

## DIRECTORY

### Team Ministers

Team Rector	Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle	01942 859251
Team Vicar	Revd Gareth Thomas	01942 819569
Team Vicar	Revd Angela Wynne	01204 468150
Curate:	Revd Kirsty Screeton	01942 575383
Reader Emeritus	Alan Morris	01942 817871
Reader	Christine Radford	01942 790091
Reader	Elaine Simkin	01942 810762

### Parish Wardens

Margaret Dolphin	01942 790415
Edward McHale	01942 812193

### Deputy Wardens

St Bartholomew	Christine Andrews	01942 817146
	Joyce Cunliffe	01204 697652
St George	Pat James	01204 492994
	Sarah Barry	01942 840441
St Thomas	Tim Browning	07827 275262
	Janet Perfect	01942 814090

[www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk) Follow us on Twitter @Wparishchurch and on Facebook

For all enquiries relating to baptism and weddings, and for other routine matters, please come to the parish office at St Bartholomew's Church on any Monday (other than Bank holidays) 6pm - 7pm.

### Sunday Services across the Team

St Bartholomew's:	8.00am (2nd & 4th Sundays) 11.00am each week
St Thomas's	8.00am (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays) 9.15am each Sunday
St George's	9.30am each Sunday
St John's	8.00am (1st & 3rd Sundays) 11.15am each week
St James's	8.00am (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays) 9.15am each Sunday
St Katharine's	8.00am & 11.00am each Sunday

Items for inclusion in future newsletters should be sent to the parish office:  
westhoughtonparish@outlook.com  
or given to Edward McHale, churchwarden and Director of Music  
[www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk)

## Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton St Bartholomew St Thomas St George



## NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2017

So, you're on holiday in Spain flicking through the hotel TV channels when you get to an old episode of "Allo, Allo." You know that café owner, Rene, is speaking in English but because he's dubbed into Spanish, everyone in Spain can understand him. But, although he's speaking English, he's supposedly talking in French but the Germans, Italians and English can still all understand him. When the German officers reply, they're speaking in English dubbed into Spanish but supposedly talking German that the English, Italians and French all understand. We watch this happily without giving it a second thought, which always reminds me of Pentecost. The first Sunday in June is Pentecost, or Whitsunday, is when we have the long reading from Acts chapter 2. The Holy Spirit fills the disciples and they proclaim the word of God that all those listening hear in their own language, whether Partheans, Medes, Elamites and all. *[I always pity the poor person who has to do this reading].*

This, therefore, is still the challenge for the Church today – not to talk to itself, but to talk to everyone in words that they can understand.

*Ed*

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day.  
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask,"  
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, grey and bleak.  
I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek.:  
I tried to come into God's presence. I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."  
I woke up early this morning and paused before enter the day.  
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

*Poem supplied by Ailsa Maddison*



## Dear Friends,

This month the church celebrates Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Pentecost celebrates the pouring of the Holy Spirit upon all who believe and follow. While Trinity Sunday talks about the mystery of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Trying to explain God as Three in One is something I believe all find hard. The reasons for this is often God is spoken about as three separate beings: Father, Son or Holy Spirit and when we try to unite them together something of a mystery occurs. God is greater than our human imagination, but in this greatness he calls each of us to share something of our belief with those we come into contact with.

In our Pentecost and Trinity readings we hear stories of a number of disciples being sent out, with the power of the Spirit and with the knowledge of faith into their local communities to tell the stories of God, to bring people to faith and to share something of that greatness and mystery. I often feel, that we keep going on about going out into the world to be Christians, to take action, to share our faith, etc, yet on reflection I make no apology for this. Jesus came to earth to teach us how to make an impact, and if they first disciples did not respond to the spirit's request, there would be no church today. This is a role not just for the ordained, but for all Christians.

As someone who this month is to be ordained as Priest, I am reminded in my preparations that our role as the ordained is to come and journey alongside congregations, offering support, skills, and guidance as well as provide spiritual nurture and refreshment, as well as maintaining our call to be a disciple of Christ. However, it's the congregation that roots and links the church to the community, and it's the church community that can maintain these roots and relationships long term. Therefore, the lay role in promoting church, for being church in community and for making church accessible is your reasonability, as much as it is ours. Within and outside the church building, there are many roles and opportunities to unite together as Christians to be church, as well to promote and share our faith. Susan Sayers asks, "If the God we worship has been revealed to us as community in unity and we pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as in heaven, what should Church look like?" If everyone was implement their image by taking one role within and outside the church, and carry this out in the power of the Holy Spirit, the church will become a place of growth, a place with a future and a place which celebrates faith, a place that reflects God's calling for all.

Rev'd Kirsty Screeton

## Safeguarding Training

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 7 - 9pm St. Bartholomew's Church

The Diocese of Manchester is holding a series of training evenings for all those working with young people focussing especially on the latest updates to safeguarding procedures. Our local event couldn't be closer, so please attend if you can. More details from <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/events/2017/06/05/parish-safeguarding-training/>

## A New Ministry - Congratulations [part 1]

After two years of training, Elaine Simkin will be licensed as a Reader at Manchester Cathedral on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 3:30pm**. We continue to pray for Elaine and look forward to her developing her ministry in this new role across our churches. Elaine will be preaching her first sermon as a Reader at St. Bartholomew's on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

## A New Ministry - Congratulations [part 2]

Following her first year of training as deacon in the parish, Revd Kirsty Screeton will be ordained as priest in Manchester Cathedral on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30pm**. Kirsty will celebrate her first Eucharist on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June** at St. Bartholomew's at 11:00am – the preacher at this service will be Revd. Dr. Lee Longden. Kirsty will still be with us as curate in the parish for another two years in training and developing her ministry.

## Word Search – Bible Study Group

This continues every other Tuesday 7:30 – 8:30pm at St. Bart's led by the Rector.

- 6<sup>th</sup> June "What about us" – Other letters in the New Testament
- 20<sup>th</sup> June "What bible did Jesus read?" – Jesus and his background

After this we'll take a summer break and restart in the autumn.

## Craft Group

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 1 – 3:00pm. Jewellery and card making, refreshments served, all welcome whether beginners or experienced. Further details / venue are available from Lynne Price.

