The Churches of
St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
December/Jan

Welcome to Church today.
We hope that you enjoy the service and gain a sense of God's presence with us.

Children are Welcome at our Services

In St Chad's, we have activity bags available and there is also a box of toys and cushions in the foyer, in case you feel your child would be happier playing there.
In St Bartholomew's, there are some colouring sheets and toys at the back of church.

Children from age 2½ can attend Junior Church (term time) at St Chad's

Collect for Advent 4

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post-Communion Prayer for Advent 4

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For the World: Please pray for peace around the World.
For the sick: Please pray for Baby Tobias (and his parents Katy and Isaac). Please pray for Ray Birch. Please pray for Marion Leyland. Please continue to pray for Ruth Dann, Hilary Bradshaw and Joel Murray. Please pray for those in hospital.
For the parish: Please pray for Grace Geary to be baptised at 3pm 18th Dec at St Bartholomew's and her parents Lee & Elizabeth.
From the Anglican Prayer Cycle:
Bishop Ferran Glenfield, Kilmore; Elphin & Ardagh (Armagh, Ireland).
From the Diocesan Prayer Cycle: Pray for all attending Called To Serve, and for individuals working to discern God's call on their lives. (Details below).
Saturday, 4 February 2017, 10am to 2pm, at Foxhill Conference and Retreat Centre, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB. Closing date for bookings is Friday, 20 January 2017. This year lunch is being provided for all participants so booking is essential, simply email: ddo@chester.anglican.org or phone Peter on (01928) 718834 ext 237.

Services TODAY – Advent 4

8:00 am	Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's
9.30am	Nativity	St Chad's
11.15am	Holy Communion	St Bartholomew's
3.00pm	Baptism	St Bartholomew's
6.30pm	Carol Service	Irby Methodist Church

Services next week
Wednesday 21st December, 28th December & 4th January (Mid-week service)
10.15am Holy Communion St Chad's

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve
4.00pm Crib Service at St Bartholomew's
5.00pm Crib Service at St Bartholomew's
11.15pm First Communion of Christmas at St Bartholomew's

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
10.30am Family Communion St Chad's
No other services today

Sunday January 1st – Christmas 2
8.00am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
10.30am Communion Service St Bartholomew's
No other services today

Sunday January 8th – Baptism of Christ or Epiphany 1
8.00am Holy Communion St Bartholomew's
10.30am Covenant Service at **Irby Methodist**
No other services today

Sunday 15th January Services as normal.

Notices and Announcements

- **St Chad's 50th Anniversary**
  There will be a special service on **Sunday 5th March 2017** – please put the date on your calendars (previously advertised as 26th Feb!)

- **Banner for St Chad's 50th Anniversary:** Do you have any tiny buttons or beads in shades of green that you could donate to this project? Please hand in to parish office or speak to Beverley Appleyard or Revd Jane for more details. If you would like to help in the creation (sewing) of this banner, then again, please speak to Beverley or Revd Jane.

- **Christmas cards** for sale in both churches. £2.50 per pack. All profit to church funds.

- **Crosstalk the Dec/Jan magazine** is available at the back of church priced 50p. For subscribers, please note that 2017 subscriptions are due

- **Please collect your Postage Stamps** over the Christmas period and throughout the year for RDA (Riding for the Disabled). Box in St Chad's foyer and envelope at the back of St Bart's.

- **Christmas Trees** Once again our Christmas trees (one in each church) have been kindly donated by The Ledsham family of Church Farm in Thurstaston. Church farm, as many of you know, is an award-winning farm and farm shop just up the road from St Bartholomew's. There's a lot going on over Christmas- do try and find time for a visit.

- **Easy Fundraising** With **Christmas** approaching and on-line spending increasing, don't forget every penny makes a real difference so please remember to keep collecting free donations every time you shop and help us raise even more **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbartholomewstchad**

- **Giving by Text**. We are now registered with Just Giving, so if you would like to make a donation to Church by text then all you need to do is text "BART16" and the amount you wish to give to 70070. e.g. text BART16£10 to give ten pounds.

- **Job Advertisement** Office Assistant & Communications Co-ordinator at St Andrew's & Townfield Churches, Bebington. For job description and further information please contact the Administrator, Karen Davies on0151 645 6478 (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm) or office@standrewsbebington.org.uk Closing Date for applications 14th Jan 2017. Interviews to take place Mon 30th Jan 2017.

- **Y Bible Multi-Sensory Bible**, 15 Sessions which will breathe new life into your understanding of the whole story of the Bible, from creation to Jesus' return. Learn more about the part you can play in God's epic plan. Starting Sunday 15th January 7.00-8.30pm at St Chad's.

- **Confirming Faith - Sunday 15th October 2017 with Bishop Keith.**
  Some may want to think about being baptised. Those who have been baptised may wish to be confirmed. Those baptised and confirmed already can make "a renewal of baptismal vows". The service is about making promises to be a follower of Jesus. We particularly encourage anyone who has "come back to faith" over the past couple of years to take one of these options. Please talk to Revd Jane to explore more.
  As a way of preparing for Confirmation, we will ask you to attend the Multi-Sensory Bible sessions over the coming months (see next page). Depending upon the number of young people interested we may run separate sessions for them as part of our Seniors group.

- **Mens' Breakfast** on Saturday 7th January 2017, 8.45-9.45am at Aroma Café Irby.

- **SOSO** Tuesday 10th January 2017, 8pm at St Chad's.

- **Wellspring** on Monday 16th January 2017, 8pm at The Rectory.

- **Mothers' Union (EMU) New Year's meal** out on Wednesday 25th January. Time & venue tba.

- **Dawpool (C of E) Primary School**
  Anyone applying under Church criteria MUST fill in a Supplementary form which can be downloaded from the Admissions tab of the school website. If you require Revd Jane to sign your form then please hand it to her and she will return it to school on your behalf.

Would you like to receive this notice sheet every week direct to your email in-box? If so, please send an email request to the parish office (office@thurstaston.org.uk)

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

All: Glory to you, O Lord

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' 34Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 35The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.' 38Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Readings for Today	**Readings for 25th December**
Micah 5:2-5a	Is 9:2-7
Rom 1:1-7	Titus 2:11-14
Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:1-14

Church Office: Mrs C Rostock, St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH
Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9.30am-12.30pm (term time)
Tel 648 8169. Website: www.thurstaston.org.uk E-Mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
Revd Jane Turner 648 1816 (Day off Tuesday). E-Mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk