

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
14th February 2021
Sunday next before Lent (St Valentine)**



Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and
save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please pray for everyone who sees the hearts in our community this week to know that they are loved by God. Give thanks for all who have helped in this "heartbomb" initiative, bringing joy to many.

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers

Please pray for all victims of domestic abuse

For our Church:

Pray for our Lent witness through facebook, through Lent groups, and as individuals.

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:

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), Angela Ryan, Felicity Davies, and all those who are sick at home or in hospital.

**A prayer for the discernment process
Appointment of 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.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

2 When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet."

4 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet."

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

10 "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



<p>Let us love one another, for love comes from God. 1 John 4:7</p>	<p>Over me is love. Song of Songs 2:4</p>	<p>Your love for me is very great. Psalm 86:13</p>	<p>Endures forever. Psalm 107:1</p>
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Happy Valentine's Day 2021



GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-9

All: Glory to you, O Lord

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what "rising from the dead" meant.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Are you Experiencing Domestic Abuse?

Freephone
24 hour Helpline
0808 2000 247

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.

"FOR GOD
SO LOVED THE
WORLD THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON, SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE."
♥ JOHN 3:16

Message of Thanks:-

I would like to thank everyone for returning the fostered trees, having nurtured them so well!

Liz Skillicorn-Grey



Here – and there

Reflecting on the global pandemic in the context of Jesus' journey to the cross



An opportunity to explore the challenges and changes to everyday life we have experienced during the pandemic within a biblical context.

Six scenes take us through Mark's account of Jesus' journey to the cross (chapters 14 and 15). Each scene makes a connection between 'here', our world today, and 'there', the world of the passion narrative. The connecting points are brought to life through voices talking about experiences in the pandemic, contrasted with a voice from a character in the Gospel.

The six scenes connect these themes and Bible passages:

Healing presence – Simon's house, Mark 14.3-9

Provision – the upper room, Mark 14.17-25

Isolation - garden of Gethsemane, Mark 14.32-42

Living with tension – the courtyard, Mark 15.6-15

Anguish – the cross, Mark 15.33-39

Hope – the tomb, Mark 15.42-47

ALL MEETINGS BY ZOOM

Wednesday Evenings 8.00-9.00pm

STARTING 24th FEBRUARY

contact Revd Jane (rector@thurstatson.org.uk)
for joining details and an electronic copy of the resource booklet



**Mondays 2.00-3.00pm,
Beginning on 22nd February**

A recipe for each week of Lent,
linked to the Sunday gospel reading.

Option 1

Make the week's bake at your convenience (over the weekend?)

Bring it with you to the zoom chat.

Eat your creation while we talk about the passage and how the bake might or might not be related to it!

Option 2

Make the week's bake at your convenience.

Eat your creation as you explore the questions about the passage at your leisure.

Send us a photo of your creation!

**Contact Revd Jane
for recipes and readings
and for the Zoom link
rector@thurstatson.org.uk
Tel: 648 1816**

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.