

# Crosstalk

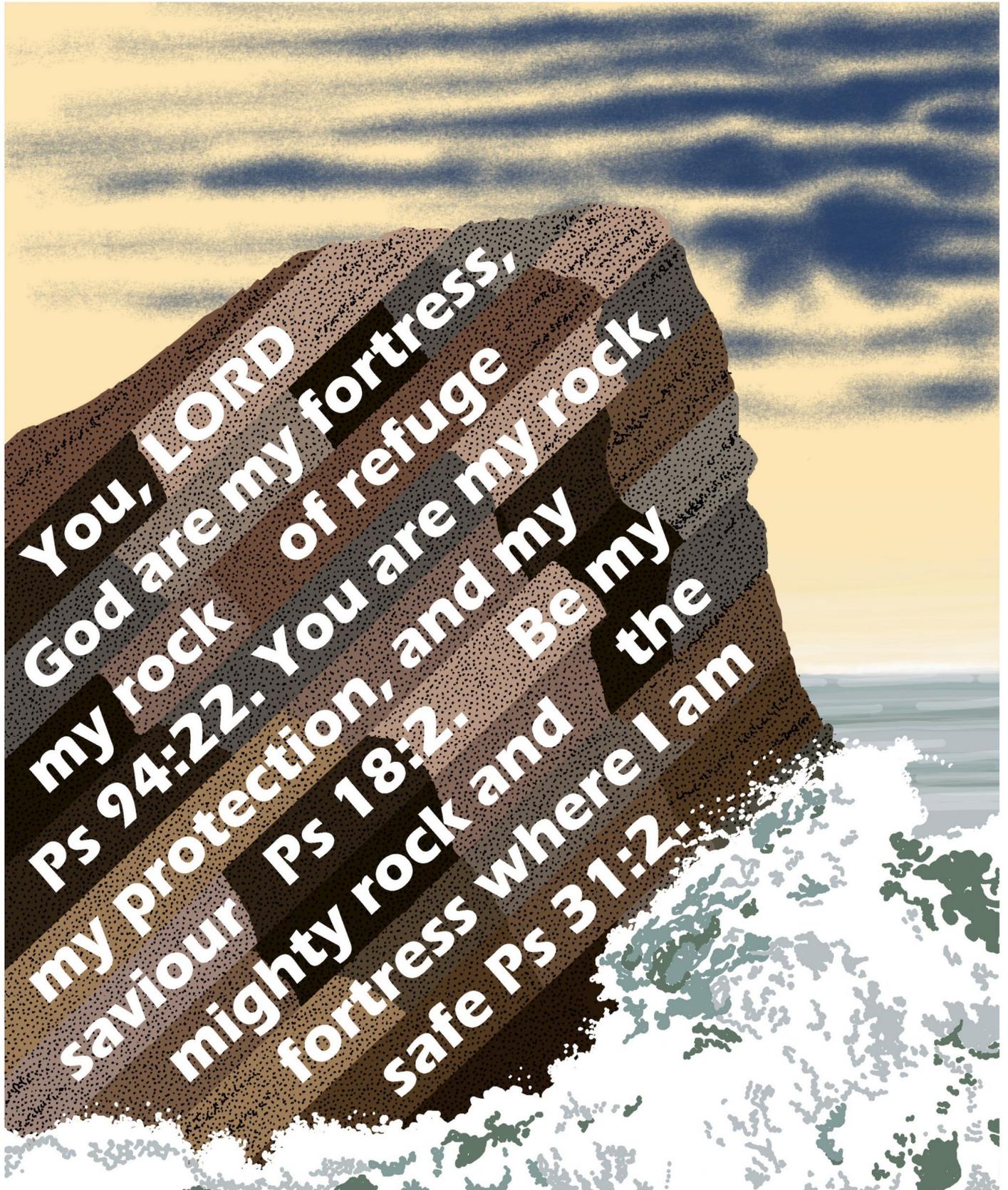
60p



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

August 2020





Noah and Ned baptized in a socially distanced service on 26th July

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.

