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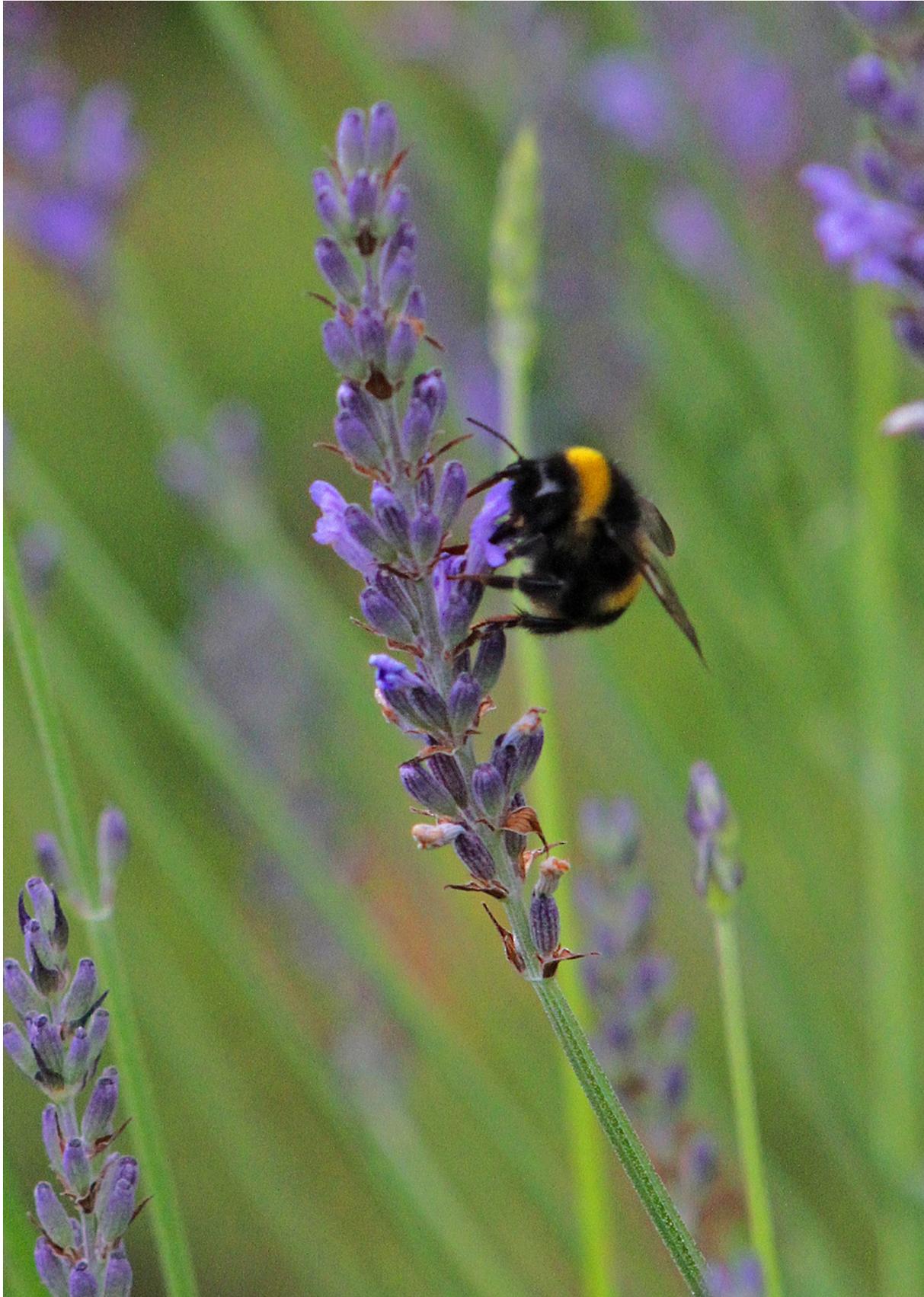
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The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad
www.thurstaston.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

July and August 2021





29th August to 4th September

Build your scarecrow and display in your garden or front of your business for all to see and enjoy!

