

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



SUNDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

Sunday Services		
St George's Church 9:15am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin "Journey in Faith"	St Thomas' Church 9:15am Holy Communion Revd Angela Wynne	St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am Holy Communion Revd Avis Gordon HYMNS: First: 644 Gloria 9 [page 14] Offertory: 810 During Communion: 740, 800 Final: 678

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Christine Greenhalgh, Jenny Harris, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Joan James, Patricia James, Mike Johnson, Geoff Kyte, Edward Lakstigala, Eileen Marsh, Jean Partington, Norman Sidlow.

Those who have died recently: Canon Robert Warner, Mary Riley, Kathleen Mann

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Anne Campbell, Damian Carey, Ernest Dodson, Mary Dootson, Dorothy Edwards, Phyllis Fitzpatrick, Mary Homer, Tony Leatherbarrow, Alexander MacQuarrie, Hilary Montgomery, Robert Pemberton, Alice Westhead and Joyce Cunliffe whose ashes are being interred today at St. Bartholomew's.

Coming Up this week:

Thursday 9th September 7:30pm: Bible Study Session

Jonah – running from God at St James' Church Daisy Hill led by Revd Malcolm Wearing, all welcome.

Do keep any news, views and feedback coming. Please also check our Team YouTube channel for online services [there will be one this week]:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDx266HLh9ShYeBJnON8ODg>

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

Next Sunday: 12th September

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Isaiah 50. 4 – 9a / James 3. 1 - 12 / Mark 8. 27 - end

9:15 am	Service of the Word at St George's Church	Revd Andy Jones
9.15am	Communion Service at St Thomas'	Revd Angela Wynne
11:00am	Baptism Service at St. Bartholomew's Church	Revd Angela Wynne / Revd Andy Jones

Today's Readings:

The Collect:

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35. 4 – 7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Second Reading: James 2. 1 - 10, 14 - 17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel Reading: Mark 7. 24 - end

²⁴Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,

²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

²⁸But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.'

³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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The Post Communion Prayer:

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily: Elaine Simkin

Our Journey in Faith (Mk 7:24-37)

In today's world... when an ambulance driver gets a call, the job is to respond. They do not stop until they arrive at the location and tend the patient. Along the way they may pass any number of obstacles, but their mission is to answer the call. The same is true for fireman, policemen and soldiers. In fact, anyone with a job, or an impatient boss learns very quickly that if you are asked to do "something" then you do it and not go off and do "something else." Or there may be consequences.

The emergency services have a mission that is clear and precise. They have parameters: goals, objectives, and timelines.

In Jesus' world ...he is King of the Jews sent by God. His mission is clear,, his goals, objects and timelines are set by God, Jesus is the fulfilment of Gods promise to David.. *' I will appoint a single shepherd over them to tend them'*

He is the shepherd... He is the King... His mission is to the Lost Sheep of Israel and Gods kingdom,

Reading today's gospel, It is hard to understand the women, she is just one more woman asking for a miracle?" However, she was not one more, she was the doorway to many more Gentiles. Many others looking for answers from the worry of starvation of body and soul.

Listening to this reading Jesus seems to be in hiding in hostile territory. He did not want anyone to know he was there. Maybe he was tired, scared in a strange place, lacking faith in that moment... whatever, he knew his miracles tend to draw crowds, so he lay silent.

As Christians we, like Jesus have a mission. Our mission is more than random acts of kindness, which are rarely as nice as we think, nor as frequent as we would hope. Our mission has clear goals. Like Jesus.

And that begs the question what is the church's mission today?

Unlike Jesus we do not have an unlimited scope for our work. Our mission is a corporate mission: the whole church shares in it. So, what does God expect of us now in today's world? What is our mission today?

Well, if you look up Mission, on the Church of England web site, It's all about planting...and growth...In my humble opinion its much, much, more.

It's to love one another, not just those in our family but also those in our community, irrespective of colour and creed.

To help others whenever we can...to share what we have with those in need.

To pray, not just to ask or beg for what we want, but also to thank God for what we have...we are so blessed we have a roof over our heads, food in our tummies, a bed to sleep on.. Okay... we may not have the latest designer equipment, but we “brought nothing into the world and take nothing out” (Tim:6 v7). Life is about love, being humble and thankful for what we have. Praying for other who need our prayers.

And yes our mission is about encourage other to love our God...but we cannot force someone to hear a message they are not ready to receive, but never underestimate the power of planting the seed. At baptisms we sow the seeds, but do we encourage the growth and knowledge, do we complete our mission by adding to the numbers of Gods followers? Do we?

The story today ends well for the woman and child. The 'unclean' spirit is gone. The conversation reflects the living situation of that time. She did not come to Jesus as a friend, she was an outsider looking for help. Perhaps her tenacity won the day, or maybe it was just his compassion. What we know is he helped her without asking what her nationality was, was she black/white, was she working, wealthy, deserving...he just helped her...he just helped.

I think today, the church mission is often overlooked. We have become selfish, often greedy, In the gospel today Jesus shows us that our faith and our journey is about mission, and that mission is not just about those we already know...it's about loving others, helping other in need, no questions, no obstacles, just like the emergency service our mission and our journey of faith is clear and precise. We too have goals, objectives, and timelines.

