

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 contact the Rector, details below. Or, for baptism enquiries please come to the Office Hour at St. Bartholomew's church on Wednesdays from 11:00am – noon.

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	Revd Carol Pharaoh carol.pharaoh@gmail.com	01942 859251
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

St Bartholomew	Christine Andrews	01942 817146
St George	Pat James	01204 492994
	Sarah Barry	01942 840441
St Thomas	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 - JUNE 2019

New life, new beginnings.

This is a lovely time of year when nature seems to be bursting into life. There seems to be a feeling of optimism, hopefulness, new life and new beginnings. New life, new beginnings..... Over the last few weeks our Sunday readings have told us about what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. For 40 days until Jesus' ascended into heaven, Jesus met with his friends the disciples. They met with him, saw his new life and listened to what he had to teach them. New life, new beginnings..... Ten days after he has ascended, at the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in a very dramatic way, giving them power and boldness to tell others about Jesus. The work carried on through them as they travelled, preached, taught, healed, baptised, suffered and risked, (and even lost), their lives. It was a new beginning for them, and by turn they enabled others to come to a living faith in Jesus.

New life, new beginnings..... Two thousand or so years later it's our turn. We have the new life that he offers to all who believe and trust in him and seek to follow him. We are the people trusted to extend an open invitation, a simple message of new life and new hope which is available to all. With the Holy Spirit working in us and through us, God calls us to be part of his mission. Are we ready to be part of this?

New life, new beginnings.....??? Are we ready to say to God "Yes please!" Where will God lead us? He may lead us down familiar paths or he may lead us on a wonderful new adventure. Wherever he leads, God assures us always of his presence and his peace.

New life, new beginnings.....

Revd Carol Pharaoh

St James' Daisy Hill Concert Series

Friday 28th June 7:30pm

St. James' are hosting a coffee concert featuring the **Ithoni Duo** of 'cello and guitar. Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine at the interval. Under 18s get free entry if accompanied by an adult.

Ascension Day Thursday 30th May 7:30pm St. Bartholomew's

Ascension Day is celebrated forty days after Easter [which is why it always falls on a Thursday] and marks Jesus' return to heaven following his resurrection.

We're celebrating with our Ascension Day services on Thursday 30th May at St. Bartholomew's church at 7:30pm.



Stewardship 2019

As we approach the mid-point of the year, it's a good time to look again at our stewardship. Between our three churches we have to pay our Parish Share of £55,000 this year as well as our heating, lighting, insurance bills etc. To do this we need regular and planned giving from individuals to keep the buildings open for worship as a beacon of the life, light and love of Jesus in our parish.

You can give in several ways:

- putting cash on the plate during the collections at our Sunday services
- becoming part of a **planned giving scheme** – ask for a pack of weekly envelopes and decide on a regular commitment
- setting up a standing order / direct debit to pay your donations each week or month directly to our bank accounts.

Planned giving is best for us as it allows us to budget throughout the year and demonstrates a commitment to good stewardship.

If you pay tax, then you are eligible to **Gift Aid** your giving. By signing a simple form, we can reclaim from the Inland Revenue 25p for each £1 that you give. One-off donations can be Gift Aided using the blue envelopes available.

For further details, please speak to any of our Finance team:

St. Bartholomew's – Elaine Simkin / Andrew Jolley

St. George's – John Thompson

St. Thomas' – Claire Smith

St George's Café Church

St George's Cafe Church will meet
Fortnightly on a **Thursday**
during Term Time 3.45 - 4.15pm



Dates for Summer Term 2019

6th June
11th July

20th June

St Thomas' Café Church

St Thomas' Cafe Church will meet
Fortnightly on a **Wednesday**
during Term Time 3.45 - 4.15pm

Dates for Summer Term 2019

5th June
10th July

19th June

**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

Welcome Back

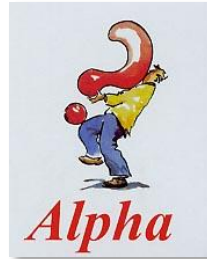
Revd Kirsty will be returning from her maternity leave on Monday 17th June and we look forward to her ministry with us again. I'm sure we'll be able to find her something to do ...

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to all who donated to Christian Aid this year – we'll let you know the total raised in a future newsletter.



The *Alpha* course for adults is running now
at 7.30 p.m. on
Tuesdays
at St. John's, Wingates



Who is it for?

