

**The Churches of St Bartholomew and St Chad
Thurstaston and Irby
25th April 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**



Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's
sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered
into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Post-Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the
good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and
rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For our Community:

Please continue to pray for ALL key-workers
Please pray for all victims of abuse

For our Church:

Pray for our PCC - next meeting 10th May - and especially for Elizabeth Barton who joins the PCC for the first time following the elections at the APCM

Please pray for our worship and mission and we remain in online mode and as we plan to return to "in-person" services .

For the world:

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

For the Bereaved: Please pray bereaved family and friends of Valerie McNeil, Robert Williams, Derrick Antrobus, Bill Cheater and Sue Maggs (Chris Rostock's friend)

For the Sick: Please pray for Valerie and Norman Prescott (Dot Turner's friends), Pat Hulme, Molly (aged 2), Audrey Fernyhough, Julie 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.

READING from Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

All: Praise to you, O Christ

MAY 2021 SERVICE PATTERN

ZOOM Services:-

*Joining details available
by emailing the Rector*

May 2nd **6.00pm All-Age Service**

May 9th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 13th May (Ascension Day)

8pm Evening Prayer

May 16th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 23rd 6.30pm Evening Prayer

May 30th 6.30pm Evening Prayer

ZOOM Coffee and Chat:-

Wednesday mornings 10.15-11.00am

5th May, 12th May, 19th May

*Joining details available
by emailing the Rector*

No agenda just turn up and chat
with whoever else appears

SERVICES IN CHURCH:-

Assuming Step 3 of the Govt Roadmap happens on 17th May we will return to "in person" services. **YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK FOR THESE SERVICES - details on the website and in the parish magazine.**

Sun 23rd May 9.30am HC at St Chad's

11.15am HC at St Bart's

Wed 26th May 10.15am HC at St Chad's

Sun 30th May 8.00am BCP HC at St Bart's

9.30am MW at St Chad's

Have you or your loved ones had your coronavirus vaccine?

Give thanks with a donation to Christian Aid to help protect the most vulnerable people across the world, while the vaccine is out of reach. Find out more:-

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>



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.

the prayer course

Meetings on Zoom (joining details from Revd Jane)

Wednesday Evenings 7.30-8.30pm

(or 9.00pm at the latest if people are really engaged with the discussion)

April 28th - Why Pray?

May 5th - Adoration

May 12th - Petition

May 19th - Intercession

May 26th - Unanswered Prayer

HALF TERM

June 9th - Contemplation

June 16th - Listening

June 23rd - Spiritual Warfare

Each week of the course is made up of:

- A video
- Discussion questions
- Practical prayer activities

We may choose to meet in person later in the term, depending upon numbers and Covid restrictions.

This will only be done with group agreement.

Can't make Wednesday Evenings? - Then you could do it **Individually but together**

The Sessions can be found here:- <https://prayercourse.org/sessions/>

So you can work through the session on a day and time that works for you.

Let Revd Jane know if you plan to do this,
as it may be possible to pair people up to discuss and share together.

how to pray pete greig

How to Pray by Pete Greig is a companion resource which follows the Prayer Course framework and contains insightful stories, recommended reading and resources, and full notation of all Scripture and resources.

The Companion Book is not a requirement for joining the sessions. But if you would find it helpful it is available from many book stores including:-

<https://www.eden.co.uk/how-to-pray-a-simple-guide-for-normal-people-pete-greig/>