Please visit our Facebook page for inspiration!



Thingwall Irby Pensby Summer Scarecrow Festival



* "Your magazine needs you" *
* Please send your contributions *
* (eg. Poems. Prayers, interesting *
* articles etc.,) *
* to office@thurstaston.org.uk *
* no later than 17th August *

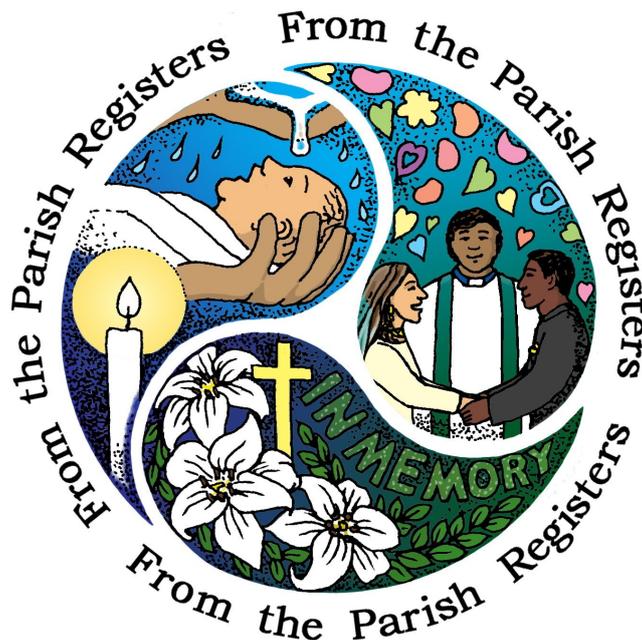
The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

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Diary Dates

**Please see the back page for
Church Service dates and times**



Baptisms

3rd June - Annabel Lilly Morton
27th June - Jonah Edward Proctor

Funerals

16th June - Alan Stockton

From Your Rector

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't

have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation. Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!



Revd Jane



Please pray for our Bishops Designate:-
Birkenhead - The Ven Julie Conalty
Stockport - Revd Canon Sam Corley



*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll
help him reach the young people in his diocese...*

PCC News from the Meeting held on 7th June 2021

Thinking and Planning for Church beyond Covid restrictions

Thank you to everyone who responded to the email from the Rector which was hugely informative for our thinking and planning for Church beyond Covid restrictions. The PCC were faced with some very sobering facts and had to make some very difficult decisions.

The facts which influenced our decisions:-

- The regular 8am congregation is getting older and smaller (approx. nine people). This service is primarily only possible due to the loyalty, faithfulness and service of Malcolm Studholme (who is ably supported by a few of the congregation who act as sidespeople).
- The core congregation at 9.30am is also shrinking. There were only three people who indicated willingness to act as sidespeople, and without sidespeople we don't have chairs to sit on so it is not possible to have a service.
- In addition, all other rotas were only just viable, despite the small core of very faithful people who have served over many years in these roles:-
 - 8 people are willing to do readings – that's a monthly cycle, or bi-monthly if the same person reads both readings
 - 4 people are willing to do intercessions – again a monthly cycle
 - 7 people offered to do coffee – that's not quite a monthly cycle, unless only one person on duty each week
 - Junior Church – just about enough people to cover each week, but only for one age group, we need more if we are to cover a wide range of ages of children
- The regular 11.15am congregation is getting older and smaller (approx. 15 people) with all roles being performed by a small core of very faithful members:
 - 8 people willing to be sidespeople, but that includes people who are also leading services or acting as server during the service and you can't do both on the same day. So not quite enough to form a comfortable monthly rota.
 - 6 people who would do readings – so every third week, or six weeks if the same person reads both readings
 - 3 people willing to do intercessions (one of whom occasionally leads services) – so this would need boosting by clergy to ensure no more than a monthly requirement
 - Because of the overlap of people (11 in total, and we need 5 each week – 2 sides, 2 readings, 1 intercessions) we would need people to be willing to serve in one role or another every other week, and that would be too big a commitment for some.
- The regular Wednesday 10.15am congregation is getting older and smaller (approx. 6-9 people). This service is primarily only possible because of the loyalty, faithfulness and service of Leslie Worrall and Roger Jackson.

The decisions made:-

Until September (or all social distancing requirements have been removed, if later than September)

We will continue with the pattern that has been established during pandemic

- 8am and 11.15am services will continue on alternate Sundays:-
 - ◊ 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays – 8.00am BCP HC
 - ◊ 2nd Sunday – 11.15am MW, 4th Sunday – 11.15amHC
- 9.30am each week
 - ◊ 1st and 3rd Sundays – MW
 - ◊ 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays – HC
- Wed 10.15am HC each week

From September (or after all social distancing requirements have been removed, if later than September)

We will change the service pattern to try to rebuild, rejuvenate and strengthen the congregations. This will be reviewed after six months (around Easter 2022, or later if implemented later than September).

The new pattern will be:-

- 9.00am BCP HC at St Bartholomew's – every week
- 10.30am service every week:-
 - ◊ 1st Sunday – HC at St Barts
 - ◊ 2nd Sunday – All age at St Chads
 - ◊ 3rd Sunday – MW at St Barts
 - ◊ 4th Sunday – HC at St Chads
 - ◊ 5th Sunday – Baptism at St Barts – or HC if no baptism booked
- Wednesday 10.30am HC at St Chad's – every week

The PCC would encourage people to choose whatever services are going to work for them, so some people will choose to go to 10.30am whichever building it is in, others may choose to attend the earlier service or midweek service some weeks.

Having fewer services will mean that we have enough volunteers to make them possible. It will give us opportunities to get to know people from other congregations and increase fellowship. It should mean that there are more people present at each service which will be an encouragement for everyone.

The PCC have not taken these decisions lightly, and many options were explored.



The pandemic has taken its toll and we need to move forward as positively as we can with our hearts set on working together to strengthen the community outreach which was so powerful during the first lockdown. Growing the kingdom of God is our primary aim, and we need to work together to do that.

ST CHAD'S GARDEN - UPDATE NEWS

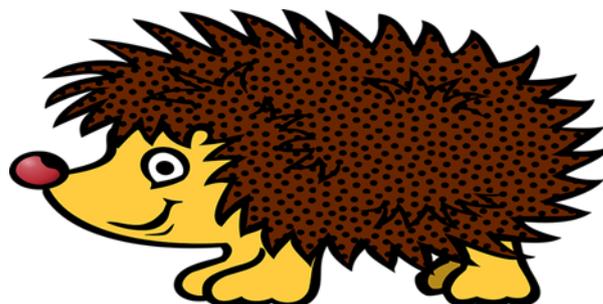


After being awarded a grant from the council, work has begun on restoring the garden to it's former glory. We will be rebuilding the raised area, by replacing the wooden border and removing the weeds and replacing the membrane and bark covering. The 2 narrow raised beds, that were side by side have been replaced with one good size bed which is accessible from all sides. We hope to fill this with bee and butterfly friendly plants. Also we will restore the bark path which leads from the raised bed to the raised area.

Just before Christmas a small strip along the east side next to the village hall was planted up with saplings as our contribution to combating Global Warming and this area is establishing as a meadow.

You may have noticed that the area to the side of the building along the path from Church to the Village Hall has been covered with woodchips to cover the grass sludge from cutting the back garden and we are experimenting leaving the grass on the garden, as is done on school fields, a small amount being added to a new compost bin made mostly from recycled pallets. The old compost bin is to be cleared out of rubbish and restored for further use.

We hope to create a peaceful place in the raised area, filling the beds within with shade loving plants and create a habitat for bugs and wildlife with a hedgehog house and bug hotel. We already have a bird box made by a member of the congregation in place.



When the beds etc are finished we would love to involve anyone who would like to help plant it up, build log piles, hedgehog houses etc.

Please let me know if you would like to help in any way, either in giving time or donations of plants, compost, hedgehog house etc.