You! - whether you are new to Christianity or have been a Christian all your life.

What is it for?

It gives you a chance to explore the basics of what Christians believe or to refresh your understanding.

You have the opportunity to ask the questions you have always wanted to ask but perhaps have never got round to or never dared to.

Will I find it too difficult?

Is it very academic? Will it be like listening to a sermon?
No, no and no.

How does the course work?

The course consists of a maximum of **10** sessions.

They are very informal and relaxed.

You have the chance to express your opinion or just listen to others, as you wish. There is no pressure.

The sessions last about 1½ to 2 hours maximum.

If you've already done Alpha yourself, bring a friend!

**If you would like to take part or to find out more, contact Vince on ☎
790091.**

Email: wingatescofe@virginmedia.com

Ordinations – June 2019

This year we pray particularly for those being ordained Priest by the Bishop of Middleton at Manchester Cathedral Saturday June 22nd 2:30pm

- **Grace Thomas [Moss Side, St. James with St. Clement and Whalley Range, St. Edmund]** Grace began training while at Wingates in our Team. We pray for her, Gareth and their family and the parishes they serve in Salford and Manchester.
- **Anne Gilbert [Dearnley, Wardle and Smallbridge]** Anne is the daughter of Revd Fred Gilbert, a former curate and rector [1980 – 87] of Westhoughton.
- **Ben Wilkinson** Ben is curate in Deane and Lostock in our Deanery

We pray also for Ian Hepburn being ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Manchester at Manchester Cathedral Sunday 30th June at 10:30am.

Ian's known to many of us from his work at Wingates and St. George's churches. Below is a short piece he wrote for the June Diocesan CRUX magazine:

I remember thinking "I'm, running the wrong race here!"

"I enjoyed working for the NHS in Greater Manchester as a paramedic for 14 years, getting out and about, meeting lots of different people, and the satisfaction of helping."

Ian and his wife were involved in their local church where, as churchwarden and ALM, Ian was encouraged to give it a go upfront, but he'd always thought of himself as a practical kind of guy, and certainly not an "up at the front" guy in robes!

"Whenever I took the opportunity, there was an unusual sense of peace alongside the nervousness I associated with leading worship. God seemed to be doing something, but it was way outside my comfort zone. I prayed that God would make it obvious if he wanted me to change direction.

I remember being on a treadmill in the gym and thinking, 'I'm running in completely the wrong race here'. Encouragement from family and friends and church slowly built up, culminating in a line from a sermon which I couldn't get out of my head, '@Don't miss out on the opportunity to spend your life on God's work.' "

Encouragements from within and without led Ian to taking the step of talking to the director of ordinands and follow the selection process.

"The day I handed back my NHS green uniform to start training at St. Mellitus College was a huge step for me and a big leap into the unknown. Looking back, it took a great many small steps, encouragements and prayers before I was ready to take that leap of faith."

"As I approach ordination, I'm looking forward to sharing in the faith journeys of others and hopefully helping them along the way. I'm thrilled to be serving my curacy at Bolton Parish Church and St. Philip's. If one thing worries me, it's remembering everyone's names."

Thy Kingdom Come May 30th – June 9th A Week of Prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost

ASCENSION DAY OR ON ANY DAY AFTER ASCENSION

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9. 24*

FRIDAY AFTER ASCENSION

As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to human beings, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. *Hebrews 2. 8b - 10*

SATURDAY AFTER ASCENSION

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8. 38, 39*

SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive. *John 7. 37 - 39a*

MONDAY

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40. 28 - end*

TUESDAY

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *1 Corinthians 12. 4 - 7*

WEDNESDAY

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. *Joel 2. 28 , 29*

THURSDAY

Jesus said, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!' *Luke 11. 9 - 13*

FRIDAY

In Christ every one of God's promises is a 'Yes'. For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen', to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment. *2 Corinthians 1. 20 - 22*

SATURDAY

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. *2 Corinthians 3. 17, 18*

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Jesus said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' *John 20. 21, 22*

Through Christ, who ever lives to make intercession for us, let us pray to the Lord. Lift up our hearts to the heavenly places and inspire us to serve you as a royal priesthood:
Let all peoples acknowledge your kingdom and grant on earth the blessing of peace:
Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit and renew your Church with power from on high:
May peace abound and righteousness flourish, that we may vanquish injustice and wrong:
Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation, and grant us the needful gifts of your grace:
Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays, to the mercy and protection of God. Amen