



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – The Second Sunday of Lent**

## TODAY'S SERVICES

**11:00am Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's Church Revd Carol Pharaoh**

### We pray for:

**Those who are ill:** Philip Aspinall, Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Christopher Davies, Irene Halliwell, Jenny Harris, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Joan James, Patricia James, Mike Johnson, Eileen Marsh, Norman Sidlow.

### **Those who have died recently:**

**And on their anniversaries this week we remember:** Edna Caldwell, William Cleary, Arthur Cogan, Bertha Cowburn, Mary Eastham, Mary Eckersley, Frederick Guest, James Haworth, Dorothy Henderson, Colin Lee, Millie Lee, Elsie Longworth, Eileen McGowan, Jimmy McGowan, Alice Moore,

### This week:

Welcome to worship this week as we come to the Second Sunday in Lent. As it's St. David's Day on Monday, music is by Welsh composers or inspired by Wales.

Sunday services at St. Bartholomew's will continue at 11:00am; next week's is led by Revd Carol Pharaoh. We'll be holding a service for Mothering Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Again, we have no heating this week but the weather is a little warmer. The work to the boilers & electrics in the cellar is more than we thought but, *and I know I've said this before*, should be done in the coming week.

We've also had to replace the front door lock so new keys are being issued and we've some work updating the electrics planned for March.

In this week's pewsheets, we continue the selection of readings, prayers and a daily hymn for Lent.



This Friday also sees the World Day of Prayer [5<sup>th</sup> March] this year produced by the people of Vanuatu. We cannot have any joint services marking this day this year but everybody is welcome to attend the online service run by the Salvation Army in Bolton using the following zoom link: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7-30pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84346757234?pwd=SVNpdS9NaFRnOENORTQ5VUtQNZMrQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 4675 7234

Passcode: WDP

For more information, please contact Sue Betts at [susan.betts@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:susan.betts@salvationarmy.org.uk)

We're also working with St. George's school to re-open St. George's church for services in March – more details next week.

**Informal Zoom Chat:** We are holding a team meeting on zoom for coffee and chat every Sunday morning from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. Please contact one of the clergy for the link if you would like to join. It's very informal so come and go as you wish. Thank you.

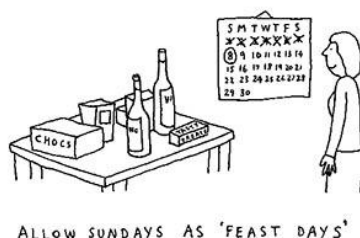
While services and attendance at church is limited, these pewsheets and on-line services will continue. Do keep any news, views and feedback coming. Please also check our Team YouTube channel for online services:

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

Ed

## OBSERVING LENT

LESS DEMANDING OPTIONS





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## *The Collect:*

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## *Old Testament Reading : Genesis 17. 1 – 7 & 15 - 16*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

## *New Testament Reading: Romans 4. 13 - end*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

<sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup>Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## *Gospel Reading:*

*Mark 8. 13 - 21*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'



## *The Post Communion Prayer:*

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**Homily: Angela Wynne**

We continue our journey through Lent and it's week two already. I like Lent as a time of preparation for Easter far more than Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas. The trouble with Advent is there's so much else going that causes a distraction. Lent on the other hand is longer and you don't have the same distractions. You can really throw yourself into it. And when you follow the way of the cross during Holy Week, remembering the events of the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane and the passion of Christ on Good Friday it makes Easter Day even more wonderful. When you wake up on Easter morning with a real sense of joy, you know you've had a good Lent!

In our reading this morning we join Jesus and his disciples as they journey on through the Galilean countryside. Immediately before this scene Jesus had asked the disciples what people were saying about him. Who did they think he was? They replied, "John the Baptist" "Elijah" "One of the prophets." Then he asked them – "Who do you think I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah." Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about him. It is after this that Jesus thinks the time is right to start preparing them for what is going to happen to him; he will be killed and after 3 days rise again.

Peter is shocked. He feels it's his duty to reassure Jesus that this will not happen to him. The Messiah that Peter believed him to be, could not possibly die in such a way. The Messiah was going to save his people from the Romans and restore Israel to its former glory. The Messiah would be a great king! A superhero! How could Jesus talk about dying now, he had barely got started! He was probably even more shocked at Jesus response – "Get behind me Satan. You are setting your mind on earthly things not on heavenly things."

