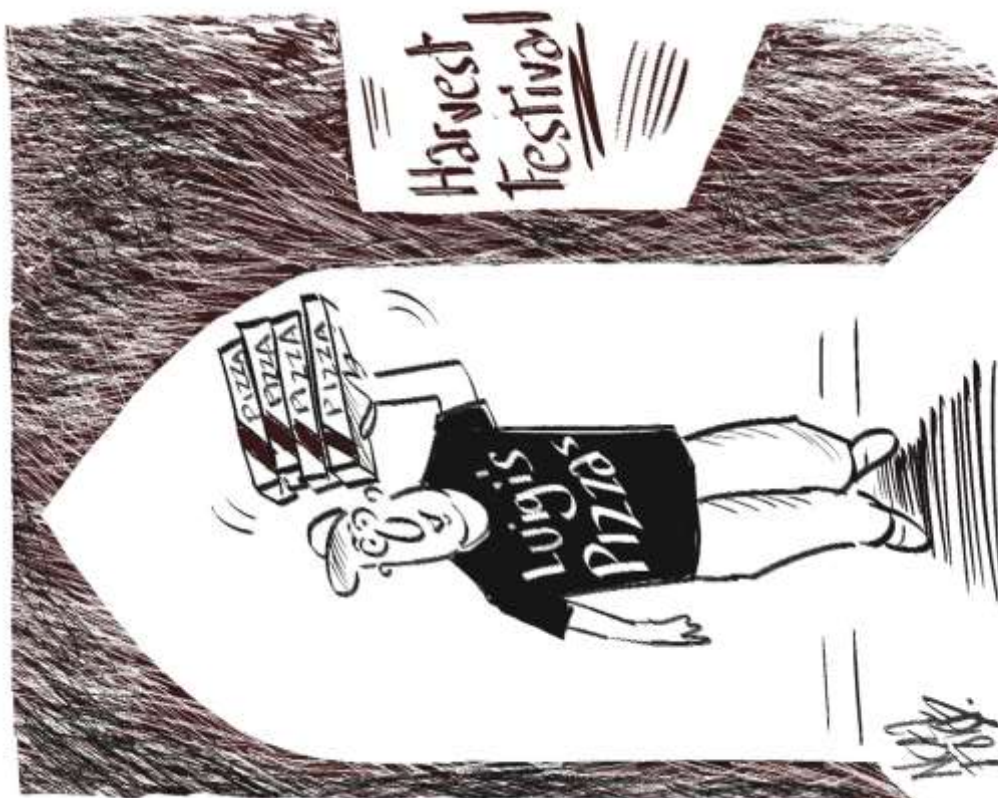
Baptisms

24th August Grace Burnet

Weddings

Funerals

8th August Eleanor Jones



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

From Your Rector

September is the time of year when we get back to our routines after the summer break. As whole-life disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference in our workplaces and schools, and with family and friends. As Paul writes:

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17).

'WHATEVER you do': God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn't be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which all of our lives are available to Him.

'Whatever YOU do': God wants to use us to share God's love as we serve others around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

'Whatever you DO': We work for God alone, in responding to God's love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do is hard, unrewarding, or even unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *'Who are you?'* He replied, *'I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.'* If we were asked the same question ourselves, how would we respond? As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September means learning from Jesus about how we might live for Him in the different places we find ourselves.

Revd Jane



A message from Ailsa



Honouring the Fallen: A Special Dedication in The Memorial Garden

Earlier last month I was privileged to be invited and to take part in and witness a deeply **moving moment of remembrance and honour**. In the quiet beauty of Elizabeth's memorial garden, a new plaque was dedicated in memory of the fallen — those whose lives were given in service and sacrifice. The act of commemoration and dedication was very poignant.

The plaque was commissioned by Elizabeth and her neighbours, whose deep commitment to remembrance and community has touched many lives. Her vision for a lasting tribute in the garden was brought to life through this simple yet powerful symbol of gratitude and reflection.

I led the dedication by explaining what we would be doing and why we were there, and it was delightful to be joined by a local veteran who assisted with the digging in of the plaque. We considered the cost of peace and the enduring hope that faith offers in times of loss.

The simple ceremony was also attended by members of the parish and other veterans and was a moment of unity — where generations stood together to remember, to give thanks, and to pray for peace.

I hope the plaque stands as a quiet witness to memory, honour, and hope — for Elizabeth and her neighbours, for the fallen, and for all who seek peace.