Our mission and journey of faith is set by the example Jesus taught us... “To love one another as I have loved you”. To be focused on helping, trying our very best to live our faith and complete our mission. Amen.



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NOTICEBOARD:

Church Attendance for School Places:

To register attendance, please e-mail:

bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com

giving both your name / your child or children's names and the church you would usually attend. You will need to do this even if you attend a service and sign in. Only one e-mail per week will be counted [even if you would have attended more than once in any week]. Please do NOT use any other e-mail address to register church attendance as these will not be included. Thank You

Confirmation 2021

A Confirmation Service will be held at St Bart's Church on Sunday 7th November 2021 at 3 pm. If you are a young person who will be in in Year 6 or above from September 2021 and would like to consider confirmation, please ask an adult to pick up and complete a registration form from church. If you are an adult who would like to consider confirmation, please also get in touch. If we already have your details you don't need to apply again. We will be in touch about Confirmation Preparation Classes which will begin in September. Thank you.

BELIEVE IN BOLTON 2021

UPDATE

An Evening of Praise & Worship and Prayer for Bolton

Friday 17th September 7.30pm till 9pm

Bolton Parish Church



Dear friends

We would like to invite you to this inspiring evening of worship and prayer at Bolton Parish Church, Silverwell St, Bolton, BL1 1PS on Friday 17th September at 7.30 pm.

As a new term begins and we return to something more like normality, we sense God is calling us to pray; to pray for unity, to pray for the renewal of our churches, to pray for our town of Bolton and to pray that people may come to know the abundant life and love of Jesus Christ.

This will also help us to prepare for the Carol Service planned at Bolton Parish Church in December with Canon J John.

So please come and bring your church people, family and friends with you and let us encourage one another as we gather together as one body to pray for Bolton.

"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." Psalm 127.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Ashcroft and the Believe in Bolton Team

Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft

Bishop of Bolton



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St Bartholomew's Refreshments:

We're looking at restarting tea / coffee after the service at St. Bartholomew's in September. If anyone is interested on helping maybe once a month as part of a rota, please see one of the wardens.

Many thanks.

Bell Ringers:

Currently we are short of bell-ringers and are looking to recruit whether you have some experience or none but are keen to learn.

If you'd like to learn to ring the bells, keep fit, make friends and even earn some pocket money, please get in touch and we can arrange a visit to the tower. *Please don't turn up unannounced as there are still Covid restrictions in place.*



Midweek Communion:

We're planning to restart the Wednesday Communion once each month at St Bartholomew's followed by the Luncheon Club. The first one is planned for **Wednesday 15th September at 10:00am.**

PCC Meeting:

The next PCC meeting is planned for Monday 20th September 7:30pm at St. Bartholomew's

BIBLE STUDY - OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

In August and in each month up to the end of the year, we are holding some Bible Study groups based on Old Testament Characters. Some of these sessions will be face to face and others will be online on zoom. All are invited and welcome to attend any of the sessions. The attached gives details and times of dates of these. If people would like to attend an online session, please contact the leader in charge and the zoom details will be sent accordingly.

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS			
SESSION	Evening ONLINE	Daytime ONLINE	Face to Face
JONAH Running from God			Thursday 9th Sept 7.30 pm
			Leader: MALCOLM W Venue: St James'
HANNAH Praying in pain	Tuesday 21st Sept 7 pm	Thursday 23rd Sept 2 pm	Thursday 7th Oct 7.30 pm
	Leader: MALCOLM W	Leader: MATT DUNNE	Leader: BARBARA BERRY Venue: St John's
SAMUEL Hearing God's voice	Tuesday 19th Oct 7 pm	Thursday 21st Oct 2 pm	Thursday 4th Nov 7.30 pm



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And from Ollie:

During the pandemic, many community services were financially disadvantaged but continued to offer their services with care and diligence. Although Bolton Hospice continued caring and serving the community, they were unable to publicly fund raise. With this in mind, I have decided to lend a hand [and two feet] and on **15th September 2021** I will be walking up Mount Snowden accompanied by Nigel Ginniff. I hope that people will support my fund-raising effort and a Bolton Hospice Sponsorship form will be available in the narthex at St. Bartholomew's.

Thank you
Ollie Younge



Office Hour Returns: Booking a Baptism

We're going to run Office Hour each Monday morning from 10:30 – 11:30am starting on 20th September. If you wish to book a baptism, please come along and we'll make the arrangements then.

If you can't make Mondays, we are also offering some Saturday mornings. These will be by appointment, so please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com and we'll fix up a suitable time.

CONTACT US:

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www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

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

Curate: Revd Andy Jones 01942 813 750 Email: reverendandyjones@gmail.com

FACEBOOK – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

Follow us on twitter [@Wparishchurch](https://twitter.com/Wparishchurch)

[@Westhoughtontowerbellringers](https://twitter.com/Westhoughtontowerbellringers)

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

Or to westhoughtonparish@outlook.com