Jesus makes it plain what his followers must do. He doesn't need their guidance or protection, he just needs them to follow him. He knows it won't be easy, they too will be persecuted. They need to be focussed on him not themselves and prepared to suffer. He talks about taking up the cross. They knew what that meant; crucifixion. The condemned literally had to carry their cross to the execution site. Jesus makes it clear that being a disciple of his wasn't for the faint hearted and could lead to a literal taking up of their cross, as Jesus did on Good Friday.

Three times in Mark's gospel Jesus tells his disciples that he will die and be raised on the third day. It's not until after his death and resurrection that they finally understand why he had to die.

During Lent we reflect on how well we are following Jesus. Are we denying ourselves and putting God first in our lives? Picking up our cross and doing the things he asks of us, prepared to follow him wherever he leads us? Or do we think it's too hard and the cross too heavy, too big a price to pay? As a result, we are only prepared to follow if we like where he's leading us and if the journey is not too uncomfortable otherwise, we let someone else do it instead.

Don't get the wrong idea – Jesus doesn't want us to be miserable and walk around in sack cloth and ashes all the time, he's not against pleasure and he himself was a great socialiser and had lots of friends but he does expect us to strive after the ultimate goal of the Kingdom of heaven and he knows that the going will be tough. We need the mental preparation to get us through that tough going. But the final goal is worth all the effort. And all the worldly pleasures that we could chase after, money, status, power are not worth too hoots in comparison to the knowledge of God.

How can we be more like the followers Jesus needs? This is where Lent comes into its own. The three traditional Lent practices of fasting, prayer and alms giving are one way we can refocus our lives on God and put him back in the centre. If we direct our energies, our thoughts and prayers towards him we will receive back a hundredfold. A self-centred life focussed on possessions, money or power will not bring lasting satisfaction and is ultimately futile – there's no pockets in shrouds as they say, but a life centred on God and working for the kingdom to come on earth will bring meaning, peace, joy, life in all its fullness and also the promise and hope of eternal life.

So stick with your Lent discipline whatever it is with Jesus at the centre and be prepared for a glorious Easter! **Amen.**



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

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## Intercessions –

### Opening Prayer

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship  
for the freedom to be amongst your family  
meeting together in your house  
and in the warmth of your embrace  
Thank you that in worship we can put aside  
the uncertainties of this world and rest  
upon the certainties of the Kingdom  
for your promises are not changeable  
as those of a politician might be  
but immovable and eternal  
Thank you that we can bring to your feet  
all the hurts and fears that trouble us  
and leave them there  
knowing that your strength and assurance  
are all that we require  
Thank you that as we draw near in worship  
we are transported  
from a world of concerns and fears  
to a place where we can be at peace in your presence  
find healing, wholeness and refreshment.  
Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of worship

### Confession and Forgiveness

'Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven,  
whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin  
the Lord will never count against him.'  
Romans 4:7

1. Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm;  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

God of Love, God of Peace  
This fractured word  
Cries out in pain  
Burns deep into my soul  
And challenges me  
To make a difference  
God of Love, God of Peace  
God of this world  
Scarred by grief and tears  
Ignorance and fear  
Softens hearts of stone  
And begin with mine  
God of Love, God of Peace  
Create within me  
A heart for people  
A desire for change  
For new beginnings  
To start this day

### Affirmation

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a generosity of service  
That gives without counting cost  
A life overflowing with Grace  
Poured out from the One  
Who gave everything  
That we might show  
The power of love  
To a broken world  
And share the truth  
From a living Word  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a yearning to share it

4. Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly sin's wild deluge brave,  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
it points to glory o'er the grave.

5. Take up thy cross and follow Christ,  
nor think 'til death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

6. To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise forevermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

**Words:** taken from today's Gospel reading. The hymn was written by an American, Charles William Everest [1814-77] at the age of 19.

**Tune:** Breslau [from a Leipzig hymnal of 1625]





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

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## St David: Bishop and Patron Saint of Wales,



March 1st is St. David's Day, the national day of Wales and has been celebrated as such since the 12th Century.

Today the celebrations usually involve the singing of traditional songs followed by a Te Bach, a tea with bara brith (famous welsh fruited bread) and teisen bach (welsh cake). National costume and leeks or daffodils are worn, being the national symbols of Wales.

So who was St. David (or Dewi Sant in Welsh)? Actually not too much is known about him

except from a biography written around 1090 by Rhygyfarch, son of the Bishop of St. David's.

St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.



In medieval times it was believed that St David was the nephew of King Arthur. Legend has it that the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick – also said to have been born near the present day city of St. Davids – foresaw the birth of David.

The young David grew up to be a priest, being educated at the monastery of Hen Fynyw under the tutorage of St. Paulinus. According to legend David performed several miracles during his life including restoring Paulinus' sight.