Smart car

A clergy friend of mine bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the readout, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."



Holiday Destination Quiz Answers from last month

During the school summer holidays, here's a few clues (some cryptic) to holiday destinations near and far.

1. What tropical island, east of Java, is a holiday destination of over 1 million tourists annually? **Bali**
2. Milk Containers? (5) **Cowes**
3. In which city would you find Copacabana beach? **Rio de Janeiro**
4. Wise bedfellow? (9) **Morecambe**
5. Which two cities did the original Orient Express travel between?
Paris and Istanbul
6. Mother's Entrance? (7) **Margate**
7. In which Asian countries would you spend the following currencies?
a) dong **Vietnam** b) rupiah **Indonesia** c) taka **Bangladesh** d) baht **Thailand**
8. Drinking ale in front of the posh hotel? (7) **Biarritz**
9. Which ancient kingdom of southern Portugal is now a popular holiday resort in the modern district of Faro? **Algarve**
10. A type of salad vegetable? (3) **Cos**
11. Which European country provides beach holidays on the islands of Krk, Rab, Pag and Brac? **Croatia**
12. The males species in front of the whale? (7) **Menorca**
13. Which lake is called the "jewel of the Italian lakes"? **Como**
14. BBBBBBBBBB ? (5) **Tenby**
15. What theme park at the Walt Disney World resort in Florida has areas called Future World and World Showcase? **Epcot Centre**
16. You'll need this when you change the lock? (7) **Newquay**
17. Which island in the S.E. Caribbean Sea is also known as the Island of Spice? **Grenada**
18. No! She did it of her own accord. (7) **Jamaica**
19. Where in Britain would you find a large waterwheel and popular tourist attraction called the Laxey Wheel? **Isle of Man**
20. Where the sun goes down on a fantastic horse? (6-5-4) **Weston-super-mare**

Ruth's Reflections

Hello again everyone. At last the weather is a bit cooler, which I much prefer. I think I am definitely a winter person.

Life here has settled back into its usual pattern since I returned from my holiday. My garden is looking quite good, I have been watering it regularly, with water from the water butt, I hasten to add. The roses have been glorious, but the lawn could do with some prolonged rain. The bench I ordered from Arley Show arrived and looks good, it is also comfortable to sit on.

We have been busy in the WI. The display we made for VE and VJ Day will be dismantled and its place taken by the scarecrow that we are currently making for the Scarecrow festival and will be in place at the end of the Village Hall drive from the end of the month. We have also been busy making things for our Autumn Fair, which will be held in the Village Hall on September 13th. quite a lot of stalls and tea/coffee and homemade cakes available.



We have been on a few more outings, although I had to miss one due to unforeseen circumstances! Last Monday we went to Derbyshire to a village called Taddington to see their annual Well Dressing. The Well Dressings were amazing, all handmade and entirely made of natural materials. The Church was also beautifully decorated and we had a talk about the process of putting on this event, a lot of work by some very dedicated and talented people who work very hard to keep this 300 year old tradition alive. They also served us a delicious lunch, as well as coffee and cake when we arrived.

Ringling has continued as usual and a couple of Sundays ago St Bartholomew's hosted a Ringling Competition and I am delighted to say our team came 3rd out of the 10 teams taking part. Thanks must go to Peter Robson for teaching us. It was a lovely afternoon and we took advantage of the time we were there to weed and deadhead the roses that we planted earlier this year. They have been flowering well and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come.

I think that is enough of my ramblings, so take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.



In July General Synod members gathered in York for their five-day summer group of sessions. Here are some of the things they discussed.

Pray for Armed Forces amid 'uncertain' times, General Synod hears

A senior Army officer has urged the Church to pray for and support members of the Armed Forces **“who put themselves in harm’s way to protect our nation”**.

In a recent address to the General Synod, Brigadier Jaish Mahan, Deputy Commander of the 1st UK Division – who has served in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan – spoke of how the world is in a **“complex place”** currently with conflict in Europe and in the Middle East, and several other **“unstable”** regions around the world.

He said the Army is **“hugely privileged”** to be supported by **“truly exceptional”** chaplains who, he said, are **“part of the fabric of our family”**.

“Their role is complex, from pastoral and spiritual, through to moral, often helping our leaders make the right decisions on a difficult day,” he said.