When everything is finished and restrictions are relaxed it would lovely to open up at weekends for people to come along and enjoy this space, perhaps picnics, tea and cake, a walk through the raised area or enjoy the flower beds.



We have also been fortunate to be successful in acquiring a Covid Recovery Grant (also from the council) to help create an outdoor space, this has given us an outdoor tap and an outside electric socket and we have a selection of picnic benches on order.



Look out for some outdoor events in the future, hopefully this summer.

Julie DeBoorder

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Tel: 07599186893

Ruth's Ramblings

As we all know by now, June 21st, Freedom day, didn't happen. I wasn't surprised by this and am not sure July 19th will go ahead. I hope and pray I will be proved wrong. Several things, which had been planned have had to be cancelled or postponed and it disheartening to have to do this, I am sure I am not the only one who feels this way.

Nevertheless, my life has been very busy lately, all within the Covid guidelines, I hasten to add! I have just come back from a weeks stay with my sister. It was lovely to see her again after 10 months and we had a wonderful time together. Long walks in the countryside, a visit to a Stately Home, which included Afternoon Tea and a trip to the Theatre to see the Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. It was absolutely wonderful, the singing was fantastic and it was so nice to hear a natural voice and not one coming out of a machine. The drive there and back was tiring, 400 miles in total, especially as I have driven very little in the last 15 months.



I have also been able to meet up with my children and grandchildren. Shopping and lunch in Liverpool with my eldest daughter for her birthday and we were all able to meet up for lunch in an Italian Restaurant to celebrate my youngest grandsons 21st birthday. It was the first time we had all been together for ages. Wonderful day.

I have also been out with the Photographic Society, very enjoyable and we still meet up on Zoom.

My garden is looking quite good, the vegetables are doing well although the beans are growing very slowly. Hopefully I will be self sufficient in salad for a while.

I have also continued to meet up with several people and the Rev Jane on her zoom meetings and have really enjoyed them, especially the Sunday evening service.

The ringers have continued to meet to ring handbells, I think we are improving and have, in a limited way been able to ring the tower bells again. It seems such a long time since we could ring them normally. Who thought at the beginning of 2020 life would be as it is now!

Take care and stay safe everyone.

Ruth.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee **A celebration of faith & service** **Save the date!**

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. This is an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.



HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book for us to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge for us to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations in our area, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

The beautifully illustrated souvenir book to be published for the celebrations uses rarely seen prayers, which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.

The 'Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Faith & Service' will build on the successful partnership facilitated by HOPE Together, which enabled local churches to bring their communities together for the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Over the next year HOPE will provide churches across the country with all the resources and ideas they need to run a great all-age community event that will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

We can plan to get our church involved, invite our community to the party, and round off the weekend with a special guest celebration service for Pentecost.

Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee

GOD IN THE SCIENCES:

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views



It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy. I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose. What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from? I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, "Why am I here?"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God. I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation. For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him. "Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God." Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

GOD IN THE ARTS : Promise and Fulfilment

When St Peter preached his first sermon on the day of Pentecost, he showed how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus had to be understood in the light of the Old Testament. The promise of the Old was granted fulfilment in the New. This is how we understand the unity of the two Testaments: the messianic hope in one finds full expression in the other. We read of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah and look to the life-giving sacrifice of Jesus. Earlier in that prophet we read of a wondrous Child who is granted the spirit of the Lord to bring Paradise once more to the world:



'The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' (Isaiah 11:6,9)

That vision of peace and harmony inspired this month's painting, 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1780 and worked as a carriage and sign maker. After a rebellious adolescence, he became a Quaker, living as a preacher and minister before taking up his brushes. His fellow Quakers were uneasy with this pursuit of such a worldly profession, and so Edward Hicks tried his hand at farming. His efforts proved unsuccessful, and he returned to painting, creating a whole series of canvases on this single theme. He painted almost a hundred versions of the Peaceable Kingdom of which over 60 still exist. This one is from 1834.