St David became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including, possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury. St David reputedly made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, from which he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St David's Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.

St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales. It is also said, however, that during a battle against the Saxons, David advised his soldiers to wear leeks in their hats so that they could easily be distinguished from their enemies, which is why the leek is one of the emblems of Wales.



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Sometimes, as a self-imposed penance, he would stand up to his neck in a lake of cold water, reciting Scripture! It is also said that milestones during his life were marked by the appearance of springs of water.

The most famous miracle associated with St David took place when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. When people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill. A white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

He was named Archbishop of Wales at the Synod of Brevi (Llandewi Brefi), Cardiganshire in 550.

St David died on 1 March – St David's Day – somewhere between 589 – 601AD which would make him over 100 years old. He was buried at the site of St David's Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: **'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'** The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales.



His remains were buried in a shrine in the 6th century cathedral which was ransacked in the 11th century by Viking invaders, who plundered the site and murdered two Welsh bishops. After his death, his influence spread far and wide, first through Britain and then by sea to Cornwall and Brittany. In 1120, Pope Callactus II canonised David as a Saint. Following this he was declared Patron Saint of Wales. Such was David's influence that many pilgrimages were made to St. David's, and the Pope decreed that two pilgrimages made to St. Davids equalled one to Rome while three were worth one to Jerusalem. Fifty churches in South Wales alone bear his name.

Almighty God,  
who called your servant David  
to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales:  
in your mercy, grant that,  
following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ,  
we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.







# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Daniel 9. 4 – 10

Daniel's prayer

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the LORD my God and told him about all my sins. I said,

"Lord, you are a great and awesome God. You keep your agreement of love and kindness with people who love you. You keep your agreement with the people who obey your commands.

<sup>5</sup> "But we have sinned. We have done wrong. We have done evil things. We turned against you. We turned away from your commands and good decisions. <sup>6</sup> The prophets were your servants. They spoke for you to our kings, to our leaders, to our fathers, and to the common people in our country. But we did not listen to them.

<sup>7</sup> "Lord, you are innocent, and the shame belongs to us, even now. Shame belongs to the people from Judah and Jerusalem, and to all the people of Israel, to those who are near and to those you scattered among many nations. They should be ashamed of all the evil things they did against you.

<sup>8</sup> "LORD, we should all be ashamed. All our kings and leaders should be ashamed. Our ancestors should be ashamed, because we sinned against you.

<sup>9</sup> "But, Lord our God, you are kind and forgiving, even though we rebelled against you. <sup>10</sup> We have not obeyed the LORD our God. He used his servants, the prophets, and gave us laws, but we have not obeyed his laws.



*Another Lenten reading looking at asking God's forgiveness for the wrongs that have been done. In Daniel's prayer, he did not start by asking for things but by giving thanks to God who always kept his promises. Daniel thanked God for loving those who loved him.*

*Then Daniel said sorry to God for the wrong things he had done and for his people because they had not obeyed God. He knew that God had punished the people of Israel who had not listened to the prophets that God sent nor obeyed the laws that God had given to them. God had allowed Nebuchadnezzar to take the people away from Jerusalem into exile in Babylon.*

*Daniel knew, however, that God would forgive the people because of his love for them.*

*God is our refuge  
in times of trouble,  
keeping our feet steady upon the road,  
watching over us and keeping us from harm.  
**Where does our help come from?**  
**Our help comes from the Lord,**  
**maker of heaven and earth!***

*God is our fortress  
in times of distress,  
circling us in the safety of his arms,  
granting peace when our lives are not at ease.  
**Where does our help come from?**  
**Our help comes from the Lord,**  
**maker of heaven and earth!***

*God is our Father  
who knows us so well,  
wanting only the best for his children,  
willing always to forgive and forget.  
**Where does our help come from?**  
**Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!***



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

1. Here is love, vast as the ocean  
Loving kindness as the flood  
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
Throughout Heaven's eternal days.

2. On the mount of crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above  
And Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love

**Words:** Today, we should have a Welsh hymn! Written by William Rees [1802-83] about whom nothing is known

**Tune:** **Dim Ond Jesu** by Robert Lowry [1826-99] an American professor of Literature and hymn-writer, most famous for "How can I keep from singing" and "Shall we gather at the river."