**"Your magazine needs you"**

Please send your contributions  
(eg. Poems, Prayers, interesting articles etc.)  
to [office@thurstaston.org.uk](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)  
no later than 21st August

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## Diary Dates

The PCC are currently working on risk assessments and practicalities required to re-open our buildings. Please be patient.

See the back cover of this magazine for more information.

## *From the Registers*

### *Baptissms*

*We welcome into God's family*

*26th July*

*Noah William Taylor*

*Ned Ethan Taylor*

*(photo on page 2)*

### *Funerals*

*We commend to God's eternal care*

*15th July*

*Cecil Jones*

## From Your Rector

*'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit *'Turn! Turn! Turn!'* by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.'* The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: *'He has made everything beautiful in its time.'*

The verse goes on to say that God *'has also set eternity in the human heart.'* This means that we all have an in-built sense that there's more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity.

Secondly, we accept that there is lots in the current *'season'* where it's difficult to know what God is doing: *'no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.'* However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity.

Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

*'You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.'* (St Augustine).

God Bless

*Rev'd Jane*

## Reflected Faith: a 'Prayer Notebook' by Revd Dr Jo White

I recall when I was 14 years old going to stay on my own with my French cousins in the South of France, for three weeks during the summer holidays. It was a brilliant time which I thoroughly enjoyed. There was a sense of 'freedom' being away from close family and the ability to ride a 'moped' legally into the town and surrounding area! I wished it could have lasted much longer.

However, as the homeward flight crossed over the last of the English Channel and British land came into sight, I found myself unexpectedly crying.

I suspect that when the time comes for us to return to collective worship in our buildings that will happen for many of us.

It's not that we can put a finger on one specific aspect or another of our gatherings or buildings that we so sorely miss – but rather it's all those parts making up the whole.

One thing that helps me at the moment, is having a Prayer Notebook handy.

It sounds very grand and holy, but it is just jottings of issues, places and people who are in the news or who have asked for prayer. At the back I make a jotting of phrases or parts of a reading or prayer that resonated with me at that moment.

It helps me to be, as well as feel, a part of the body of church as I take my place in praying and it also encourages me to look out for the ways that Christ feeds me during these strangest of times.

*This month: Find an unused notebook or fold a few pages together to make one. Cut the edges of the pages like an address book and mark each with: places, people in need, family, friends, issues, celebrations, words, etc. Whatever works for you - as large or as little as you like.*

*Make a note of news items, things people say in your conversations, comments on what you read and so on. You don't have to read or write in it every day, just when you notice something that 'grips' you. Allow God's Holy Spirit to bring you His peace through the process and enable you to pass that on to others.*



**The Rev Dr Jo White** has worked in social care and education since before she left secondary school, and for the last 15 years has done this as a Parish Priest in the Church of England. Jo has written articles in a various publications; both secular and spiritual, and is co-editor on two books about pilgrimage. Jo leads quiet days, retreats and time away for all those with any faith or none. Following her recent retirement from full-time ministry Jo is looking forward to developing her passion for finding more ways to help people recognise and connect with the God who is with us and for us and everywhere.

## Becoming a foster mum to 65 baby trees

It all happened pretty quick, unlike the other type of fostering! It started with an email to Rev Jane by a desperate member of the congregation, Liz, who was working with the council to fight climate change by planting 100's that they all had to be and were destined for last Autumn was too wet them from being planted kept any longer and them... 😞



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

of trees. The tragedy was taken out of cold storage the shredder, because and COVID prevented now. They couldn't be there was no-one to plant

Liz had run out of space, pots and compost and so had all her colleagues and friends.

We were asked if would like any, or if we could foster them.

The foster bit puzzled me at first, but then she explained it was to plant in pots or spare garden space until Autumn or when COVID rules are stepped down, then they could go back and be transferred to public spaces etc.

**LUCKY** for those trees St Chads already had an agreed plan to buy trees from Woodlands Trust for the Church garden, but because of COVID we hadn't ordered them! **Yay!**

**BUT** we only needed 45 trees, there was tons more to **save!**

"Action Stations" I got a plea out to everyone via Rev Jane and a pile of people volunteered straight away and to take 30 each, which was amazing **XXX**

Much compost was purchased, and pots made available, buckets and old fence paint tubs were converted, plants evicted from pots and planted out, plants shifted to different spots!

