

# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



## SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

### THE EPIPHANY

Welcome to Worship today

#### Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
<b>9:15am</b> Holy Communion Revd Andy Jones	<b>9:15am</b> Holy Communion Revd Angela Wynne	<b>11:00am</b> Service of the Word Elaine Simkin <b>HYMNS: 105, 95, 94, The first nowell</b>

#### This week we pray for:

**Those who are ill:** Harry Bowyer, Brian Cato, Libby Evans, Georgia Gidney, Denise Gilliland, Nigel Ginniff, Kathleen Grundy, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Joan James, Patricia James, Eileen Marsh, Ted Morgan, Jean Partington, Arthur Robinson, Norman Sidlow, Joan Warner, Ellen Mary Wheeler, Arthur Winrow.

**Those who have died recently:** Marilyn Rutley

**And on their anniversaries this week we remember:** George Bryant, Joseph Darbyshire, Clifford Freeman, Jennifer Grimshaw, Hettie Hart, James Hayes, Herbert Hollingsworth, Wilfred Kirkman, Norman Pomfret, Madge Smalley, James Staveley, Joan Turner Edith Valentine, Melissa Walmsley.

#### Coming Up this week:

<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b> 9:30 – 11:00am 9:30 – 11:00am	St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	<b>Office Hour – for booking baptisms / other church business</b> <b>Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship</b>
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 – 11:30am 3:45 – 4:30pm 7:30pm	St John's Church, Wingates St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	<b>Talking Tables Group – first meeting</b> <b>Café Church: The Visit of the Magi - Epiphany</b> <b>Choir Practice</b>

#### Next Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

### NEXT SUNDAY: The Second Sunday of Epiphany

**Readings: 1 Samuel 3. 1 - 10 / Revelation 5. 1 - 10 / John 1. 43 - 51**

<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Service of the Word at St George's</b>	<b>Revd Andy Jones</b>
<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Service of the Word at St Thomas'</b>	<b>Christine Andrews</b>
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's</b>	<b>Alan Morris / Revd Carol Pharaoh</b>

**Team Rector:** Revd Carol Pharaoh 01942 859251 [carol.pharaoh@gmail.com](mailto:carol.pharaoh@gmail.com) [www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk)

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

**Curate:** Revd Andy Jones 01942 813 750 Email: [reverendandyjones@gmail.com](mailto:reverendandyjones@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK** – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch

@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

**Office Hours: Mondays 9:30am – 11:00am at St Bartholomew's church [drop in] or Saturday morning by appointment**

Email: [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com)

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)

To receive these pewsheets or special events leaflets electronically, please e-mail

[westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com)

Readings for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Collect:**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 60. 1 - 6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**Second Reading Ephesians 3. 1 - 12**

<sup>1</sup>I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan

of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 2. 1 - 12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup>'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,  
WESTHOUGHTON

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**



**January 2024**

**11:00am**

**St Bartholomew's Church**

**Service of the Word**



*We celebrate the visit of the wise men*

**All Welcome**



## Prayers: Epiphany

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.  
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Father, grant to Christians everywhere  
the spirit of adoration ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds  
*[at the beginning of this year]* ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:  
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:  
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,  
and all who suffer ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,  
our families and this community of which we are a part ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**



## Introduction to the Season

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany



season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.

*(Christopher Wordsworth)*

The arrangement of the Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

## Background: The Epiphany Season from 6<sup>th</sup> January



The Epiphany [celebrated each year on the 6<sup>th</sup> January] has become an occasion to celebrate one moment in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi. The word "Epiphany" means manifestation or, more simply, "showing" hence its other title of "the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." Ships today still carry a manifest showing everything that is aboard and political parties have manifestos showing everyone their plans for government.

St. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their



number at three [as there were three gifts], made them kings and gave them names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Reading it again [*Matthew 2. 1 – 12*] you'll find no mention of camels or stables and the visit could have occurred at some time in the first two years of Jesus' earthly life.



In this perspective, Epiphanytide, therefore, is a suitable season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the Sundays immediately after, we focus on particular firsts in Jesus' life where his ministry is shown. The Sunday after Epiphany is a celebration of Christ's baptism by John, when the heavens were opened, a dove descended and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son [*Matthew 3. 13 – 17*].