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

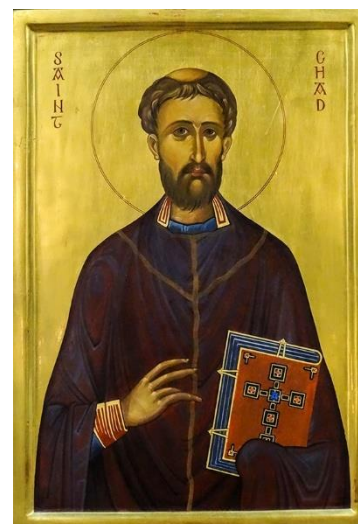
## St Chad

Today, the church remembers St. Chad, bishop and missionary 672AD.

St Chad, the Apostle of the Midlands, was born in Northumbria, one of four brothers, all of whom became priests.

He was educated partly at Lindisfarne under St Aidan and partly in Ireland.

After travelling to Ireland, the centre of Celtic Christianity at that time, Chad returned to be made a priest. His brother Cedd founded a monastery at Lastingham, and after Cedd's death, Chad succeeded him at the abbot. Chad was afterwards made bishop of York. This was a time of controversy between the Celtic Church, and the growing influence of the Church of Rome. Because of this, those who were influenced by Rome had doubts about the validity of Chad's consecration as a bishop & the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Theodore of Tarsus asked Chad to step down.



Chad, being a very humble man, complied, and returned to being the abbot at Lastingham. This so impressed Theodore that when the recently converted king of the kingdom of Mercia (the modern day Greater Midlands area), Wulfhere, asked for a bishop, Theodore sent them Chad. In 669, King Wulfhere donated some land in modern day Lichfield so that Chad could found a monastery there. He built a church, called St Mary's, and built a house nearby, which became a monastery which he lived in with seven or eight monks. He used the nearby spring as a place in which to baptise the local pagan population.



Chad's humility began to be known far and wide. He refused to ride a horse and instead walked everywhere; Archbishop Theodore even had to lift him onto the saddle himself! He would travel for miles, doing missionary and pastoral work.

Tragically, in 672, after only three years in Lichfield, Chad caught the plague & died. In 700, his bones were moved to higher ground in an area that became Lichfield Cathedral and named St Chad's in his honour.





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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## Isaiah 1. 10 & 16 - 20

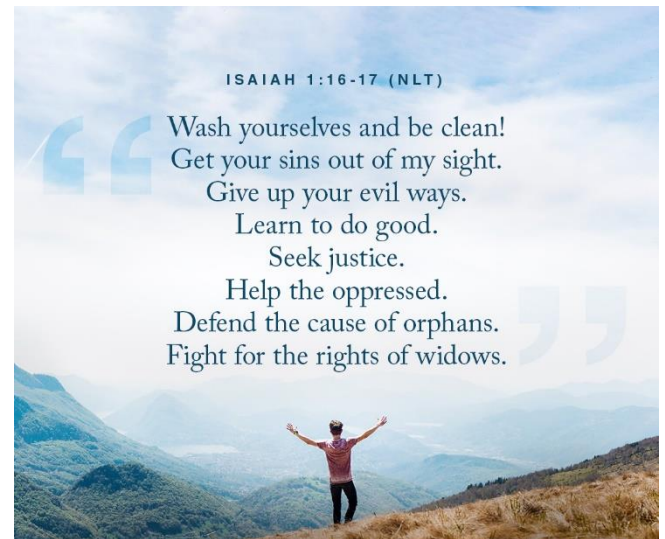
<sup>10</sup> You officers of Sodom, listen to the LORD's message.  
You people of Gomorrah, listen to God's teaching.

<sup>16</sup> "Wash yourselves and make yourselves clean. Stop doing the evil things I see you do. Stop doing wrong. <sup>17</sup> Learn to do good. Treat people fairly. Punish those who hurt others. Speak up for the widows and orphans. Argue their cases for them in court.

<sup>18</sup> "I, the LORD, am the one speaking to you. Come, let's discuss this. Even if your sins are as dark as red dye, that stain can be removed and you will be as pure as wool that is as white as snow.

<sup>19</sup> "If you listen to what I say, you will get the good things from this land. <sup>20</sup> But if you refuse to listen and rebel against me, your enemies will destroy you."

The LORD himself said this.



*Sodom and Gomorrah were used throughout the Old Testament as top of the pile when it came to evil and wicked behaviour which is why Isaiah refers back to them here.*

*He tells them that people who continue to live evil lives cannot expect their sacrifices in the Temple to save them from God's coming judgement. In a mirror of today's washing powder commercials, he compares it to removing a stain - it is almost impossible to remove a red stain completely by human effort, but God can do it perfectly.*

*But if they obey God they will receive all his gifts. Refuse to obey God, and nothing will go right. Without God's protection, their enemies will attack and they will lose everything.*

I Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

**Words:** James Edmeston [1791-1867] was a famous architect who spent most of his life in East London. One of his pupils was Gilbert Scott whose grandson, Giles Gilbert Scott designed Liverpool Cathedral and the red telephone box. He wrote a hymn for each Sunday service [over 2,000 in all] but this is the only one still sung today. Verse 2 has come in for a fair share of criticism for describing Jesus as "dreary" to rhyme with weary and no other reason. Efforts to improve it, however, aren't much better.

