

The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad Thurstaston and Irby 17th January 2021 – Epiphany 2



Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for local businesses - both those that continue to serve our community and those forced to be closed throughout lockdown.

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers

For our Church:

Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode.

For the world:

Please continue to for countries world-wide struggling with the effects of Covid pandemic

Please pray for America as tensions heighten around the presidential election outcome.

For the Bereaved:

Please pray for the family and friends of Audrey Percival , Mary Wishart and Fred Halifax.

For the Sick:

Please pray for Lily Ormsby and continue to pray for Molly (aged 2), Anna Drysdale, Audrey Fernyhough, Julie Davies, Sue Maggs (Chris Rostock's friend), Karen Jones (niece of Dot Turner) and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

Your views on our future bishops

The Diocese of Chester has been given permission to appoint to the Sees of Birkenhead and Stockport. Bishop Mark is encouraging people to complete a short survey which is seeking views and comments from individuals in the diocese about the two bishop posts.

To complete the survey go to:-

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/your-views-on-future-bishops.php>

A prayer for the discernment process

Almighty God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom
and calls us to follow him.
Guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,
to show humility, love and mercy as we seek your Kingdom.
We pray for those you are calling
to be the next bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead
and for those discerning that call.
Lead and strengthen them to answer your call;
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

³ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalm 139

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ♦
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ♦
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ♦
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before ♦
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ♦
so high that I cannot attain it.

Planned Giving Scheme.

Chris Turnbull is currently preparing the annual gift aid claim for Thurstaston PCC - St Chad's and St Bartholomew's churches. Can you please let him know as soon as possible whether you are no longer eligible to make donations under the gift aid rules if you had previously signed a Thurstaston PCC gift aid declaration form. Also if you believe that you may now be eligible to make a gift aid declaration can you let him know as soon as possible. You are eligible if you pay sufficient UK tax to cover the 25% of their total charitable donations that he claims back from HMRC. e.g. if for example during the year you make £1000 total charitable donations you would need to pay £250 in UK tax at least.

Chris can be contacted by email at turnbullcj@gmail.com, or phone 0151 625 0089 or post to Springfield, Pinetree Drive, Wirral CH48 8AT.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Revelations 5:1-10

⁵ Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits^l of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.
¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign^l on the earth."

GOSPEL READING: John 1:43-51

All: Glory to you, O Lord

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."
⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.
"Come and see," said Philip.
⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."
⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.
Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."
⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."
⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe^l because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

All: Praise to you, O Christ

PCC Decision for Church to go digital ONLY for the time being

Following the PCC Meeting 11.01.21 - This formal resolution has been agreed by the Bishop

The Rector and the parochial church council of Thurstaston and Irby acting jointly request that the bishop authorise dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11 and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 on a regular basis until latest Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3.

The reason for requesting the dispensation is that in the light of the Government's guidance on preventing the spread of Coronavirus, there is no church in the benefice which can safely be used for public worship and there is no reasonable prospect of any church in the benefice being made safe for that purpose until transmission rates are much lower and the vaccination programme has begun to take effect.

We will continue to provide a sermon via facebook, the weekly emails (including notice sheet, sermon, family together at home resource and other bits and bobs), and Evening Prayer via Zoom. We are also introducing a Wednesday morning Zoom - bring your coffee and chat meeting - 10.15-11.00ish for anyone that would be interested in seeing others and chatting.

We would encourage you again to connect with each other and use the phone contact groups from Lock down number 1. If you were not in a phone contact group back then and would like to be in one now, just let Revd Jane know and she'll get you linked up with some other folk.

Revd Jane is always available to you and please don't hesitate to pick up a phone and have a chat - about anything - even if you are just bored and need someone else to speak to.

Stay safe and please pray for the NHS who are under so much pressure in these challenging days.



Heart Bomb your home, street or neighbourhood and let everyone know they are LOVED!

Pin a note on the neighbours door, add hearts to trees, set up a community love board, decorate windows.



SHARE the love, LIKE the love and let's get everyone involved.
Let's spread LOVE around the world.

**Let's do this in Irby and Thurstaston for St Valentine's Day
Sunday 14th February 2021**

**Get thinking about how you could do this in your street,
our village, our church grounds and get creating those hearts now,
so we are ready for the whole parish to be covered with God's love**