

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	Vacant – until 1 st Feb	
Team Vicar	Revd Angela Wynne	01204 468150
Reader Emeritus	Alan Morris	01942 817871
Reader	Christine Radford	01942 790091
Reader	Elaine Simkin	01942 810762
Curate:	Revd Kirsty Screeton	01942 575383

Parish Wardens

Margaret Dolphin		01942 790415
Edward McHale		01942 812193

Deputy Wardens

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

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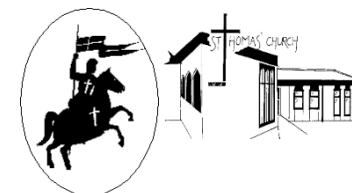
Follow us on Twitter @Wparishchurch and on Facebook

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 - JANUARY 2019

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

or so sang The Four Seasons in 1964, later recorded by The Tremeloes. How things have changed since then. Now our world seems to be a world of noise, when silence is impossible to achieve with every man and his dog continually on their mobile, cell phone or I-phone letting in the whole world into their lives.

As Anglicans we often seem to be un-at-ease with silence, especially when it comes to worship and prayer. Prayer is often described as talking to God, although I prefer to describe it as talking WITH God. However, as the Psalm puts it "Be still and know that I am God" is a more difficult concept as listening to God is also part of prayer and worship. Yet how can we listen to God when the lines of communication are continuously busy with and interrupted by extraneous noise which is almost always of a trivial nature in comparison?

We tend to overlook the important things in life by giving too much thought to "what to wear, what to eat etc." as Jesus reminded His listeners. Think about that great line in a Christmas hymn that we sang:- "It came upon the midnight clear", the line is "O hush the noise ye men of strife and hear the angels sing." The narthex of The Church of St. Peter & St. David in Fleetwood has a notice more practical than meditative that reads "Speak to God before Mass, Speak to others after Mass" Good advice if we would hear the angels sing.

Contributed by Alan Morris

On behalf of our team of churches we wish all
our readers a blessed and peaceful 2019.

St. Bartholomew St. Thomas St. George



St Thomas' Café Church / St Georges' Café Church

St Thomas's Cafe Church meets fortnightly on a Wednesday during Term Time 3.45 - 4.15pm. We gather in the main hall and entrance to Café Church is from 3.25pm through the church entrance.

DATES: 16th Jan, 30th Jan, 13th Feb, 27th Feb, 13th Mar, 27th Mar

St George's Cafe Church meets fortnightly on a Thursday during Term Time 3.45 - 4.15pm. We gather in the main hall and entrance to Café Church is from 3.25pm through the main school entrance.

DATES: 17th Jan, 31st Jan, 14th Feb, 28th Feb, 14th Mar, 28th Mar

We meet for half an hour to worship: sharing in song, prayer, conversations and snacks.

All are welcome to attend - children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times.



Institution & Induction – Revd Carol Pharaoh

Thursday 31st January 7:30pm at St. Bartholomew's

The Service of Welcome for the Revd. Carol Pharaoh as Team Rector of the Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates team is as shown above. All welcome to attend.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This always falls in January running from the **18th – 25th January**. We'll be remembering our fellow Christians across Westhoughton in our prayers during this week.



Inductions, Institutions and Collations

Last month, I asked if anyone knew the difference between all these, could they please enlighten me. Well, the one response literally flooded in so here goes:

A new incumbent is instituted into the legal occupation of the benefice (with all the legal rights and appurtenances thereunto affixed!) to which s/he is presented the patron. If the patron is the Bishop, then the new incumbent is collated rather than instituted.

Following the institution/collation, the new incumbent is inducted into the parish church by the archdeacon and as a symbol of this occupancy, is presented with keys and placed in 'the appointed seat'.

So, one gives occupancy of office and the other, property.

Epiphany

The Epiphany [celebrated each year on the 6th January] has become an occasion to celebrate one moment in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi. The word "Epiphany" means manifestation or, more simply, "showing" hence its other title of "the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." Ships today still carry a manifest showing everything that is aboard and political parties have manifestos showing everyone their plans for government. St. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three [as there were three gifts], made them kings and gave them names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Reading it again [Matthew 2. 1 – 12] you'll find no mention of camels or stables and the visit could have occurred at some time in the first two years of Jesus' earthly life.

In this perspective, Epiphanytide, therefore, is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the Sundays immediately after, we focus on particular firsts in Jesus' life where his ministry is shown. The Sunday after Epiphany is a celebration of Christ's baptism by John, when the heavens were opened, a dove descended and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son [Matthew 3. 13 – 17]. The first miracle at Cana in Galilee changing water into wine, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately [John 2.1 – 11]. We often have the readings marking his first preaching in the temple [Luke 4. 14 – 21] or calling the first disciples [Matthew 4. 18 – 22].

The season of Epiphany ends as we move back to Jesus' infancy and the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) celebrated on 2nd February. The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel' [Luke 2.22 – 40]. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering and we move our attention away from celebrating the 40 days of Christmas and look ahead to the 40 days of Lent.

Mens' Breakfast

Saturday 5th January 9:00am

This will be held at the Watergate [just off the roundabout by junction 4 of the M61] and this month welcomes as guest speaker, Ian Hepburn.