**Operation plant trees!**

**Latest news is I think we have homed them all !!.... :)**

I later discovered that Liz was in fact Councillor Liz Grey for Bidston and St James B'head, Cabinet member for **Environment and Climate Change** and An Accredited **Climate Change Teacher**

And in partnership with WBC against Climate change on Wirral.

Some pictures of my baby Oak, Rowan, Larch, Hazel, Birch and Beech trees



**Tree Foster mum Julie DeBoorder XXX**

### What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."



*Well, things are supposedly becoming easier with the easing of lockdown, but still far from our previous “normal”. I, personally, found it easier when we were in strict lockdown, when you knew what you could or could not do. Also because most people were in the same boat there was a feeling of a shared communal spirit. Now, however, I find myself thinking “Should I, could I or is it safe to go somewhere?” I tend to err on the side of caution unless I have to go to something important. Several other people have also said the same thing. I have had several people to my house, mainly socially distanced in the garden, but that is a situation of which I feel in control!*

*I am still doing a lot of gardening, weather permitting, my apple and pear trees are doing well and I have had a glut of strawberries. I am a bit worried about my tomatoes, they are stubbornly refusing to turn red!*

*I have seen more of my family, even let them into the house, but still maintaining the correct distance between us, so still no hugs. My youngest daughter and her husband moved house a couple of weeks ago and it was lovely to be able to go and see where they are now living.*

*I have had two holidays cancelled, one to France with my sister and friends and one to Norfolk on an annual bell ringing trip. We do ring a lot on the trip but it is also lovely to meet up with friends from all over the country.*

*I am still spending a lot of time on my laptop, learning how to enhance and improve photographs. On line mentoring is marvellous. I am also having to learn how to take better photographs rather than snapshots! I have entered some online competitions, but not had any luck so far.*



*Anxiety is still an on-going feature of this confusing time. It feels as if there is no end to this situation, and I know I am not the only one who feels like this. Because of this my prayer/ conversations with God are definitely ongoing.*

*Ruth Eden*

## Getting to know next door

This time last year, how well did you know your neighbours? Around one in five of us have since admitted that we had never even spoken to them.

What a difference a pandemic makes. Now twice as many of us have talked to our neighbours in the past week as compared with last year. A further one in three of us have also done something to help a neighbour. This works out to 33 million people having talked to a neighbour in the past week, and 15 million of them even helping one during lockdown.



Seven in 10 of us also said that people in our area are now more likely to stop for a chat, and three quarters of us want their new-found friendliness to continue.

The survey was commissioned for the Big Lunch, a National Lottery-supported initiative from the Eden Project.

## The Lockdown Lifts

There's life in the town!  
No longer 'locked down'!  
The people stroll out in the sun  
The majestic trees  
Sway in the light breeze  
Like they wanted to join in the fun!

Like light after dark!  
We can walk in the park!  
Buy our tea, and sit out on the grass!  
We can chat to our friends  
As our loneliness ends  
And we smile at the strangers we pass!

Yes there are still queues  
Which cease to amuse  
But things are no longer so black!  
As they sing in that song -  
You miss what is gone,  
But it's great when at last it comes back!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

## Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick."

# Pond Adventures

Choose design and position it, google how to fit a pond!



Play with rockery



Get willing assistant to do digging, put sand in hole, check level with spirit level, get it to match preformed shape. Push sand down the gaps and run water down gaps to make sand settle.



Add prewashed cobbles and arrange elsewhere creating beach for creature access. Fill up with rain water if possible.



Plant up, putting plants to give shade next to pond edges

Add any favourite stones or shells or special touches.





Pop some pond weed in to oxygenate water, I was lucky to be given the weed plus some pond plants with a couple of resident water snails, used extra flat bits of slate or such to hide liner and I had some large sandstone from elsewhere in my garden

Enjoy first visitors !

One very proud pond owner, very lucky to have a wonderful assistant Godson who makes dreams come true!

