

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

For all enquiries relating to baptism and weddings, and for other routine matters, please come to Bartholomew's Church on any Monday [other than Bank Holidays] from 6 – 7pm

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	<i>Vacant</i>	
Team Vicar	Revd Angela Wynne	01204 468150
Reader Emeritus	Alan Morris	01942 817871
Reader	Christine Radford	01942 790091
Reader	Elaine Simkin	01942 810762
Curate:	Revd Kirsty Screeton	01942 575383

Parish Wardens

Margaret Dolphin		01942 790415
Edward McHale		01942 812193

Deputy Wardens

<i>St Bartholomew</i>	Christine Andrews	01942 817146
<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

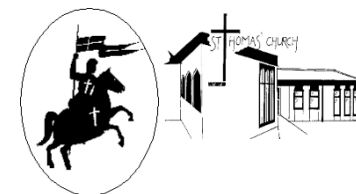
Follow us on Twitter @Wparishchurch and on Facebook

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 - DECEMBER 2018

Silent Night

It was Christmas Eve 1818, exactly 200 years ago, in the small Austrian village of Oberndorf that the worst disaster that could ever befall a church happened ... the organ broke down! It's thought that mice had eaten through the leather of the bellows. So, hastily, the parish priest and organist wrote a carol they could sing together to a guitar accompaniment and, thus, "Silent Night" was first heard.

The words are by Joseph Mohr who was born in 1792, adopted by the local church and sang at St. Peter's church in Salzburg where Michael Haydn directed the music, before being ordained into the Roman Catholic Church. The original words bear no relation to the version translated into English that we sing now. There were six verses which refer frequently to fatherhood but never mention motherhood or the Virgin Mary. Whereas we sing "holy infant so tender and mild" the original words translate as "the sweet boy with curly hair" and the original words are thought to relate more to the joy of the retreat of Napoleon and the Franco-Bavarian armies from Austria than the coming of Christ.

Mohr seems to have been quite a character relating well to the boatmen who made up the majority of his congregation. His bishop complained that "he gambles and drinks at night and sings ... unwholesome songs. He jokes with members of the opposite sex, doesn't behave in a spiritual manner and goes out with women."

The tune was supplied by the organist at Oberndorf, Franz Gruber [1787-1863] who was school master at the village next door and together they gave the first performance next to the crib at midnight mass on Christmas Eve 1818 in St. Nicholas Church. The church and whole village were demolished and moved to a higher site in 1905 after two destructive floods, but the Silent Night chapel now stands on the site and is visited by thousands of pilgrims eager to hear the carol sung.

To save you the bother of travelling all that way, the choir are going to sing it at St. Bart's as part of our Christmas services to mark its bicentenary. I'm definitely not producing a guitar, so please keep any mice away from the organ.

Merry Christmas.

Ed

Home Communion at Christmas

If you know of anyone who would like to receive communion at Christmas but is not able to get to church because of poor health or frailty, please let one of the churchwardens know. Please don't assume that someone else will have told us - we would rather we were all told six times than not at all!

St Thomas' Café Church / St Georges' Café Church

St Thomas's Cafe Church meets fortnightly on a Wednesday during Term Time 3.45 - 4.15pm. We gather in the main hall and entrance to Café Church is from 3.25pm through the church entrance.

DATES: 28th Nov, 12th Dec

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 3.25pm through the main school entrance.

DATES: 29th Nov, 13th Dec

We meet for half an hour to worship: sharing in song, prayer, conversations and snacks.

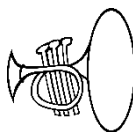
All are welcome to attend - children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult at all times.



Wingates Brass Band Concert

Thursday 13th December 8:00pm:

Christmas Concert by Wingates band at St. John's church, Wingates. Tickets £8 including refreshments. Children accompanied by a paying adult free.



Deane Deanery Advent Carol service

Sunday 2nd December 6:30pm at St. James' Daisy Hill

Musicians and Singers from across the Deane deanery will be leading an Advent Sunday festival of songs and hymns old and new. All invited to come and join the Deanery celebration.

Parish Christingle Service

Sunday 2nd December 2:30pm for 3pm at St. Bartholomew's

Christingle celebrates its 50th year in the Church of England this year. Do come at 2:30pm bringing an orange to make your Christingle in time for the 3:00pm service. There will be a collection raising funds for the Children's Society at this service. Once again, many thanks to Christine and Andrew Jolley for their work in preparing this service.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 1st December 9:00am

The Men's Breakfast at the Watergate [junction 4 M61] with guest speaker Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Bolton.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 30th November 7:00pm St. Bartholomew's

The Annual Christmas Lights Switch on is at St. Bartholomew's on Friday 30th November at 7:00pm with the usual Carol Service featuring our local schools. Be early to get a seat!

Pretoria Pit 108th Anniversary Commemoration Service

Friday 21st December 10:00am St. Bartholomew's

This will be marked with the usual service at St. Bartholomew's church before moving to the memorial and the short service at the Ditchfield Gardens memorial at 7:40am. Tea / Coffee served afterwards.

Christmas Dinner on Jesus

In the past we've collected mince pies and biscuits.

This year we're out to collect 600 Christmas Puddings!

They need to be the 454g size [so not the enormous ones, usually serve 4 people] and alcohol-free, please.

Last date to drop them off at church is **Sunday 2nd December**. After that they will be collected and used to make up Christmas Dinner supplies for people in our community who would not otherwise enjoy a Christmas dinner.

Many thanks, in advance, for your generosity in supporting this excellent cause again this year.

Induction – Revd Carol Pharaoh

Thursday 31st January 7:30pm at St. Bartholomew's

The Service of Welcome for the Revd. Carol Pharaoh as Team Rector of the Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates team is shown above. Further details will follow when we know them. *If anyone know the difference between Inductions, Institutions & Collations, please enlighten me! Ed*

Coffee Morning in aid of Bolton Hospice

Saturday 8th December 10:00am St. Bart's

Christmas Publicity

Please take away and distribute our December 2018 Advent and Christmas Service leaflet which gives details of all the services over this period.

There are further resources for Advent and Christmas at the Church of England's **#Followthestar** campaign.



We wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful 2019