The first miracle at Cana in Galilee changing water into wine, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately [*John 2.1 – 11*]. We often have the readings marking his first preaching in the temple [*Luke 4. 14 – 21*] or calling the first disciples [*Matthew 4. 18 – 22*].

The season of Epiphany ends as we move back to Jesus' infancy and the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel' [*Luke 2.22 – 40*]. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering and we move our attention away from celebrating the 40 days of Christmas and look ahead to the 40 days of Lent.



# Epiphany letter from Bishop David

First published on: 5th January 2024



Dear sisters and brothers,

As we celebrate Epiphany, with its message that Jesus Christ is the Good News for the whole of God's creation, I want to begin by thanking each and every one of you for all that you have done to make this reality more widely known and lived throughout the Manchester Diocese over the last twelve months. Over these last few years, Covid notwithstanding, we have managed to put in place structures which I firmly believe better equip us for mission and ministry in our chaplaincies, schools, parishes and other mission contexts. We are also blessed with hugely talented and highly committed people, not least the record number of graduating stipendiary curates who will be moving into incumbency-level posts over the next few months, and the specialist staff arriving in our deaneries. Their focus is on enabling all of us to play our part in meeting our share of the national target to double the number of young people among our disciples.

The next twelve months will be a vital test bed for how we put our hopes and ambitions into practice. We are set up to achieve positive change, and now is the time to make it happen, so that the vision we have worked hard on, and with such widespread consultation and engagement, becomes the reality.

As our vision makes clear, all our efforts must be surrounded by prayer. The founding and growth of our Prayer Community has been a real joy. The commitment made by members is simple, but the effect of so much purposeful prayer is immeasurable. Over this next twelve months, I hope that many more individuals will feel able to commit to the simple rhythm it offers.

Most of us are only part of the church because somebody made the effort to talk to us about Jesus, or to invite us to a church event where we would hear the gospel set out. Whilst not every Christian is a gifted evangelist, we can all play our part, by being ready to share the difference our faith makes in our lives with those who ask or show interest. Beyond this, we need to identify, raise up and equip leaders who are gifted in evangelisation. My prayer is for everyone living or working in our diocese to be within reach of someone with whom they can identify, and who holds and can articulate our faith, in words and deeds.

Gifted Christian leaders do not simply grow on trees. They have to be found from among our church members, then nurtured and provided with opportunities for learning and development. We need to be diligent in identifying younger people and those from more diverse backgrounds, and making space for them to develop their gifts and skills. I am delighted that in 2024 so many curates will move on to positions of greater responsibility, however the work of finding the next generation of new leaders, lay as well as ordained, begins now.



## PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

As I leave the Board of Governors of the Church Commissioners, I am aware of just how much we depend on money raised from national church endowments to support our mission and ministry. Not only do we receive over £2 million each year towards our poorer parishes, we have also had significant funds to establish fresh ventures such as Children Changing Places, Antioch, and our Resource Churches. It is right that we do receive such generous support; we are one of the dioceses with the least historic resources per capita in the country, and with a higher proportion of poorer parishes than any other. However, that does not remove the necessity to raise most of the funds that sustain our work locally. In 2024 we will need to redouble our efforts to develop a stronger culture of giving and generosity.

I look forward to sharing with you all, as we seek to build in 2024 from the sound base and healthy culture we now have. As we do so, it will be important that we look after ourselves and those around us. The yoke Christ lays upon us should not conflict with attention to our well-being. Indeed, the two go hand in hand. So, my hope and prayer is that 2024 will be a year that combines effort with excitement, where hope becomes reality, and that our labours will prove both fulfilling and fun.

May God bless you this Epiphanytide and throughout the year to come.

+David Manchester

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading '+David Manchester'.

### 2023: Year in Review

2023 was a great year for the Diocese of Manchester. Here, we take a look back at some of the fantastic things that we achieved as a diocese.