**Julie DeBoorder**



*Canon David Winter is feeling very solitary just now...*

### **THE WAY I SEE IT: What have you missed most during lockdown?**

It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things - going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was TOUCH. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

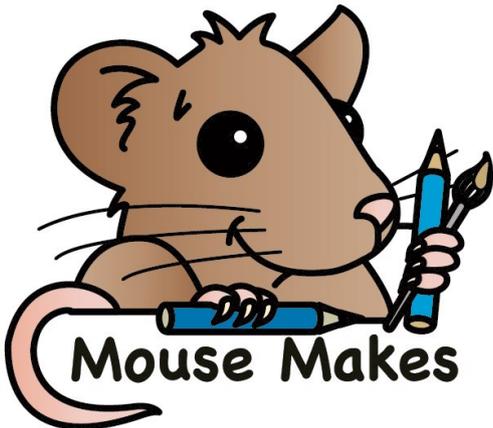
That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch. The strong hands of the midwife, mother's excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy's face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma, your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!

**The Revd Canon David Winter** has had four working lives: as a teacher, journalist, BBC producer (radio and television and then Head of Religious Broadcasting) and finally as a parish priest in the Church of England. Now retired, he lives in Berkshire, writes endlessly, though his 44th book, *Heaven's Morning (Rethinking our Destination)* will, he says, be his last. But he still does a diary column and reviews books for the 'Church Times'. He contributed to Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' for twenty years, until faced with the winter of 2013 he decided to stop



The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.

*"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will thank you: I will praise you for ever and ever."*

Psalm 145:1-2

### Glory to God



*"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."*

Psalm 19:1

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



*"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."* Psalm 119:105

### God's World

*"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."*

Psalm 24:1



### Praise the Lord!

*"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!"*

Psalm 150:6



### Give thanks!

*"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. I will give You thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."*

Psalm 63:3-4



## **'He gave us eyes to see them': The Transfiguration – beholding the Glory**

TQ – Tingle Quotient – is the name given to those things that can produce a tingle down the spine or a frisson of excitement. It could be a piece of music or the sight of an evening sunset at sea. We look, we hear, and our sense of wonder as something sublime unfolds before us produces delight and awe. We see a hint of glory that can even lead us to worship.

I think the monk who lived in cell no 6 at the Dominican convent of San Marco in Florence must have felt that when he entered his room and saw for the first time the fresco of the Transfiguration that Fra Angelico had painted. I am sure the sight would have stopped him in his tracks, just as Peter, James and John were stopped in their tracks as they beheld their Lord transfigured before them on the mount.

From 1436 Fra Angelico painted a whole series of frescoes for the convent from the High Altar to the Chapter House to the cells of the monks. Here in cell no 6 there is a restrained simplicity and directness about the Transfiguration. One of the three disciples looks out towards us, while the other two are caught up in wonder and awe as they look on Jesus with the faces of Moses and Elijah on either side.

Here Fra Angelico is not seeking to impress a wealthy patron: he is providing a focus for devotion and prayer for the monks of his community. The scene speaks to us of that sense of awe and reverence.

On August 6 we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration. The Gospel accounts relate that special moment of revelation to the inner group of disciples. The glory shown to them evoked a sense of wonder and marvel, but also a sense of loss. For the glory proved elusive and just out of human reach. The moment of revelation passed, and the disciples had to go down the mount again to meet the crying needs of the world, all but forgotten when they were with their Lord on the mountain top.

The monk in his cell would ponder the glory of Fra Angelico's fresco, knowing that he would be called from his cell to take up his monastic duties. But the painting would go with him to sustain and nurture his life. It is the same with us: we have moments of glory. But they pass, and we must return to our daily lives. As we look on this month's painting, we sense that glory and wonder which can sustain us through life. As Thomas Jones says in his poem on this episode:

*Like a pearl we hold  
Close to our hearts  
what we have heard and seen.*



## God in the Sciences

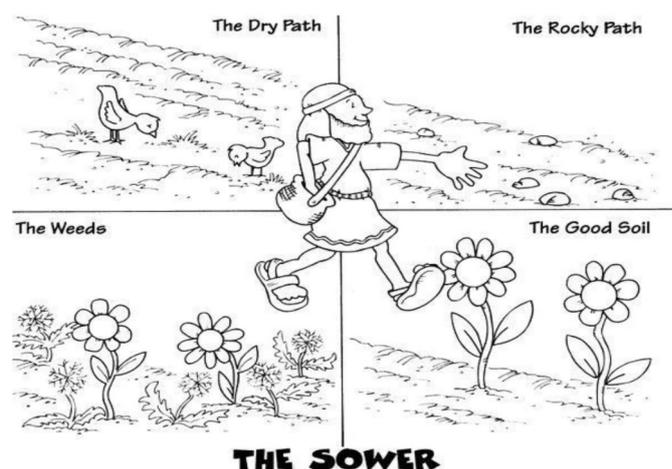
### Parable: The Strength of a Seed

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

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

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

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



# Walk While You Can

Hi, this is Su Grainger, you may remember me from your SOSO choir a few years ago. I miss those sessions but hope you are all still singing and enjoying how it makes you feel.



Some of you knew I was writing and I am so pleased to share with you that I have now finished and published my book "Walk While You Can"

## Reviews

*Christina*

***If you want something moving, funny, sad, but overall, a story of hope, growth, and love, this is the book for you. It's written beautifully and tells a very real story that most people will never experience. I nearly finished it in one sitting, almost considered skipping sleep to get to the end! As the title says, it's an inspirational story, full of ups and downs and written in an engaging prose that keeps you wanting more. It sparks emotion in a way few stories can. 10/10.***

*Julie*

Well worth a read. So emotive I couldn't put book down. So many emotions. Su tells her story from the heart and the reader can truly feel what she has experienced in her life so far. I have heard Su sing and entertain and her beautiful personality can be felt through reading her story. Now is your time to shine.

*Veronica*

**I have just finished reading your book.**

**Can I just say,**

**I have read lots of books through the years,**

**But your book is the first one that has reduced me to tears.**

**Some parts of your life story,**

**I felt like you were writing about me! .....**

**You can view and purchase my book on this site**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B089TWS9WC/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_api\\_i\\_KVU-EbKVCNJAM](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B089TWS9WC/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_i_KVU-EbKVCNJAM)

## The Transfiguration

August is a quiet month as far as the Church calendar is concerned, except that during the 11<sup>th</sup> century, some church fathers slipped in an important day - the Transfiguration of Jesus, when His disciples were given just a glimpse of His future glory (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9).

Jesus took Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. This is often identified as either Mount Tabor (there is a great church up there today), or one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which overlook Caesarea Philippi. High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before His disciples. His face began to shine as the sun, His garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with Him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples, and a divine Voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was His beloved son, whom the disciples should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our *listening* to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? *Why Moses and Elijah?* Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

Transfiguration  
 Jesus  
 mountain  
 Tabor  
 Hermon  
 Caesarea  
 Philippi  
 high  
 Shine  
 Face  
 Cloud  
 Transformed  
 White  
 Dazzling  
 Elijah  
 Moses  
 Dwelling  
 Mankind  
 Law  
 Prophets  
 Peter  
 James  
 John  
 Fear  
 Glory

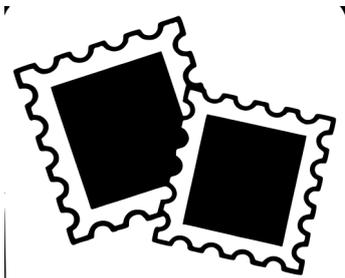




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throughout the year for RDA (Riding for the Disabled).

There is a box in St Chad's foyer and an envelope at the back of St Bart's.



*Where was the social distancing?*



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.