“My own personal experience of chaplains across my career and deployments has been that they have been truly exceptional people,” he added.

Brigadier Mahan, a practising Christian, asked members to pray for and support members of the Armed Forces who face dangers to protect the nation.

He drew a connection between the place of the Armed Forces and the Church which he said had **“always stood fast in times of crisis”**.

He said: **“First, please continue to pray for and support those men and women, and their families, who put themselves in harm’s way to protect our nation.**

“Secondly, please consider how you as the church leadership might support our nation, now in this time of uncertainty and should, heaven forbid, we find ourselves in a largescale conflict.

“The military, like the Church, is part of the fabric of our nation, fundamental pillars that hold together our house, our society.”

General Synod approves redress scheme for survivors of Church-related abuse

General Synod has recently given final approval to a comprehensive redress scheme for survivors of Church-related abuse.

Designed to address the profound harm caused by Church-related abuse, the new, independently administered scheme will offer not only financial redress but also formal apology, acknowledgment, therapeutic support, and other forms of bespoke redress.

The scheme has been developed over the past four years in response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), with over 160 policy decisions taken with survivor input. The Church Commissioners have already committed £150 million, underscoring the Church's dedication to its implementation and long-term sustainability.

General Synod calls for a funding of palliative care
Instead of 'unworkable and unsafe' assisted suicide law.

General Synod has called on the Government to improve funding for “desperately needed” palliative care, rather than putting vulnerable people at risk through “unworkable and unsafe” legislation to introduce assisted suicide.

Members of the Synod recently backed a call by the Bishop of London for the Government to increase funding for palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives in full until they die.

The debate heard speeches opposing a change in the law and backing increased funding for palliative care from a range of different Synod members including clergy who work in hospice care, NHS consultant surgeons, GPs and a psychiatrist.

Bishop Sarah Mullally, who is a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said she was “deeply concerned” by the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which would legalise assisted suicide, being brought by Kim Leadbeater Bill MP.

And she called on General Synod members to pray and to “engage” with peers in the House of Lords as the Bill goes to the House of Lords.

She told the Synod the Bill was “unsafe and unworkable” and would put vulnerable groups at risk, including terminally ill people who cannot access the end-of-life care they need.

“Successive governments have failed to reduce inequalities in health,” she said. “These inequalities mean that some people will have up to 20 fewer good years in health than others and certain groups face persistently worse health outcomes than others.

“These inequalities are also pronounced at the end of life, with only one in four people who need end-of-life care being able to access it, and there continues to be widespread misunderstanding and distrust of palliative care.

“It is into this context that the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is being proposed. So, with only a third of all hospice care being funded by the NHS, the proposals are accompanied by a government commitment to fund in full an assisted suicide service should the bill be passed.

“Rather than funding assisted dying, the Government should be funding palliative care and palliative care research to enable people to live their lives to the full until they die.”

Bishop Sarah said the Government’s own equality impact assessment recognised that some vulnerable people may choose an “assisted” death either because they cannot access the care that they need, or because they may feel pressure to end their lives due to the cost of the care.

With input from survivors and safeguarding professionals, it aims to embody a trauma-informed and person-centred approach.

Phil Johnson, a survivor of Church-related abuse and a member of the Redress Project Board, **welcomed the vote: “It will make a huge difference in the lives of people.”**

A key principle of the scheme is its independent administration, ensuring that decisions are made by trained assessors, free from influence by Church officials or bishops.

A public website opened in July, enabling prospective applicants to register their interest and receive advance notification of the scheme's official opening date once it is known. Please go to: www.redresscofe.org.

Ancient Anglo-Saxon text sparks 5,200 per cent Instagram follower surge

“Hlyst nu!”

That’s Old English for “Listen up!”

And that’s exactly what’s happening, as a video with an unexpected subject has captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world.

A video of Everyday Faith Editor Alexandra Zhirnova reading the Nicene Creed in Old English has **exploded across the Church of England’s digital channels, and beyond, racking up nearly half a million impressions and sparking a global wave of engagement.**

The video opens with a short introduction: “What you’re about to hear is the oldest English translation of the Nicene Creed, written in the year 992 by a monk called Ælfric. Ælfric lived a thousand years ago, but his world was not so different from ours. He believed that understanding the word of God would give people hope and guide them in their lives.”