[Read more](#)



## Organ Music - St Bartholomew's

**Before the service**, we'll have some pieces suitable for Epiphany including pieces based on the German Lutheran chorale "How brightly shines the morning star." The text was written in 1597 by Philipp Nicolai and first published in 1599 [it's number 100 in our hymn books if you want to read it] in a collection also containing the hymn "Sleepers wake, for night is flying" that we heard on Advent Sunday.

The tune has been claimed to be by Nicolai also but is at least 60 years older than the hymn. There have been many settings of it by composers of the era such as Bach, Buxtehude and Praetorius. In 1870 Peter Cornelius published his song "Three Kings from Persian Lands afar" which sets his tune above the chorale melody that acts as the accompaniment.

It's just a pity that the hymn has nothing to do with Epiphany and the reference to the star is not the one that led the Magi to the Holy Family. The hymn was written in 1597 in response to a plague and is based on Psalm 45, a mystical wedding song. Jesus is identified with the morning star, according to Revelation 22:16, and with the bridegroom of the psalm.

**After the service**, following on from the Advent / Christmas toccata season, we'll continue through the season on Epiphany in January starting with the "Carillon-Sortie" by **Henri Gabriel Mulet** (17 October 1878 – 20 September 1967).

His father Gabriel Léon Mulet was choirmaster of the Basilica of Sacré-Cœur, where his mother Blanche Victoire Augustine Gatin would also play the harmonium; as a boy he sometimes deputised for her. He studied at the Paris Conservatoire from 1890, where his teachers included Alexandre Guilmant and Charles-Marie Widor. He originally intended to be a cellist, but later served as an organist at several Parisian churches.



He wrote *Carillon-Sortie* during the time prior to 1917 when he was organ professor at the Ecole Niedermeyer and organist of the St Roch church in Paris [pictured]. It is a brilliant final voluntary in toccata style, imitative of a melodic set of bells, and dedicated to one of the leading virtuoso organists of the day, Joseph Bonnet, who played at the Paris church of St Eustache. It has been called "one of the great showpieces of French

Romantic organ music".

In 1922 Mulet published "*Les tendances et antireligieuses néfastes de l'orgue moderne*", an attack on modern schools of organ building; this was followed by similar essays. He deplored the trend to create organs which he felt were more appropriate for the cinema than for church: the organ was "a stained-glass window. Its tones of imposing and embracing calm flood the air of our cathedrals, in the same way that ...stained-glass windows bring down meditation upon the congregation."

In 1937, Mulet, following a financial crisis, destroyed his manuscripts and many of his possessions and left Paris for Draguignan (Var). There he continued as a church organist until 1958, often in poverty (his wife opened a toy-shop in the hope of increasing their income). Ill-health led Mulet and his wife, to retire to a convent in Draguignan, where he died in 1967

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **A Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**



Archbishop Justin Welby / Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

### **Recording Attendance for School Admission**

We are recording physical church attendance for school admission purposes.

Parents will need to sign registers or, in the case of St Thomas, have their card stamped if they physically attend the service – nothing else will count.

### **Sunday School**

We're meeting at St Bartholomew's this Sunday at 11:00am and continuing the pattern of meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month.

We're also meeting at St George's this morning at 9:15am, also running on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month.

### **Office Hour**

**We're back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 9:30 – 11:00am** for booking baptisms and other church business.

We're still running some limited Saturday morning appointments for booking baptisms. Please e-mail [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com) for an appointment.

### **Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship - St Bartholomew's**

**We're back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 9:30 – 11:00am**

# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## Committee Meetings - Dates

**PCC:** Mondays at 7:30pm [\*\* = St Bart's Committee will meet at 6:30pm on those dates]

15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 \*\*

11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 \*\*

## St George's Advent Challenge

We handed out some small "crisp" tubes at the start of Advent. We're collecting loose change in them during the season of Advent so please return them at any of our services in January. Even 20p per day will raise £5 over Advent. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far.

## Primary school admission forms

If any parent has a school admission supplementary form to be completed for primary schools, to hand to a member of the clergy or a Church Warden in January. They will be completed and handed back in plenty of time for the deadline.