The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of 'nature red in tooth and claw' here for all is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear and no assertion of strength. That vision of peace is being realised in the distant scene, where we see William Penn and his fellow Quakers working on a treaty of co-existence with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and strength, sensitivity and gentleness.

As he worked on later versions of this painting, Edward Hicks knew that such peace was not an easy and simple achievement. Arguments and misunderstandings divided his own flock, and as a result the animals he painted look tired and anxious with sad eyes and white whiskers.

But here in 1834 there is a freshness and a promise of paradise restored. The cow and the calf, the bear and the bear cub, and the other animals are at one with the children playing. That harmony can be realised in human affairs also, the artist is saying. 'Follow the Inner Light' and Isaiah's prophecy can be fulfilled in our world. It needs both the innocence and strength we see here; it needs action and waiting, it needs wisdom and gentleness as we take counsel one with another. Follow those qualities to be channels of God's peace to make this world the Peaceable Kingdom.

Reflected Faith Series: The Spaces Between

Jo White considers the need for listening

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH **St Bartholomew's and St Chad's**

This is a reminder of the guidance regarding "in-person services at church. It's intended as a pocket-sized "aide memoire", and has deliberately been placed in the middle of the magazine so that you can pull it out and keep it easily to hand. It doesn't include all the details – please refer to the full guidance document for those (available on parish website - or in printed form by contacting the parish office). The numbers in brackets by some of the headings refer to the full guidance notes.

Service Times (p 1)

St Chad's 9.30 am

St Bartholomew's
8.00 am on 1st and 3rd Sunday
11.15 am on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday

St Chad's - Wednesday 10.15 am

The services at 8 am (St Bartholomew's) and 10.15 am (St Chad's) are primarily (but not exclusively) for those who are over 70 or clinically vulnerable.

Numbers Attending (p 1)

Up to 7 households at St Bartholomew's

Up to 16 households at St Chad's

You must book your place in advance, otherwise you might find that the limits have already been reached.

How to book a place (p 3)

Book by email from Monday morning for the service the following Sunday, or Thursday morning for the service on the following Wednesday. You cannot book before bookings open at 9am.

**Email for bookings:
servicebookings@thurstaston.org.uk**

You should include your name and phone number; the date and time of service you wish to attend; names of all those attending, with ages if under 16; if you have children who will be in a pram, pushchair or on your knee for the whole service please let us know. If you will be in a wheelchair, please also inform us so we can make appropriate arrangements.

We would encourage you to sign a consent form for the NHS "Track and Trace" system for each service you attend. There is a copy of the form at the end of the main document (on page 5) which is downloadable from the front page of the website and will be available in physical form when you arrive at church.

If you cannot send an email and do not have a friend who can do it for you then you can book by phone on 07553 099 388.

If you can send emails, please do not use the phone number.

Arrival at Church (p 3)

A steward will ask you to confirm that you are well, remind you about face coverings and ask you to use the hand sanitiser. On your first service under these arrangements, another steward will invite you to pick up an envelope with two service books – Morning Worship and Holy Communion. You should take these home after the service and bring them with you the next time you come.

When it is safe to do so, we will ask you to return them for general use again but until then they will be your personal copies. Please write your name on the envelope.

The stewards will show you to your place, starting at the front.

You will not be able to sit next to anyone who is not in your household or support bubble.

In St Chad's, please ask the stewards for help if you need to bring chairs together for your household.

Some quiet music will be playing. Please use the time before the service for private prayer and reflection.

Safety is paramount (p 2)

We will follow the guidelines of the Church of England and the Government. Symptoms of Covid-19: new continuous cough, high temperature or change in or loss of your sense of taste and smell. If you have any of these, please do not attend church as you could infect others. You should self-isolate at home immediately.

If you are clinically vulnerable, Government advice is to stay at home as much as possible. If you do go out, take care to minimise contact with anyone who isn't in your household.

The church will be cleaned before and after every service and left for 48 hours (the time recommended at present) before it can be used again. That means just one service per building on Sundays.

Face coverings

Everyone in the building must wear a face covering which covers mouth and nose. More details and the legitimate exemptions are shown on page 2 of the full guidance notes.