Ælfric translated the Creed, along with parts of the Bible, from Latin into his native tongue; what we now call Old English. While much of the language is unfamiliar to modern ears, some words remain recognisable, and viewers are encouraged to listen closely and share any they spot.

The response to the video has been nothing short of extraordinary. Since its release, it has **generated over 400,000 impressions across the Church of England’s social media channels, with over 37,000 engagements including likes, comments and shares.**

On Instagram, the video has become the most saved piece of content the Church has ever posted, achieving the highest reach and the second-highest number of impressions of any video on the platform to date. Meanwhile, on TikTok, it has quickly climbed the ranks to become the second most viewed video, with the highest number of comments and shares ever recorded on the **Church’s account.**

Before joining the Church of England as Everyday Faith Editor, Alexandra completed a PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. Her academic work focused on Anglo-Saxon Christianity, with a particular interest in the role of women in the early Church - making her uniquely placed to bring this ancient text to life for a modern audience.

The video's success has also translated into a dramatic surge in followers. In just seven days, the Church saw a 583 per cent increase in new followers compared to the previous week. Instagram alone has seen a staggering 5,200 per cent jump, while TikTok followers have grown by 1,600 per cent. Overall video views across all platforms have risen by 90 per cent in the same period.

And reception has been overwhelmingly positive with the video reaching an international audience, and German, Dutch, and Scandinavian language speakers responding to appreciate how similar Old English sounds to their native languages.

This viral moment comes as the Church marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a **cornerstone of Christian belief since AD 325. So, if you haven’t already, why not have a listen and tell us how many words you recognise?**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/ancient-anglo-saxon-text-sparks-5200-cent-instagram-follower-surge>

The Nicene Creed part 4: The Ascended and Returning Jesus

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.

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the present and future ministry of Jesus.

'On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures': Jesus' resurrection is central to the Christian Faith, for as Paul says, without it *'our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* (1 Cor 15.14). The Resurrection demonstrates the triumph of Jesus over sin and death, as well as recognising the breaking in of the new creation and Jesus as Lord over creation. The Creed affirms that it also fulfils the promises of Scripture, as Jesus explains on the Road to Emmaus: *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:27).

'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father': In the Creed, the Ascension is given equal weight to the Cross and Resurrection, as Jesus is restored to the place of honour alongside His Father. With Christ seated on the throne, there is now *a man* on the throne who is also God the Son. In His absence on earth, Jesus sends His Spirit to live in believers, *'Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'* (Acts 2:33). He remembers His people, *'because He always lives to intercede for them'* (Hebrews 7.25).

'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end': Jesus will return in judgement as *'the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.'* (Acts 10:42). God will put all things right, punishing all evil and establishing His full reign over everything. In contrast to human judgment, which is always partial and subject to error, this final judgment will be utterly true and right, because God knows our hearts completely.

How much does the idea of judgment help make sense of the fate of evil in the world?

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament : 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor. 5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9, 12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be *"yoked together with unbelievers"* (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3, 10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul *suffered too much* to be a Spirit-filled apostle.

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: *'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'* (2 Cor 12:9).

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

MY GRACE
IS sufficient **FOR YOU**
FOR MY POWER
IS MADE Perfect in weakness

Reflecting Faith: : First Impressions

This series has recently been looking at the opening and closing words of most church services.

They usually go something like this:

(In) The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

(Out) Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

This month let's consider what's pretty much the very next thing we generally do / say at the start of the service.

We acknowledge how great God is: the recognition of His power and might, His goodness and mercy as well as His ability to give us never-ending love. This makes us realise how 'little' we are and how we have not been as loving and forgiving to others – and indeed to ourselves – as we could have been.

This is sometimes called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'.

In a way it mirrors the prodigal son when he returns to his father. The son had demanded his inheritance NOW and then rushes off to have a good time in all the 'usual' ways, followed by poverty and having to work in the lowliest of jobs just to keep alive. Eventually he realised that even the pigs in his father's house lived better than he did – so he decides he will humble himself and return home. He doesn't expect to go back to his previous standing, but rather to beg forgiveness and ask to be a servant.

It's the ending of this story that is so exciting. The prodigal's father is told of his wayward son's approach, and everyone is expecting him to turn away. Instead he rushes out to meet and greet him. Not waiting for an apology or a begging word, the father covers him in rich clothes, holding him (no doubt) smelly body close and just loving him.

And spiritually that is what God does to each of us, as we come deliberately and consciously into His presence and turn to Him. He holds us close and forgives us.

