

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 FEBRUARY 2018

St. Valentine's Day 14th February

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 14th February [see further details inside] but that's a date many people would more commonly associate with St. Valentine's Day. There are two Valentines listed in the commemoration of martyrs for February 14th, one a Roman priest martyred under Emperor Claudius and another martyred in the Italian region of Umbria in AD 269. Details of both are unreliable and it is possible that these two Valentines were one and the same person. He was never venerated particularly in England and there isn't and never seems to have been a St. Valentine's church in this country.

So, how did he come to be associated with lovers and courting couples given that he has no clear connection with either [less romantically he's one of the patron saints of bee-keepers and plague sufferers]. In the Middle Ages, February 14th was seen as the mid-point between the shortest day in December and the start of spring in March and was the day when birds came together to pair for the year and thus the day became known as one for devotion and romance.

For anyone that forgets this year and wants to try the excuse that they've given up Valentine's Day for Lent, do turn to page 2 and read Kirsty's article next...

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 lesleydinham@gmail.com or 'phone her on 01942 581 337. See also posters in our churches.



Kirsty writes:

Dear Friends,

It seems strange thinking about Lent just weeks into the New Year, yet it begins in just two weeks. Fixing Easter Day is always a topic of discussion, however it is the one of few church festival that fits into the both the solar and lunar calendars which brings together all Christian traditions. And! What knowledge to have than to know that Easter is set to fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring after the spring equinox, *(Maybe useful for a quiz one day).*

The Lent season in the church is a chance for us to reflect on our faith, on Jesus' coming and examples on earth, his death, and that forward looking towards Jesus' second coming. The fact that the dates move, allow us to be on our toes, to be attentive and to be ready at all times for God's second coming.

One of the things I have already begun to think about is - what I am going to do to prepare myself during this season of Lent? It may be a surprise to some, but giving up something for Lent is not for me. However, I do take something on. Over the years this has included extra time in prayer each day, visiting an extra person a week, writing a daily reflection / blog and giving daily to a food bank. For me, taking something on is responding to God's call for us to follow in Jesus' footsteps and an opportunity to share our faith through mission opportunities, while being tempted with other, often more interesting, interests. This results in being more God focussed, attentive and prepared for God's unexpected coming.

I hear many non-church goers talk about giving up for Lent, and when I dig deeper it's usually because that the norm in the household, not God focussed. Therefore, whether you decide this year to give something up, take something on or even do both, I invite you stop and think about the reasons for doing so and ask Is it challenging enough for me to reflect daily on God and your relationship with God? If yes - Go ahead, if no, maybe back to the drawing board for a more challenging idea.

Ash Wednesday 14th February

10:00am Midweek Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's with year 6 children from all our church schools.

7:30pm Parish Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's marking the start of Lent

A leaflet detailing services and events throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter is available in all our churches.

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

Tuesday 6th February "Hopes and Dreams – Revelation: new beginnings"

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. Thomas'

**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

Café Church on Wednesday afternoons at **St. Thomas' Church** following the same format will run on 14th Feb, 28th Feb and 14th March also at 3:45 – 4:15pm.

Lent Course

During Lent, we will be running a five session course at St. Bartholomew's church on **Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm**. These will take the form of a series of addresses "From Jerusalem to Calvary" focussing on the Stations of the Cross produced by the Benedictine sisters of Turvey.

The talk will finish by 8:15pm and will be followed by the short Evening Prayer service of Compline which will finish by 8:30pm.

Though this is a course, each session is complete in itself so please feel free to come to whichever sessions you can manage.

20 th February	Celebration	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
27 th February	Humility	The washing of the feet
6 th March	Authority	The Last Supper
13 th March	Degradation	Arrest and Torture
18 th March	Completion	The Crucifixion