**Tune:** Mannheim F Filitz [1804-76] a German composer and music historian.



## PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

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Almighty God,  
from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ,  
you called your servant Chad  
to be an evangelist and bishop of his own people:  
give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life,  
that we may truly commend to others  
the faith which we ourselves profess;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Jeremiah 18. 18 - 20

#### The People Plan Evil and Jeremiah Prays

<sup>18</sup> Then the enemies of Jeremiah said, "Come, let us make plans against Jeremiah. We will always have a priest to tell us what the law says. We will still have wise men to advise us and prophets to tell us a message from God. So who needs Jeremiah? Let's tell lies to ruin him and stop listening to what he says."

<sup>19</sup> LORD, listen to me!

Listen to what my enemies are saying.

<sup>20</sup> I have done only good to them.

It is not right for them to pay me back with evil.

But they are preparing a death trap for me!

Remember that I prayed to you for them.

I asked only good for them.

I tried to keep you from punishing them in anger.



*In case you missed Jeremiah when we did him at the end of July last year, Jeremiah was born in Anathoth about three miles north of Jerusalem into a priestly family and began preaching about 627 BC during the reign of King Josiah probably while still a teenager [Jeremiah 1. 6]. Jeremiah preached to the people of Judah for about 40 years. He comes across as an attractive character who didn't want to be a prophet and complains frankly and frequently to the Lord about his dislike of having to proclaim a tough message of destruction. As you might guess, the people of Judah didn't like the message he was preaching so, here In Jeremiah 18:18 the people of Judah plot to slander and ignore him.*

*The idea is that if Jeremiah is off the scene, the people will still have their priests and wise men and prophets. Now, almost all of those figures seem to be corrupt and false at this point in the history of Judah, but the people don't mind that. They don't mind hearing falsehood from any of these so-called holy men but they take offence at hearing the hard truth from Jeremiah. They'd be happy to be rid of him and keep their false religious leaders who give them things they want to hear rather than giving them the truth.*

*Jeremiah's life work was to communicate to the people on behalf of the Lord. But now he's understanding that these people to whom he's been sent are not just going to ignore him, but slander him and say things about him that aren't true. When discouraged, he does what we should all do - take it to the Lord, and so, we see Jeremiah's prayer to the Lord in Jeremiah 18:19-23.*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

*So, that's the evil. They're seeking to do evil to Jeremiah – preparing a death trap for him. But he's done only good for them, praying to God to save the people from His anger.*

*This is accurate. The Lord actually had to turn away Jeremiah several times already. Jeremiah was praying for the Lord not to punish these very people and it was the Lord who had to tell him to stop. Jeremiah has truly loved these people – the very ones who are seeking to at least ignore him, and to slander him, and even to kill him. Jeremiah has done good for his people and that good has been repaid to him with evil.*

*Jeremiah in his own heart, as it were, hands the people to God for his mercy and judgement.*

*Forty days alone,  
a wilderness of thoughts,  
tempting and inviting thoughts,  
which could so easily have distracted you  
from your task, your mission,  
your vision.  
Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned  
to all that had to be done,  
despite a time constraint  
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.  
We too live in stressful times.  
Demands are made of our time,  
that leave so little  
for the important things of life.  
We are easily distracted*

*in the wilderness of our lives,  
by every call to go this way or that,  
to turn stone to bread  
leap from mountains,  
and do all that would keep us from the truth.  
We listen to the voices of this world,  
and ignore the one who endured all this  
and so much more,  
and emerged triumphant,  
that we might not have to suffer so.  
Forgive us, Father,  
when we get distracted from our task.  
Forgive us those times when we try  
to be all things to all men,  
and fail to be anything to anyone*

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
how passing thought and fantasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

2. For us baptized, for us he bore  
his holy fast and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew,  
for us the tempter overthrew.

3. For us he prayed; for us he taught;  
for us his daily works he wrought:  
by words and signs and actions, thus  
still seeking not himself, but us.

4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death,  
for us gave up his dying breath.