This month

Next time you go to a church service, take note of the words you are asked to say close to the beginning and the wording of 'forgiveness' said over you. Then having been forgiven, try not to stir whatever it was up again – God won't.

Photography

From My Travels Part Two



Roger Ellison - **Little Eye Photography**
takes us through his travels in the UK,
Wildlife, landscapes and the unusual!

7.30pm 18 September

Admission £2 includes refreshments

Prints and cards on sale

St Chad's Hall, Roslin Rd CH61 3UH

Enquiries Church Office 648 8169 office@thurstaston.org.uk



Saturday 11th October 2025

10am -12.30pm
at 'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road



All Welcome to a
COFFEE MORNING FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
with Shoe-B-Do, Cake Stall, Bring & Buy, (donations welcome) etc

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX COLLECTION

Can you please return any children's society boxes to Jean Heath for counting. They can be returned to St Chad's or St Bartholomew's, to the coffee morning or to Jean, 'Barnstables', 233 Irby Road, CH61 2XF.

If anyone would like them collecting, then please phone Jean on 648 6015 to arrange a convenient time.



HARVEST

This year we will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 28th September.

We will be making a collection for:-

- our local Foodbank
- Christian Aid

If you would like to help the Flower Team to decorate church for harvest festival, please contact Dawn Rudd (648 0209).

HARVEST DONATIONS

SHOPPING LIST 2025

- * Tinned Potatoes
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Tinned Vegetables
- * Cereal
- * Long Grain Rice
- * Jam
- * Deodorant
- * Coffee
- * Toothpaste

*We have plenty of BEANS & PASTA
Thank You!*



Any of these items for donation can be brought to either service or the Harvest Lunch. Thank You.

There will be a speaker from the Foodbank at the 10.30am Service.

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 28 Sept

12.30pm

Beef Stew and crusty roll, Veg Curry and rice

Cake and children's buffet

Hot drinks and squash (bring your own other drinks, glasses available)

Gluten free options for all courses.

Raffle, Family quiz and colouring competition and play area for children.

10.30 congregation to retire to extension whilst hall is set up.

£6 per Adult £4 per Child

**Tickets from Elizabeth Barton, Pat Neil,
Malcom Studholme and Mollie Rogers**

God in the Sciences : Big perspective, big questions

It was three years ago this summer that the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when ‘astronaut’ is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth’s atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It’s the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed ‘the overview effect’. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a ‘self-transcendent experience’.

Some people claim to have a ‘nothing but science’ approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn’t answer them. It’s important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

This article has been reproduced, with permission, from <https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/connectingwithculture/>



God in the Arts: : William Holman Hunt's Scapegoat

14th September in the Jewish calendar is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is a time of fasting and prayer, and its observance is regulated by Leviticus 16.

The Old Testament ritual involved cleansing the priesthood and the people when a scapegoat bearing the sins of the faithful was sent into the wilderness. Much of that ritual has lapsed, but the heart of Yom Kippur is prayer that the relationship of love and service between God and His people would be renewed and restored. The goat that was sent by relays into the desert had a scarlet cord – a reminder that 'though our sins be scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow.'

It is the subject of William Holman Hunt's famous painting that is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Port Sunlight. This village was founded by Lord Leverhulme in 1889 for the workers in his soap factory. It consists of gabled houses and Elizabethan style cottages which nestle side by side around the impressive domed art gallery containing a wealth of paintings and sculptures.

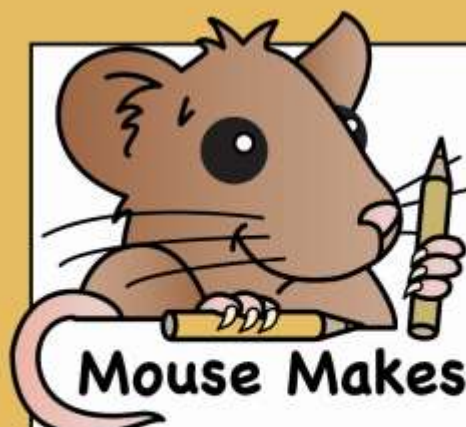


Work on 'The Scapegoat' began in 1854 and was completed two years later. Holman Hunt went to the Dead Sea to paint the goat in situ, following the Pre-Raphaelite principles of art embodying exact detail and accuracy in its subject matter. There is a photograph of the artist by his easel, a paintbrush in one hand and a rifle in the other. It was a time of political tension between Syria, Palestine and Turkey, which combined with the constant danger of hostile tribesmen in the area.

