

Sunday Services across the Team

St Bartholomew's:	8.00am (2nd & 4th Sundays) 11.00am each week
St Thomas'	8.00am (1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays) 9.15am each Sunday
St George's	9.15am each Sunday
St John's	8.00am (1st & 3rd Sundays) 9:30am each week
St James'	8.00am (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays) 10:45am each Sunday
St Katharine's	8.00am & 11.00am each Sunday

For all enquiries relating to baptism and weddings, and for other routine matters, please come to Bartholomew's Church on any Monday [other than Bank Holidays] from 6 – 7pm

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	<i>Vacant</i>	
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

<i>St Bartholomew</i>	Christine Andrews	01942 817146
<i>St George</i>	Pat James	01204 492994
	Sarah Barry	01942 840441
<i>St Thomas</i>	Tim Browning	07827 275262
	Janet Perfect	01942 814090

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @Wparishchurch and on Facebook

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

Parish of St Bartholomew Westhoughton
St Bartholomew St Thomas St George

NEWSLETTER MAY 2018



Alan Morris writes

CONTACTLESS

A recent cartoon in a weekly magazine shows a Gothic looking church with a "For Sale" sign outside and two old ladies (why almost always old ladies in these cartoons?) one saying to the other 'I suppose most people pray on line these days'.



This coincided with the delivery of my first contactless debit card. What joy! This means that for my convenience I can part with money quicker than Dick Turpin could relieve travellers of theirs. The dinosaur in me remembers when on a holiday as near as the Costa Brava your card would be swiped on a Heath Robinson type of hand operated machine and your bill would arrive around a month later. However, should you now wish to buy a carpet in Ulan Bator your card would be debited almost before the purchase was wrapped up. Progress!



Contactless seems to be the way forward but at the same time it destroys what should be a relationship between two people even if only for a short while. "Keep in touch" we often add to the end of a letter, for those who still prefer the personal relationship, rapidly disappearing by the use of text, e-mail (yes I know this article is being e- mailed), tweets etc. "pray on line" may sound amusing but how often do we press the "send button" then regret doing so? Our God deserves better than this. If we expect an answer to our prayers then we should rebuild that personal contact purchased for us by the death and Resurrection of Jesus. And let us not forget prayer is talking WITH God and not TO God.



Christian Aid Week
Sunday 13th – Saturday 19th May

As usual, we'll be collecting for Christian Aid in all our churches. Please take one of the envelopes and return it during May. If you are able to Gift Aid, please complete the slip

attached to the envelope which allows Christian Aid to collect an extra 25p for each £1 that you donate.

Angela writes.....

Dear All,

Here we are in May already. We have bid farewell to Chris and many of us went to support him at his Collation and Induction into his new post at Bolton Parish Church on the 18th April. One chapter in our life in the Westhoughton Parish and the wider team has closed and we stand poised ready for the new chapter to begin. The Parish Profile is in its final stages of preparation and our thanks are due to the team from across our parishes who have contributed to that especially to Ed who pulled it all together. What we wait for now is for the Archdeacon of Bolton to send us a letter requesting us to hold a "Section 11" meeting of our PCCs. At this meeting we will formally "sign off" the Parish Profile and appoint 2 lay members to represent each parish (Parish Reps) so that we end up with 8 parish reps in all. However in order to keep the interview panel down to a practical number of people it is recommended that parishes nominate one of the two to be on the interview panel. You can imagine how daunting it is for the candidate to face such a large panel! Indeed I know!

In the meantime we trust and pray that the Holy Spirit is preparing the ground for our new Team Rector and eventually a new Team Vicar. Prayer is the single most important thing we can do. Please pray for potential candidates to come forward and show interest. Pray for the Archdeacon as she helps us in the process. Pray for those retired clergy who are willing to cover our services and pray for those in the team lay and ordained who will be taking on extra responsibilities. We've got a fantastic team and lots to offer a new Team Rector and Team Vicar so I'm sure that when the right people come along they will embrace the opportunities ministry here presents.

Finally, times of vacancy can be a really rewarding period for the parish. New gifts and talents can emerge as people step up to the plate to fill the gaps. It was while I was a churchwarden during a vacancy that I first led worship and discovered I had a calling. So as we celebrate Pentecost remember the gifting of the Holy Spirit and be open to its prompting. You never know where it might lead you!
God bless, Angela.

Ascension Day Thursday 10th May 7:30pm St. Bartholomew's

Ascension Day is celebrated forty days after Easter [which is why it always falls on a Thursday] and marks Jesus' return to heaven following his resurrection.

We're celebrating with joint Ascension Day services on Thursday 10th May at St. Katharine's church at 9:30am and at St. Bartholomew's church at 7:30pm



Archdeacon's Visitation Tuesday 29th May 7:30pm Deane Parish Church [St. Mary's]

The Archdeacon's Visitation for commissioning the wardens, deputy wardens, sidespeople and committee members is at Deane Church on Tuesday 29th May at 7:30pm

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Week Thursday 10th May – Sunday 20th May

This is an initiative from the Church of England led by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We'll be marking this in our Services at all our churches on Sunday 13th May. Please see the insert with the prayer diary giving details of the events taking place across the team during the week.

Collect [or special prayer] for the Week:

Almighty God, who called your Church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself; help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



#PLEDGE2PRAY



Mayoral Sunday Sunday 20th May

11:00am St. Bartholomew's Church

We welcome our new Town Mayor, Cllr Arthur and Lynn Price [who are well known to us at St. Bartholomew's] at the Mayoral service.

Following the service there will be a charity dinner at Brookfields. One of the Mayor's charities this year will be raising funds towards the repair of the tower here at St. Bartholomew's. Please see the

weekly pewsheets for further details of price, tickets, times etc.

Spring Events Saturday 12th May

St. John's Church Spring Fair 11 -2pm St. James' Church Plant Sale 10 – 1pm

St. John's Spring Fair has all the usual stalls and refreshments. St. James' plant sale is also offering bird feeders, a cake and jam stall and refreshments including bacon barm, tea and coffee.



St. John's Church – Travellin' Strings Friday 18th May 7:30-10:00pm

Come for a singalong with The Strings playing songs that you'll love to hear. Tickets £5 including refreshments available at the door or from 07793 140078 in aid of church funds.