## 2024 Team Retreat

Building on the great success of the retreats in 2022 and 2023, we have booked a weekend at the Foxhill Retreat Centre in Cheshire for 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Cost will be £190 per person for the whole weekend, or £45 for just the Saturday (including lunch). Most rooms are en-suite rooms all have private bathrooms. Please contact Revd Malcolm Wearing to book a place on the retreat for 2024

## Ignite Youth

Monthly Saturday evenings 7:00-8:30pm

St John's Wingates

Fun food and worship for young people in year 6 and above.

Dates for the next term in 2024 are

20<sup>th</sup> January

17<sup>th</sup> February

16<sup>th</sup> March

Please rsvp to [igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com](mailto:igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com) to give us an idea of numbers

# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## Café Church

**We're back on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 3:45pm – 4:15pm at St Bartholomew's church**

In the first part of this term we're looking at some Epiphany themes starting with the Visit of the Magi.

We've printed the dates and themes of the meetings for the first part of the year until half-term below.

Date	Topic	Leader	Refreshments
	<b>EPIPHANY TO LENT</b>		
<b>10 Jan</b>	VISIT OF THE MAGI Matthew 2.1-11 / GENEROSITY	ELAINE	JEAN FRAN
<b>17 Jan</b>	BAPTISM OF JESUS Mark 1.4-11	ANGELA	SUE GED
<b>24 Jan</b>	JESUS CALLS PHILIP & NATHANAEL / BARTHOLOMEW John 1.43-end	CAROL	CAROLE LINDA
<b>31 Jan</b>	THE WEDDING AT CANA John 2.1-11 / GENEROSITY	JOAN / CHRISTINE	LYNNE JOHN
<b>7 Feb</b>	CANDLEMAS Luke 2.22-40 / CANDLEMAS	CHRISTINE / JOAN	JEAN FRAN
<b>14 Feb</b>	ASH WEDNESDAY	ANDY	SUE GED
<b>19 Feb</b> – <b>23 Feb</b>	HALF TERM		



## Café Church

It meets each Wednesday in term  
time at St Bartholomew's church  
3:45 – 4:30pm

This week we're looking at

# Epiphany - the Visit of the Magi



Matthew 2. 1 – 11

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## TALKIN' TABLES



We are setting up a **Talkin' Tables** group at St. John's Church, Chorley Road, Wingates.

The first meeting will take place on

**WEDNESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024**

10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

The aim of Talkin' Tables is to conquer loneliness one table at a time.

Why not come along for a hot drink and biscuits and meet other people – men and women – for a chat and friendship.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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# THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS

**The Houghton Weavers have been entertaining folk for 48 years.**

**Promising a fun packed show with plenty of laughter and old favourites such as Blackpool Belle, Matchstick Men and Wild Rover**

*Appearing at St. Bartholomew's Church*

*on Friday 1st March 2024*

*Tickets £15.00 (inc. supper) available at St. Bartholomew's Church and Geetees or phone 07816 855384*

*Doors open 7.00pm Show starts 7.30pm*

*Bring your own drinks and glasses*



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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# Monthly

## Midweek Communion and Luncheon Club

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
January 2024

11:00am



St. Bartholomew's Church

# All welcome



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## January 2024 Diary ... what's coming up

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EPIPHANY</b> 9:15am St George's Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's Service of the Word
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am St Bartholomew's Office Hour 9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables – first meeting 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>EPIPHANY 2</b> 9:15am St George's Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion  1:00pm Baptism 2:00pm Baptism
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am St Bartholomew's Office Hour 9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's  6:30pm St Bartholomew's St Bartholomew's Committee Meeting 7:30pm St Bartholomew's PCC Meeting
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 11:00am St Bartholomew's Midweek Communion & Luncheon Club 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church 6:45pm St Bartholomew's Baptism Preparation [Revd Carol] 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00am St Katherine's, Blackrod Coffee Morning 7:00 – 8:30pm St John's Wingates Ignite Youth Group
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>EPIPHANY 3</b> 9:15am St George's Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion

# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9:30am St Bartholomew's Office Hour 9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	9:45am St Bartholomew's Year 3 School Service Christingle [Rev'd Carol] 10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	End of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CANDLEMAS – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> 9:15am St George's Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas Café Church 11:00am St Bartholomew's All Age Holy Communion  1:00pm Baptism 2:00pm Baptism
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am St Bartholomew's Office Hour 9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice

**Coffee Morning**  
**St. Katharine's Church,**  
**Blackrod**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January**  
**10:00am – noon**



Refreshments, bookstall and a chat – all welcome.