Undaunted, Holman Hunt sketched by the sea and then finished the details off in his rooms in Jerusalem. He described the scene as a 'beautifully arranged horrible wilderness.' In the distance are the hills of Edom against the sky, and in the foreground the solitary goat with the scarlet cord over its head. It is a bleak landscape, and on the frame surrounding the picture are the words from Leviticus: 'The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region, and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.'

At the time critics were not sure what to make of the painting, as there was no recognisable story or moral so beloved of the Victorians. Elegant ladies inquired if the artist was going to put in the rest of the flock, and one critic said it was an excellent portrait of Lord Stratford.

We look at the painting with the eyes of faith and realise that the scapegoat was sent over the river Kidron into the wilderness, the very same river our Lord and His disciples crossed to the Garden of Gethsemane which heralded the passion of Jesus. We can see this sad creature, isolated and alone, bearing the sins of God's ancient people, and think of Isaiah's words: 'He was despised and rejected by others.' A scapegoat in the Old Testament bearing the sins of the people: the Lamb of God in the new covenant who takes away the sin of the world.



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."

- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only GOD is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

Wordsearch for September 2025

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory
History
Son
Roman
Senator

Converted
Young
Estates
Monasteries
Generous

Poor
Monk
English
Slaves
Angles

Angles
Plague
Pope
Apostle
elected



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
Tuesday 23rd Emily Jones***

**Firewoman and
Hoylake Lifeboat Coxswain**



**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

billy hill curtains ltd.

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



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

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

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

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

Home visits available

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

billyhillcurtains@yahoo.com 
www.billyhillcurtains.co.uk 

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



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

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

TESCO



Argos

amazon.co.uk

John Lewis
johnlewis.com

M&S

Viking

ASDA

Expedia.co.uk

1. Sign up to easyfundraising

Got to

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**

easyfundraising
.org.uk



Visit: easyfundraising.org.uk/stbartholomewthurstastonandstchadirby



Gary Furlong
Tree and Hedge Services
07759284091

Accounts Un Limited

Patricia Brady ACMA

Personal Tax Returns .
 Company Accounts . VAT Returns

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

BIRKENHEAD MONUMENTAL LTD

QUALITY MEMORIALS, RENOVATIONS,
 ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS ETC.

CALL FOR FULL COLOUR BROCHURE,
 PERSONAL ATTENTION OFFERED.

Telephone: 0151 608 2578

IRBY MOTOR COMPANY

CARS BOUGHT AND SOLD
 SERVICE & REPAIR - FREE LOAN CAR

SERVICE: 0151 648 0200

SALES: 0151 648 5488

R N I B

See differently



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

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

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

St Chad's Church Office on 0151 648 8169 or
E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk

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 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 Junior Church (3-10) and Seniors (11-16) Mrs Julie Deboorder 07599286893
PCC Treasurer Vacant pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk	Rainbows/Brownies/Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk or Freephone 0800 1 69 59 01
Parish Safeguarding Officer Mr Chris Williams 07956621731 safeguarding@thurstaston.org.uk	CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES Christian Aid Representative Vacant
Electoral Roll c/o Church Office 648 8169	Children's Society Representative Mrs Jean Heath 648 6015
St Chad's Hall Booking hallbookings@thurstaston.org.uk	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.

September 2025 Services

EVERY Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chads

Sun 7th September 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Sun 14th September 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am All Age Service at St Chad's

Sun 21st September 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Morning Worship at St Bartholomew's

Sun 28th September 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Chad's
with Junior Church



Sun 5th October 9.00am BCP Communion at St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion at St Bartholomew's

Prayer for September 2025

Heavenly Father, September is the month of new starts for so many. New starts can be exciting, but they can also be daunting. We don't always know what to expect and sometimes we feel as if we are on our own in a strange new place, or situation.

Help us to know that, as your people, we are never alone. You promised, through Jesus, to be with us always and You gave us Your Holy Spirit to empower us.

In some ways every day is a new start – a new gift from You. As we unwrap the gift of each new day, this September, encourage us to receive it confidently and expectantly. Help us to know that we can do all things, through Christ Jesus, who strengthens us.

We can! In Jesus' name, Amen.