5. For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

6. All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad,  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

**Words:** unknown taken from 23 verses of a Latin hymn of the 15<sup>th</sup> century covering the story of Christ from his birth to the coming of the Holy Spirit. It relates Christ's work for the world repeating the phrase "for us" 12 times in the full version.

**Tune:** Eisenach J.H. Schein [1586-1630]





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Jeremiah 17. 5 - 10



## Trusting in People and Trusting in God

<sup>5</sup> This is what the LORD says:

“Bad things will happen to those who put their trust in people.

Bad things will happen to those who depend on human strength.

That is because they have stopped trusting the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They are like a bush in a desert where no one lives.

It is in a hot and dry land.

It is in bad soil.

That bush does not know about the good things that God can give.

<sup>7</sup> “But those who trust in the LORD will be blessed.

They know that the LORD will do what he says.

<sup>8</sup> They will be strong like trees planted near a stream

that send out roots to the water.

They have nothing to fear when the days get hot.

Their leaves are always green.

They never worry, even in a year that has no rain.

They always produce fruit.

<sup>9</sup> “Nothing can hide its evil as well as the human mind.

It can be very sick,

and no one really understands it.

<sup>10</sup> But I am the LORD,

and I can look into a person’s heart.



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

And to make it hard for all of us, the lectionary skips backwards to chapter 17. For those used to lock-down binge watching box sets on TV in order, this will seem like madness.

So, Jeremiah's doing the "there's bad news and there's good news" here.

Turning from God and then trusting instead in human strength and wisdom receives a curse from the Lord. It always has and it always will. The description of the bush in [Jeremiah 17:6](#) is a poetic image. Rain might fall elsewhere – but you're not going to see and profit from it. You'll be like that bush in a salty, arid, dry environment. Not growing and healthy and strong but weak, spindly and suffering.

But there's a more excellent way! God will bless you if you drop your trust in human strength and wisdom and instead trust in him [[17:7-8](#)]. You'll be like a tree that has ample access to life-giving nourishment. You will be well-provided for in every area that the Lord knows you need. You'll be fruitful.

At this point we get to one of the most well-known passages in the book of Jeremiah [17:9-10](#). It's referring back to verse 5 and the reference to the man whose heart departs from the Lord. It's that very heart that departs from God and is cursed that is so wicked and deceitful and beyond a cure and beyond understanding. But the wicked hearts of people don't escape God's scrutinizing gaze. God can see into our inner motives and thoughts and he will give a just verdict in every case.

In Jeremiah's day this verdict was invasion and exile for the unrepentant sin of the people.

It is customary, Lord  
to give something up  
during the season of Lent.  
What would you have me do without?  
I who have so much.  
Chocolate?  
Cream cakes?  
Cigarettes?  
Sweets?  
The list is endless  
and I could give up all those things  
for the span of 40 days  
quite easily and almost painlessly.  
But what difference would it make  
other than making me feel 'holier'  
that my friend who makes no such sacrifice?

What would you have me do without?  
I who have so much  
Selfishness?  
Conceit?  
Envy?  
Pride?  
I fear before I ask,  
that the answer might be 'yes'  
and the giving up  
would be all too real, Lord.  
It would be difficult,  
painful,  
sacrificial.  
a real cross to carry for 40 days,  
and more?



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
Entered our world, your glory veiled;  
Not to be served but to serve,  
And give your life that we might live.

***This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.***

2. There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load he chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

3. Come, see his hands and his feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.

**Words & Music:** [Graham Kendrick \[b.1950\]](#)

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Genesis 37. 3 – 4, 12 – 12 & 17 - 28

<sup>3</sup> Joseph was born at a time when his father Israel was very old, so Israel loved him more than he loved his other sons. Jacob gave him a special coat, which was long and very beautiful. <sup>4</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them, they hated their brother because of this. They refused to say nice things to him.

<sup>12</sup> One day Joseph's brothers went to Shechem to care for their father's sheep. <sup>13</sup> Jacob said to Joseph, "Go to Shechem. Your brothers are there with my sheep." Joseph answered, "I will go."

<sup>17</sup> The man said, "They have already gone away. I heard them say that they were going to Dothan." So Joseph followed his brothers and found them in Dothan.

### Joseph Sold Into Slavery

<sup>18</sup> Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. They decided to make a plan to kill him. <sup>19</sup> They said to each other, "Here comes Joseph the dreamer. <sup>20</sup> We should kill him now while we can. We could throw his body into one of the empty wells and tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will show him that his dreams are useless."

<sup>21</sup> But Reuben wanted to save Joseph. He said, "Let's not kill him. <sup>22</sup> We can put him into a well without hurting him." Reuben planned to save Joseph and send him back to his father. <sup>23</sup> When Joseph came to his brothers, they attacked him and tore off his long and beautiful coat. <sup>24</sup> Then they threw him into an empty well that was dry.







# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

<sup>25</sup> While Joseph was in the well, the brothers sat down to eat. They looked up and saw a group of traders traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were carrying many different spices and riches. <sup>26</sup> So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit will we get if we kill our brother and hide his death? <sup>27</sup> We will profit more if we sell him to these traders. Then we will not be guilty of killing our own brother." The other brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> When the Midianite traders came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the well and sold him to the traders for 20 pieces of silver. The traders took him to Egypt.

*Whereas, yesterday we were reading of Jeremiah warning the people of the defeat of Jerusalem and their exile, today we have the more personal story of Joseph being sold into slavery and exile in Egypt by his own brothers.*

*Loving Father,  
all the fancy words  
in the world,  
expressed in eloquent prose,  
decorated with emotion,  
spoken with conviction,  
cannot compete with a heartfelt  
'sorry'  
when all other words fail.  
There are times  
when we are all too aware  
of our limitations,  
conscious of sin,  
and the distance it creates between us.  
Sometimes 'sorry'  
is all the heart can bear to say aloud.*

*It is only you  
who can read and understand  
the language of our hearts,  
only you who can translate our 'sorry'  
into the prayer we would have prayed,  
if we had the words within us.  
Then you forgive,  
and having forgiven  
surround us in an embrace of love,  
drawing us close to your heart,  
as it was always meant to be.  
Thank you, Loving Father,  
that you listen to hearts,  
as well as voices  
Thank you.*

I. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name.  
I've been born again in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share his love as he told me to.

***He said 'Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.***

2. All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name  
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share his pow'r as he told me to.

3. God gives us life in Jesus' name  
He lives in us in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share his peace as he told me to.

**Words & Music:** Carol Owens [b.1931] an American who with husband, Jimmy, wrote hymns and several Christian musicals.



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Micah 7. 14 – 15 & 18 - 20

Micah. 7 14 – 15 & 18 – 20

<sup>14</sup> So rule your people with your rod.

Rule the flock of people who belong to you.

That flock lives alone in the woods

and up on Mount Carmel.

That flock lives in Bashan and Gilead

as they did in the past.

## Israel Will Defeat Its Enemies

<sup>15</sup> I did many miracles when I took you out of Egypt.

I will let you see more miracles like that.

## Praise for the Lord

<sup>18</sup> There is no God like you.

You take away people's guilt.

God will forgive his people who survive.

He will not stay angry with them forever,

because he enjoys being kind.

<sup>19</sup> He will come back and comfort us again.

He will throw all our sins into the deep sea.

<sup>20</sup> God, please be true to Jacob.

Be kind and loyal to Abraham as you promised our ancestors long ago.

He will again have  
compassion on us, And  
will subdue our  
iniquities. You will cast  
all our sins Into the  
depths of the sea.

Micah 7:19 NKJV

So Micah is writing in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC with a carrot and stick approach. He speaks out strongly against injustice and corruption among the people but also saw hope in a future salvation. We're right at the end of the book in this reading with those promises of future peace.

We start here as Micah prays to the LORD to look after his people, both Jews and non-Jews ([Acts 15:16-18](#); [Ephesians 1:3-4](#)). The rod is the shepherd's rod, used to keep his sheep together & stop them running away but also means a king's authority [think of the sceptre in the crown jewels].

God's people live alone in the woods surrounded by green fields [[v.14](#)] like a garden in a forest. Many years ago the Israelites had entered the country that God had promised to them - Bashan and Gilead were the first places ([Numbers 21:33](#)). Wonderful things happened during that period. The fields there were green and produced plenty of food; Bashan was famous for its large trees ([Isaiah 2:13](#)) & it had healthy animals. Gilead was famous for its good and pleasant fields ([Numbers 32:1, 26](#)) and was on the middle of the mountain called Carmel [the Hebrew word for garden]. Micah's prayer to God is an urgent one – that He will bring back those original benefits.

Micah's book now ends as he describes our wonderful God. The people sing a final song to praise God starting with the words 'There is no other God like you.' Micah has told them that the LORD is like a light in the darkness ([v. 8-10](#)) a shepherd to his people ([v. 11-14](#)) & the God over the nations ([v. 15-17](#)).

In the Hebrew text, the first sentence is in the form of a question - 'Who is a God like you?' Micah's own name actually means 'Who is like God?'



## PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The verse continues, 'You take away people's guilt.' Israel's people had acted against God's covenant & had done many wrong things ([Micah 1:5, 13; 3:8; 6:7](#)). But the LORD's love is also great and without God's forgiveness, Micah's message would not mean anything.

The book ends with a wonderful message about hope. God will not stay angry for ever and there is hope for those that ask God to forgive their sin.

It is as if God will throw their sins into the deep sea. Perhaps Micah was thinking about the time when God led the Israelites out of Egypt and threw the army from Egypt into the sea ([Exodus 15:4-5](#)). Israel's people started a new journey into the future and as a nation, they started to live in a new way.

In [v.20](#), Micah says that God will carry out his promise to Jacob. This is the 10th time that Micah has mentioned Jacob, but it is the first time that he has mentioned Abraham. The nation called Israel came from Jacob, who was also called Israel. Abraham was Jacob's grandfather.

Those things were what God promised to Israel's ancestors a long time ago. Those promises were good enough for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God's great love and kindness have continued through all time and is the same for us today. He has dealt with our sins by means of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Lord, we would grow with you  
New shoots reaching out  
Hands stretched upward  
Like leaves newly formed  
Soaking up your light and warmth  
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you  
In sunshine and rain  
In darkness and light  
In cold days and summer days  
From Springtime to Winter  
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord, we would grow with you  
And bring forth fruit  
That is pleasing to you  
Fed by your living water  
Giving sustenance to others  
Lord, we would grow with you

Lord I lift Your name on high  
Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high



**Words & Music:** Rick Founds, a Christian songwriter based in California.





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## NOTICES:

### LENT COURSE 2021 – FAITH PICTURES

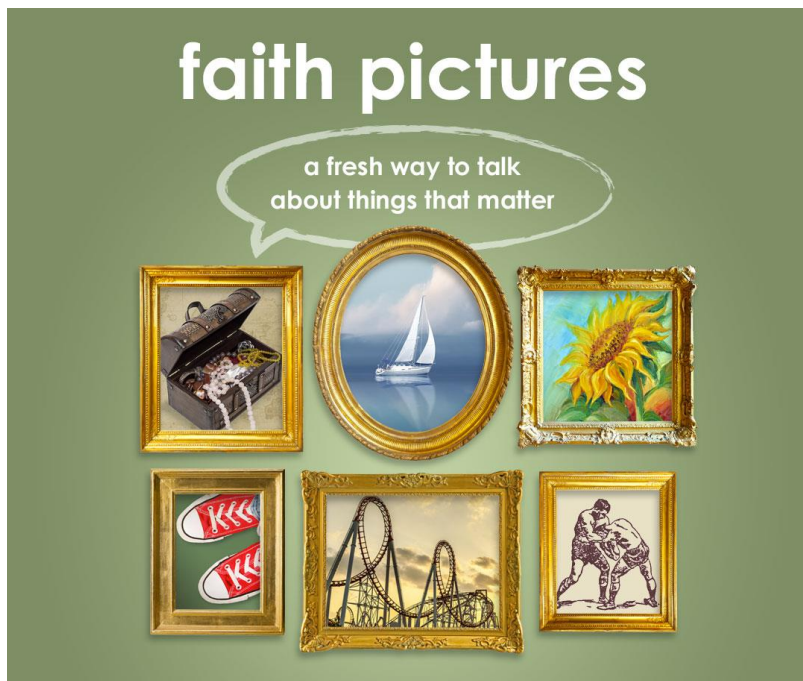
Faith Pictures is a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The heart of the course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. This is because the kinds of communication which best stick in the mind are concrete and rooted in story.

The course aims to be accessible and light-hearted, without jargon or inflexible methods. Each session contains a short video and encourages discussion.

#### ON ZOOM.

- From Tuesday 23rd Feb at 7 pm and every Tuesday for 6 weeks.
- From Thursday 25th Feb at 2 pm and every Thursday for 6 weeks.

Please email Carol, Angela or Malcolm to let us know you want to join us and we will send you the link and more details. Thank you.



#### Church Attendance for School Places:

To register attendance, please e-mail:

[bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com](mailto: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

#### Next Sunday: The Third Sunday of Lent

**Readings: Exodus 20. 1 - 17 / 1 Corinthians 1. 18 - 25 / John 2. 13 - 22**

**11:00am**

**Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's church**

**Do contact us if we can offer any help or support at this time.**

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**Team Vicar:** Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – [revawynne@gmail.com](mailto:revawynne@gmail.com)

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Material for the news sheet should be sent to Joan Warner by Wednesday morning 01942 818821 [joan.warner35@outlook.com](mailto:joan.warner35@outlook.com)

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