Other changes in the form of the services

- Children and young people are always very welcome but please supervise them, with appropriate precautions. For the time being, there will be no Junior Church at St Chad's.

You might wish to bring some "quiet" toys or books for your children, as none will be available in the churches.

- There will be no singing.
- You will be able to greet other people, with social distancing, outside the church after the service.
- Doors and windows will be open for the duration of services, so if it is a cooler day, please bring something warm to wear.
- For our Giving, we are encouraging people to set up Standing Orders if possible. Otherwise, there will be a collection plate at the back of the church for cash and cheques.
- Receiving Communion – when these services are started, only bread will be distributed, not wine. You should stand to receive, as the altar rails cannot be used. The priest will come to you. If possible, please sanitise your hands before and after removing your face mask and before and after replacing it (do not touch the front of the mask).
- At St Chad's, only the disabled access and baby-change toilet will be in use – but only in an emergency, please.
- At St Chad's - No refreshments will be provided after the service.

The article by the Rector on pages 10 and 11 of the June magazine (“An unusual bequest and a bit of a mystery”) has aroused quite a lot of interest, and the PCC is looking for ways to display the truncheon, handcuffs and a photograph in St Bartholomew’s as an interesting and socially important reference to the history of Thurstaston.

The bequest was offered during the planning of a funeral in May. With it, the Rector was given a newspaper cutting about the funeral of Mr Thomas Langley, who lived at Ivy Bank, Thurstaston and died in 1953. The cutting was a report of his funeral, and it said that he had been a churchwarden, bellringer, sidesman, parish clerk and gravedigger at St Bartholomew’s. His main occupation was a gardener, and his great granddaughter said in a note to the Rector that, “He was the first warden of Thurstaston Common and it was he who held the handcuffs and truncheon.”

Sixty six years earlier, in 1955, Mr William Langley of Ivy Bank had written to Mr Arthur Maddocks, the PCC Secretary, referring to a talk about “Irby and Thurstaston of the Past” that Mr Maddocks was to give at a Rate-Payers’ meeting. Mr Langley wrote in the letter that, “You might be interested in these old relics”, and went on to say that before the County Constabulary was set up, a local resident would be appointed to act as the village constable. “My Great Grandfather held this office, so here are his truncheons and handcuffs”. Mr Langley also included a photograph of a picture of the original church in Thurstaston, drawn in 1812 and held by the British Museum. He added that his grandfather, William Langley (1833), was re-elected as a churchwarden (in those days called the People’s Warden) for seventeen consecutive years and was held in such high esteem that the parishioners erected an inscribed tomb stone in his memory. This letter was shown in full on page 11 of the June 2021 magazine.

Because of the enormous range of contributions that both Thomas Langley and William Langley had made to the church, it seemed appropriate to find out a little more about them. Gravestone inscriptions are usually a reliable source of information, and the one that parishioners had installed in memory of William Langley was a good place to start.

The tomb stone referred to in the letter is in the shape of a cross (there is a photograph in the June magazine) and the inscription has been copied in the box to the right.

The Langley family of Thurstaston appear in the 1841 census, which shows Thomas Langley, born in 1799 in Thurstaston, Cheshire, his wife Mary and several children. Thomas Langley had married Mary Davis on 9th August 1821 in Heswall. They had eight children in 23 years. Thomas died in July 1870 at the age of 71 and was buried in Thurstaston on 17th September 1870. The 1841 census also shows an older lady, Mary Langley, age 75, living with them, whom we can safely assume was Thomas’s mother. She was born about 1766 and would have been 33 when Thomas was born.

(continued over...)