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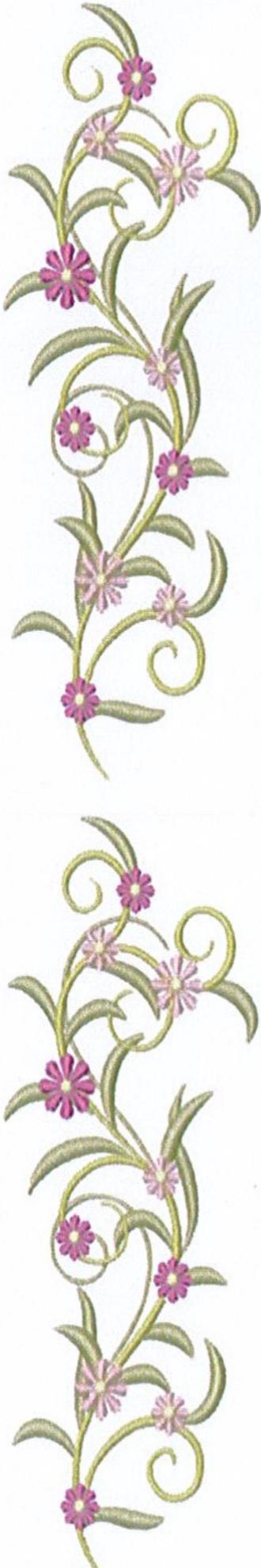
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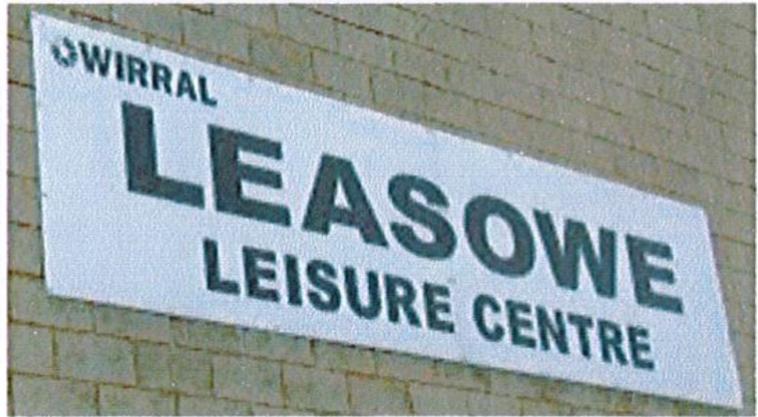
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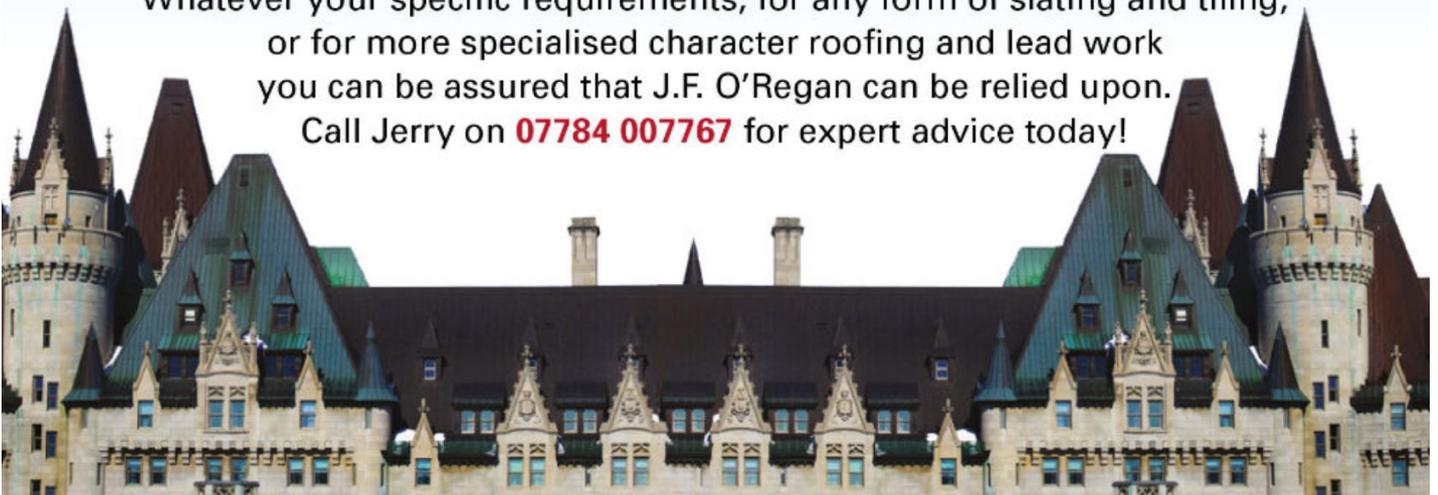
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## Contacts