## **The Bolton 'Winter' Community Walks 2024**



Aimed at over 55s, but all ages are welcome on a series of 4 'Winter' Community Walks in January and February where we'll explore some of the fascinating historical places, buildings and stories in and around the Bolton area + a 'social action' event in March.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm**

**Rivington Reservoir – Great Hall Barn to Liverpool Castle**

*(Meet at the Information Centre next to Great Hall Barn, Rivington Lane, Rivington nr Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SB from 1.45pm)*

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm**

**Queen's Park to Heaton Fold Garden Centre via the Middlebrook Trail**

*(Meet at Queen's Park Cafe, Queen's Park, Park Rd, Bolton, BL1 4RU from 1.45pm)*

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm**

**Moss Bank Park Area**

*(Meet at the Moss Bank Park Café, Moss Lane, Bolton, BL1 6LY from 1-45pm)*

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm**

**Jumbles Reservoir**

*(Meet at Jumbles Country Park Cafe, off Bradshaw Rd, Bolton, BL2 4JS from 1.45pm)*

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm**

**Social Action Event at Walker Fold:** Rhododendron removal and tidying 'tree compartments' with the Woodlands Trust.

*(Meet at Walker Fold Car Park, Walker Fold Rd, ~~Smithills~~, Bolton, BL1 7PT from 1.45pm)*

All the walks are fairly gentle and about 2-3 miles (an hour to an hour and a half in total).

If you would like to participate in any of the walks please contact Keith Armstrong on [tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk](mailto:tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk) or 07500928573 who will send you more details of meeting points, directions etc. on the Monday before each walk.



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself.**



Reflections on the story of the Good Samaritan have been prepared by an ecumenical team in Burkina Faso in Africa for use from 18 to 25 January.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) takes place each year from the 18 to 25 January. This special week provides an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian unity, as well as speak about and experience Christian unity personally, in our village, town or county as well as engage with what happens at a national level.



This year the theme *'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'* (Luke 10:27) has come from an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso, facilitated by [the local Chemin Neuf Community \(CCN\)](#).

They have reflected on the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, and all are encouraged to *Go and do likewise*. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.



Each January individuals pray, and churches and ecumenical organisations celebrate the WPCU in a variety of ways. These include events large and small, a simple prayer meeting, an ecumenical breakfast, a prayer walk, speaker events, online prayer relays, preaching swaps in villages and towns, using social media to share online reflections and prayers from church leaders as well as joint services bringing together Christians from across the traditions in prayer and worship.

## **Prayer**

**(from the Daily Prayer for Christian Unity of the Chemin Neuf Community).**

Lord Jesus,  
who prayed that all might be one,  
we pray to you for the unity of all Christians,  
according to your will, according to your means.  
May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division,  
to see our sin  
and to hope beyond all hope.  
Amen.

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD



## **Our Diocesan Prayer of Thanksgiving and Hope**

Living and Loving God,  
as your pilgrim people in Manchester Diocese  
we thank you for the great commission  
with which you have entrusted us:  
to love and serve, and to bring  
our parishes, schools, chaplaincies,  
and all our communities  
into new life in Jesus Christ.

Through your abundant love  
lead us into your Kingdom  
and grant us the trust to follow you;  
meet our weariness, our griefs and fears  
with your tender and comforting Spirit  
that we may greet the promise  
of each new day with joy and trust.

Teach us to pray in faith, hope and love,  
that we may go out into your world  
confident in your wondrous mission  
and full of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## **CONTACT US:**

**Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh**

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[www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk)

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

**Curate:** Revd Andy Jones 01942 813 750 Email: [reverendandyjones@gmail.com](mailto:reverendandyjones@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK** – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch

@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

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)

Or to [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com)

**OFFICE HOUR:** Mondays 9:30am – 11:00am at St. Bartholomew's church [just drop in]  
or Saturday mornings by appointment e-mail [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com)