In memory of William LANGLEY
of Thurstaston
who died May 14th 1898
aged 65 years
This stone was erected
by the parishioners in token of
the respect in which he was held
and their appreciation of his
services as church warden of the parish
In loving memory of
Mary wife of William Langley
who died June 11th 1907
aged 71 years
Her children rise up and call her
blessed
Also Mary their beloved daughter
who died Jan 4th 1957
aged 83 years

In his letter dated 1955 to Mr Maddocks, Mr William Langley, says that his great-grandfather (Thomas) was the village constable. The parish constable was usually a strong character, not to be taken lightly, because if he were considered inadequate for the role the local justices could dismiss him. Among other duties, he was responsible for the licensing of inns, serving court orders, apprehending criminals and taking them to court. He also collected certain taxes.

The children of Thomas and Mary shown in the 1841 census were Elizabeth, age 20; John, age 18; Thomas, age 13; Ann, age 12; William, age 11; Joseph, age 5 and Henry, age 2. In about 1843 they had another daughter, Mary and in about 1844 a son, George.

William was born in 1833 and baptised on 21st July that year, so there was a slight error in the age given to the census enumerator. He died in June 1898, age 65. He is the person commemorated on the gravestone in St Bartholomew's churchyard, along with his wife and daughter, both named Mary. William married Mary McTaggart and they had four children, Anne (1867-1954), Fred (born 1869), Thomas (1872-1953) and Mary (born 1874). His wife Mary and daughter, also Mary, are also commemorated. The letter on page 11 of the June magazine states that William (1833) was the grandfather of William, who wrote the letter.

Thomas (1872-1953) is the person referred to on page 10 of the June magazine, the first warden of Thurstaston Common¹. He married Mary Atkinson and they had five children: Mary, born about 1901 and baptised on 1st May that year; William born on 4th November 1902 and baptised on 7th December that year; Thomas James, born about 1904, Elizabeth, born about 1906 and Fred, born about 1909. William (born 1902) was the author of the 1955 letter to Arthur Maddocks.



Lizzie (Elizabeth) and Fred circa 1917

Thomas (1799-1873) <i>Farmer</i>	Recorded in the 1841 census. The family has records of ancestors in Thurstaston going back over 400 years. Village constable of Thurstaston ² .
William (1833-1898) Farmer 1851 & 1861), <i>Carrier</i> (1881)	Commemorated on the tombstone in St Bartholomew's churchyard. A churchwarden for 17 years ^{2,3} .
Thomas (1872-1953) <i>Gardener</i>	Jackie Harrison's great grandfather. The first warden of Thurstaston Common ³ . Held many official positions in the parish, including churchwarden and parish clerk ⁴ .
William (1902-) <i>Builder's foreman and special constable</i> (1939 Register). <i>Later, a Builder and Contractor</i>	Wrote the letter to Arthur Maddocks which refers to his great-grandfather as the village constable ² .

Sources

1. Mrs Jackie Harrison
2. Letter from Mr W Langley to Mr A Maddocks, PCC Secretary, 15th October 1955
3. Inscription on grave memorial
4. Newspaper article provided by Mrs Jackie Harrison

Parish constables derived most of their powers from their local parish and after 1812 were appointed by the civil parishes. Although they had had to be sworn in by the magistrates, magistrates did not have the power to choose them. They were replaced when county constabularies were introduced and the first of these in Cheshire was created under the Cheshire Constabulary Act 1829, amended in 1852. That force was closed after the County and Borough Police Act was passed in 1856 and a second constabulary was created.

A statute of 1842 permitted vestries an optional power of providing paid constables. The establishment of a paid county police force was already optional with the justices of the peace. The Police Act 1856 made this optional power compulsory. That must have taken some time to establish but after that, the history of the parish constable in England is that of the police.

Graham Barley

SMILE LINES

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

- ◆ The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.
- ◆ The minister is going on holiday next Saturday. Could all missionary boxes be handed into the vicarage by Friday evening, at the latest.
- ◆ Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.
- ◆ There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning.