<b>Churchwarden</b> Mrs Liz Whitehead	<b>606 9083</b>	<b>Evening Mothers' Union (EMU)</b> Mrs Chris Rostock (Secretary)	<b>6481112</b>
<b>Reader</b> Mr Alan Jones	<b>648 1400</b>	<b>Flower Guild (St Bartholomew's)</b> Mrs Elaine Jones	<b>648 1400</b>
<b>Retired Clergy</b>		<b>Flower Guild (St Chad's)</b> Mrs Dawn Rudd	<b>648 0209</b>
Revd David Trollope	<b>342 2648</b>	<b>Cleaning Guild (St Bartholomew's)</b> Mrs June Bibby	<b>678 8124</b>
Revd Ray Dent	<b>792 2022</b>	<b>Cleaning Guild (St Chad's)</b> Mrs Leslie Worrall	<b>648 5590</b>
Revd Margaret Fletcher	<b>648 1025</b>	<b>Bellringers Tower Captain</b> Dr Peter Robson	<b>648 6691</b>
<b>PCC Secretary</b> Mr Graham Barley	<b>648 1867</b>		
<b>PCC Treasurer</b> Mr Kevin Marley <a href="mailto:pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk">pcc-treasurer@thurstaston.org.uk</a>			
<b>Verger</b> Mr Jon Oliver	<b>648 1754</b>		
<b>Organist</b> Mr Craig Vickers	<b>648 7405</b>		
<b>Electoral Roll</b> c/o Church Office	<b>648 8169</b>		
<b>St Chad's Hall Booking Secretary</b> Mrs Jean Heath	<b>648 6015</b>		

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

<b>Junior Church</b> Mrs Julie Deboorder	<b>648 6331</b>
<b>Seniors/Youth (11-16)</b> Mrs Janet Trigg	<b>648 8821</b>
<b>Rainbows/Brownies/Guides</b> www.girlguiding.org.uk or Freephone	<b>0800 1 69 59 01</b>

### CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

<b>Christian Aid Representative</b> Vacant	
<b>Children's Society Representative</b> Mrs Jean Heath	<b>648 6015</b>
<b>Leprosy Mission Representative</b> Mrs Pat Hulme	<b>538 1953</b>
<b>Adoption Society Representative</b> Mrs Chris Rostock	<b>648 1112</b>

## Church Remains Online for the time being

We are not yet ready to open. Please be patient. Safety of everyone is our first priority.

The PCC is currently working through over 60 pages of documentation from the Church of England regarding what is required before we can open for services. We are looking into whether we need a booking system for services (which most churches who have opened now have). We are looking at how we can safely "steward" one way systems, use of anti-bac etc etc. We are looking at how we can quarantine service books after use - or whether to use only the screen .... We are looking at how we maintain online as well as in church - because initially there will be more people staying at home than there will coming to church - simply because of how few people we will be able to get in the buildings. We are looking at how we can continue the ministry of baptisms/weddings/funerals alongside Sunday services, when we have to quarantine the building for 72 hours between services. We cannot re-open until all of these things have been properly thought through and a risk assessment has been agreed by the PCC.

Church will feel very different when we return. We will not be able to greet each other in the ways we are used to as we need to maintain social distancing at all times. We will not be able to sing. We may need to tell you where to sit e.g. filling up from the front. Initially we may only have services of Morning Prayer. Communion (if we can work through the complexities) will be very different - it maybe that the priest will come to you rather than you to the communion rail, and as before lockdown you will only be able to receive bread.

Many churches, including plenty in our deanery, are using July and August to plan and prepare for opening in September. Please be assured that your PCC are working very hard to make difficult decisions and we will let you know as soon as we can when we are ready to re-open the buildings for services.

In the meantime, be assured that we will continue to provide resources for you to use at home and we will continue to upload a weekly sermon to facebook.

### **Baptisms and Weddings**

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

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

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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