



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew St Thomas St George

Sunday 22nd March 2020 – Mothering Sunday

TODAY'S SERVICES

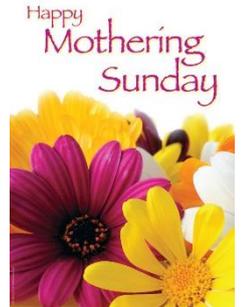
There are currently no Sunday or midweek services at any of our churches in line with the Church of England Corona Virus / Covid-19 guidelines.

We pray for:

Those who are ill: Irene Booth, Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Joyce Cunliffe, Christopher Davies, Revd Malcolm Edwards, Marlene Fielding, Lisa Ginniff, Irene Halliwell, Jenny Harris, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Patricia James, Mike Johnson, Eileen Marsh, James Tonge, James Wright.

Those who have died recently: Arthur Burgess, Revd Ray Coward, Jack Whitehead

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Dorothy Coop, Nancy Crompton, Phyllis Cox, Joseph Donnelly, Kelvin Edwards, Audrey Forshaw, Robert Harrison, Nellie Hewitt, George Higham, Norman Higham, John Hilton, Thomas Hodgkiss, Dorothy Jacques, Alfred Latham, Hilda Leyland, Frederick Lord, Brian Powley, James Rogers, Stefan Romanciw, Walter Sawyer, Annie Turner, Jack Unsworth, Nora Williams.



This week:

In line with the Church of England guidelines issued on Tuesday 17th March, we are cancelling all Sunday and midweek services and all church events for the time being. This is a very fast moving situation and at present we have no idea when our usual services may resume.

This is not a step that we take lightly or a situation that we would wish to be in particularly with Mothering Sunday today and our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter approaching.

The Church of England is producing a series of prayers and acts of worship for those unable to attend church, available here <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-liturgy-and-prayer-resources> and we print some of these below. The readings and collect for today are overleaf which you can also use in the week ahead.

If you require any further help or information, please contact us [details overleaf]. We plan to keep e-mailing out the weekly and monthly pewsheets and newsletters to keep everyone in touch with what's going on.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and
distress.
Sustain and support the anxious
and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your
comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our
neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us
strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the
sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid
or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their
consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on
the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For those who are ill
Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger
threatens
your everlasting arms are there to
hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and
strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated
O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with
me,
help me to believe that nothing can
separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Christian community
We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our
own safety:
we are people who protect our
neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen.



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The Collect:

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 2. 1 - 10*

¹A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

New Testament Reading *Colossians 3. 12 - 17*

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Reading: *John 19. 25b - 27*

^{25b}Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Post Communion:

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast, you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Next Sunday: The Fifth Sunday of Lent
Readings: Ezekiel 37. 1 - 14 / Romans 8. 6 - 11 / John 11. 1 - 45

There are currently no Sunday or midweek services at any of our churches in line with the Church of England Corona Virus / Covid-19 guidelines.

We plan to have St. Bartholomew's church open on Sunday morning at 11:00am for personal / private prayer; this may change as guidelines are updated.

Those in high risk groups are advised to follow all the Government and expert medical advice. Do contact us if we can offer any help or support at this time.

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh 01942 859251 | carol.pharaoh@gmail.com | www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – revawynne@gmail.com

FACEBOOK – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch
@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

Material for the news sheet should be sent to Joan Warner by Wednesday morning 01942 818821 | joan.warner35@outlook.com

To receive these pewsheets, newsletters or special events leaflets electronically, please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

DON'T FORGET – it's the worst weekend of the year next weekend when we have to put the clocks FORWARD by an hour.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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Corona Virus – Covid-19 Information

Following the information available on the Church of England Website, here is some guidance about commonly asked questions.

Church Services:

These have all been cancelled until further notice.

We plan to have St. Bartholomew's church open on Sunday mornings at 11:00am for personal and private prayer and to allow people to light a candle.

- Anyone showing symptoms of the disease or living with someone showing symptoms and those self-isolating are asked **not** to attend.
- Those in high risk groups are urged to follow the expert medical advice.
- Anyone attending is asked to use the handwashing facilities available, not to shake hands or have other physical contact and keep about 6 feet from other people present in line with social distancing measures.

Baptisms:

We are currently cancelling baptisms at all our churches.

We are unable to rebook any cancelled baptisms or take firm bookings for future baptisms until we have further information on when church services can resume.

Weddings:

Weddings already booked will be allowed to take place.

Strict social distancing measures will be applied and any church service would need to be on a small scale. Couples with a wedding booked in the next few months should contact the Parish clergy immediately.

Wedding Banns:

We are awaiting guidance on the reading of Banns as there are no services at which to read them.

Couples where the Banns should be read in the next few months should contact the Parish clergy immediately.

Funeral Services:

Funeral Services will be allowed to proceed but changes to practice will have to be implemented.

We know that bereavement and mourning are stressful and upsetting times. In keeping our families, congregations and communities safe there will have to be some changes in funeral services

- Planning a service may have to be done by ways other than face-to-face meetings
- There will have to be limits placed on the number of people attending
- Strict social distancing measures will have to be in place at the service – physical contact such as handshakes or hugs will be avoided
- Those in high risk groups should be advised not to attend
- For those unable to attend, consider sending copies of the service or planning a memorial service at a later date.



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Confirmation Service:

There is currently no information on whether the Confirmation service planned for Sunday 24th May will take place or not.

If you wish to be confirmed or have a child who wishes to be confirmed, please contact the clergy to register and we will contact you to let you know if this will go ahead. We do have another service booked for Sunday 18th October if May's service has to be cancelled.

Church Meetings / Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

In view of the social distancing measures, churches are recommended not to hold meetings unless absolutely necessary.

We have suspended all meetings and our Annual Meeting planned for Monday 27th April will NOT take place unless circumstances change. We are awaiting further Diocesan advice on suspending and rescheduling the annual meeting.

School Form Signing:

We are not able to complete registers for church attendance for school admissions at the moment

We are awaiting guidance from Church schools on this so that everyone is treated equally whichever church they attend.

Keeping in Contact:

We plan to keep sending out the weekly pewsheets and monthly newsletters by e-mail to those who have registered in line with the Data Protection Laws.

Please encourage others to sign up at westhoughtonparish@outlook.com and we will have some paper copies available for people to collect and deliver to friends and neighbours.

Please contact us:

If you need to speak to a priest do not hesitate to contact us. Although access to our buildings is limited, the Church, as the family of God, are still here.

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh 01942 859251 carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 revawynne@gmail.com

Further Information:

Please see also the Parish website www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Please see also the Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Or e-mail the Parish Office westhoughtonparish@outlook.com [NB not staffed 24 hours]

Please note that this is a rapidly changing situation which is being updated daily. We will aim to provide the latest information available.

EJM
19/03/2020