

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad  
Thurstaston and Irby  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 - Epiphany 4 , World Leprosy Day**



<p><b>Collect</b> God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	<p><b>Post-Communion Prayer</b> Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen</p>
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**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  
Please pray for all victims of domestic abuse

**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

**For the Bereaved:**  
Please pray for the family and friends of Lil Ormsby (Funeral 10th Feb - see below), and John Allen

**For the Sick:**  
Please pray for Molly (aged 2), 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.  
Anna Drysdale - now home following treatment in US, please continue to pray for full healing. To follow Anna's story go to <https://www.facebook.com/goteamanna/>

**Lil Ormsby's Funeral - Wednesday 10th Feb**  
Most of Lil's large extended family will not be able to be at church, so out of respect for the family, we would urge anyone who wishes to take part in this service to do so via the livestream from Landican (which will be a full service - not just the committal)  
**Rev'd Jane can send you the details on request.**

**A prayer for the discernment process  
Appointment new bishops**

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.

**0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**  
A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 47:1-12**

**47** The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

<sup>3</sup> As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup> He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup> He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. <sup>6</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup> When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. <sup>8</sup> He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. <sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. <sup>10</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. <sup>11</sup> But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. <sup>12</sup> Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 John 4:7-19**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

## Psalm 33

- 1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, ♦  
for it is good for the just to sing praises.
- 2 Praise the Lord with the lyre; ♦  
on the ten-stringed harp sing his praise.
- 3 Sing for him a new song; ♦  
play skilfully, with shouts of praise.
- 4 For the word of the Lord is true ♦  
and all his works are sure.
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice; ♦  
the earth is full of the loving-kindness of the Lord.
- 6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made ♦  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
- 7 He gathers up the waters of the sea as in a waterskin ♦  
and lays up the deep in his treasury.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; ♦  
stand in awe of him, all who dwell in the world.
- 9 For he spoke, and it was done; ♦  
he commanded, and it stood fast.
- 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to naught; ♦  
he frustrates the designs of the peoples.
- 11 But the counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever ♦  
and the designs of his heart from generation to generation.
- 12 Happy the nation whose God is the Lord ♦  
and the people he has chosen for his own.
- 13 The Lord looks down from heaven ♦  
and beholds all the children of earth.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze ♦  
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them ♦  
and understands all their works.
- 16 No king is saved by the might of his host; ♦  
no warrior delivered by his great strength.
- 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; ♦  
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the Lord  
is upon those who fear him, ♦  
on those who wait in hope for his steadfast love,
- 19 To deliver their soul from death ♦  
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits longingly for the Lord; ♦  
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him; ♦  
in his holy name have we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, ♦  
as we have set our hope on you.

## GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:21-28

### All: Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

<sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

## Irby Pharmacy is a safe space

**How to access a Safe Space**  
• Walk into any participating pharmacy in the UK.

• Ask at the healthcare counter to use their Safe Space.

• A pharmacist will show you to the Safe Space. Which will be the consultancy room.

• Once inside, you will find displayed specialist domestic abuse support information for you to access, to make that call or access Bright Sky safely. Safe Spaces are open and ready for you to use.

## Are you experiencing domestic abuse?

### You are not alone.

The Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline  
[nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk) 0808 2000 247



**The aim is to have everyone put up their decorations on 11th-12th February**

So that by the weekend of 13-14th there will be hearts everywhere to brighten up our community and bring a smile to people's faces as they go about their daily exercise or travel to/from work.



### 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](mailto:turnbullcj@gmail.com), or phone 0151 625 0089 or post to Springfield, Pinetree Drive, Wirral CH48 8AT.

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

The PCC meeting on 11-1-21 made the decision for church to not meet "in person" until Covid-19 lockdown has ended and the Wirral has returned to a minimum of Tier 3.

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.