

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle	01942 859251
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
	Joyce Cunliffe	01204 697652
<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

For all enquiries relating to baptism and weddings, and for other routine matters, please come to the parish office at St Bartholomew's Church on any Monday (other than Bank holidays) 6pm - 7pm

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

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 2018

John Mason Neale Born 24th January 1818

There are lots more anniversaries to mark in 2018, starting with the 200th birthday of John Mason Neale. He was a Victorian clergyman in an age when it wasn't a full-time occupation. As his health was poor, he managed to serve only six weeks as rector of Crawley in Sussex before later becoming warden of an almshouse, Sackville college. His High Church background led the Bishop of Winchester to ban him from performing ministerial duties which left him plenty of time for his interest of translating and writing hymns. The English Hymnal alone contained 63 of his translations and 6 original hymns [of a total of about 500] including "Jerusalem, the Golden", Palm Sunday's "All Glory, Laud and Honour", Easter's "The Day of Resurrection" and "Christ is made the Sure Foundation." With his collaborator, Thomas Helmore, he could be said to have brought carol singing to Britain with "O come, O come, Emmanuel", "Of the Father's love begotten", "A Great and Mighty Wonder", "Good Christian Men, rejoice" and "Unto us is born a son." His most famous carol is arguably the least good, "Good King Wenceslas." For someone so interested in hymns, however, contemporary records say that he couldn't sing a single note in tune.



With so many to choose from, we'll be singing a good selection in our services this year.
Ed

"My Beloved Son" is a musical drama for Easter being planned ecumenically in Westhoughton. Weekly rehearsals will start on 12th Jan at Westhoughton Methodist Church with performances on the evenings of Good Friday and Holy Saturday [30th & 31st March] at St. Bartholomew's. Anyone wishing to sing, please contact lesleydinh@outlook.com or 'phone her on 01942 581 337. See also posters in our churches.



Chris writes.....

Dear friends



By the time you read this letter, most of you will be aware that I have accepted a new appointment as Vicar of Bolton (St Peter) with St Philip and Borough Dean of Bolton. I mention my new appointment at this stage as it is a very clear reminder of the way in which our God of surprises works. The suggestion that I test a vocation to this new work came as a complete surprise and was certainly something I had neither planned nor prepared for!

But isn't that so characteristic of the way God works? Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many other great leaders and prophets in Old Testament times protested not only their inadequacy for the task that lay ahead but also their surprise at being called. And Mary - she was stunned at being called to bear the Son of God - a young girl plucked from obscurity in order to fulfil a divine task. Yet surely the important factor in these and many other calls to service is that the individuals concerned, were obedient to the call to service and stepped out in faith, ready to serve the God who had surprised them.

I often note in my New Year magazine letter that we have no idea what God has in store for us in the coming year. I make no apology for repeating this remark this year - not only because of my forthcoming new work and the consequences for the Team here but also because God is ready to surprise all of us as He works His purpose out throughout the year.

In 2018, be open to God - listen to Him, speak to Him and be prepared to be surprised by Him.

With my love and very best wishes for a very happy and peaceful new year.

Chris
Vicar of Bolton

As you've read, Chris has been appointed Vicar of Bolton Parish Church with St. Philip's Bolton and Borough Dean of Bolton. We will be holding a special team service on **Palm Sunday [25th March] at 3pm** to mark his time with us. Chris will continue to lead our services through Holy Week and celebrate his final services with us on Easter Day [1st April].

His Collation and Induction as Vicar of Bolton will be on **Wednesday 18th April at 7:30pm** at Bolton Parish Church and everyone is welcome to attend.

Do book the dates in your 2018 diaries.

On behalf of our team of churches we wish all our readers a blessed and peaceful new 2018.

St. Bartholomew St. Thomas St. George

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

WordSearch Bible Study at St. Bart's 7:30pm

Tuesday 9th January Wisdom literature part 2... "The Psalms"

Tuesday 23rd January Prophets - all doom and gloom? The major prophets.

All welcome to attend; don't worry if you haven't been before, no previous knowledge needed or expected.



Café Church - St. George's

**St George's
Café Church**

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 3.25 through the main school entrance.

Organised by St George's Church members we meet for half an hour to worship: sharing in song, prayer, conversations and snacks.
All are welcome to attend*

Dates for Spring Term 2018

18 th January	1 st February	15 th February
1 st March	15 th March	

* Children MUST be accompanied by an adult at all times

It's planned to start Café Church on Wednesday afternoons at St. Thomas' Church during this term. Offers of help are welcome and further details will follow.

Bible Society Advent Challenge

Each day you had to pick one from the three challenges and then confirm that you'd completed it. Here's Abigail's write-up [with thanks to mum, Tracey Thornton].

Abigail loved to go onto her mummy's computer every morning to see what challenge she had to do that day. One of the challenges she had to donate food to a food bank so she took some tins to the food grub at church. Abigail also had to do a challenge of smiling to everyone through the day she did this and it made her feel happy. Doing all these different challenges it made me feel happy doing the challenges and it made me do things I wouldn't normally do.