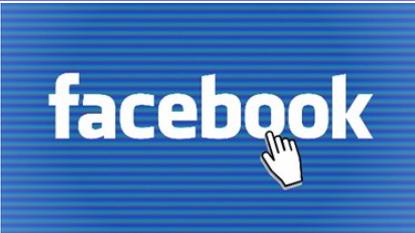
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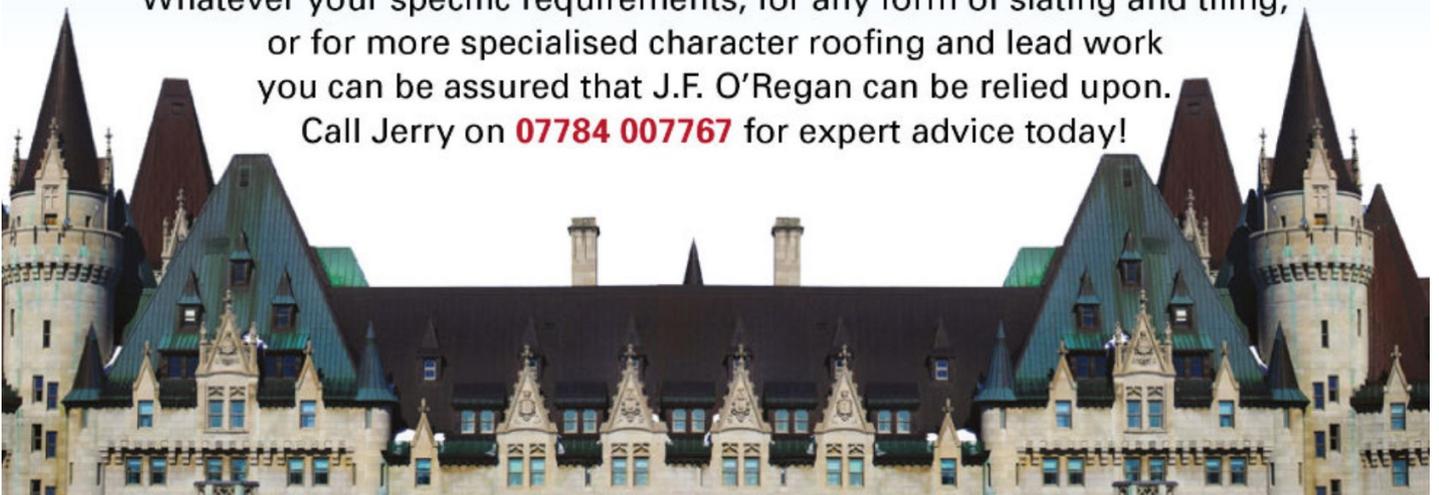
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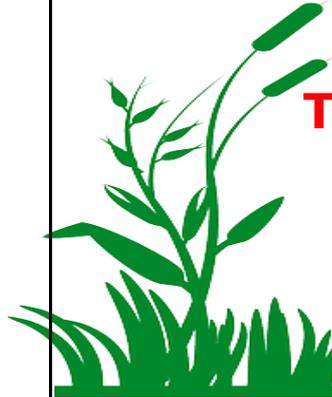
*The National Institutes of Health



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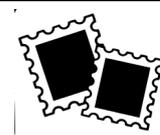
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Revd Ray Dent **792 2022**

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RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB

Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

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JULY AND AUGUST 2021



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July 4th 6.00pm All-Age Service
July 25th 6.30pm Evening Prayer
August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
6.30pm Evening Prayer

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YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK FOR THESE SERVICES
- details on pages 13-16

EVERY Wednesday 10.15am HC at St Chads

Sun 4th July	8.00am BCP HC at St Barts 9.30am MW at St Chad's
Sun 11th July	9.30am HC at St Chad's 11.15am MW at St Bart's
Sun 18th July	8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's 9.30am MW at St Chad's
Sun 25th July	9.30am HC at St Chad's 11.15am HC at St. Bart's
Sun 1st August	8.00am BCP HC at St Barts 9.30am MW at St Chad's
Sun 8th August	9.30am HC at St Chad's 11.15am MW at St Bart's
Sun 15th August	8.00am BCP HC at St Barts 9.30am MW at St Chad's
Sun 22nd August	9.30am HC at St Chad's 11.15am HC at St Bart's
Sun 29th August	8.00am BCP HC at St Barts 9.30am HC at St Chad's