

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

<p>St George's Church 9:15am</p> <p>Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Jones / Rev'd Carol Pharaoh</p>	<p>St Thomas' Church 9:15am</p> <p>Service of the Word Christine Andrews</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am</p> <p>Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Jones / Rev'd Carol Pharaoh</p> <p>HYMNS: Opening: 584, Offertory: 451 At communion: 725, 566 Final: 491</p>
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This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Maurice Ginniff, Christine Greenhalgh, Jenny Harris, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Joan James, Patricia James, Mike Johnson, Geoff Kyte, Edward Lakstigala, Eileen Marsh, Jean Partington, Norman Sidlow, James Tonge.

Those who have died recently: Bill Taylor, Fred Turner, Peter Roughley, Cecil Howard Drake, Anita Jackson, Donald Darby.

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: David Benyon, David Bowden, William Buckley, Walter Forshaw, Harold Gibson, Charlotte Hall, Evelyn Hibbert, Hilda Hilton, Maurice Isherwood, Norman Mitton, Brian Mobey, Stephen Myers, Barbara Pemberton, Roger Taylor.

Coming Up this week:

<p>Monday 20th 10:30am – 11:30am 7:00pm 7:30pm</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church</p>	<p>Office Hour</p> <p>St Bartholomew's committee meeting PCC meeting</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st 7:00pm</p>	<p>Online Bible Study</p>	<p>Rev'd Malcolm Wearing Hannah – Praying in Pain</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd 7:30pm</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church</p>	<p>Choir Practice</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd 2:00pm</p>	<p>Online Bible Study</p>	<p>Matt Dunne Hannah – Praying in Pain</p>

Further details on all events at the end of this pewsheet.

Do keep any news, views and feedback coming. Please also check our Team YouTube channel for online services [none this week]:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDx266HLh9ShYeBJnON8ODg>

Next Sunday: 26th September

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Numbers 11. 4 – 6, 10 – 16 & 24 – 29 / James 5. 13 – end / Mark 9. 38 - end

9:15 am	Service of the Word at St George's Church	Rev'd Andy Jones
9.15am	Service of the Word at St Thomas'	Elaine Simkin
11:00am	Communion at St. Bartholomew's Church	Rev'd Carol Pharaoh

Today's Readings:

Collect:

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 11. 18 - 20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me,
and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.
¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me that they
devised schemes, saying,
'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!'
²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge
righteously, who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them, for to
you I have committed my cause.

Second Reading: James 3. 13 – 4. 3 & 7 – 8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you?
Show by your good life that your works are done
with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have
bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do
not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such
wisdom does not come down from above, but is
earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is
envy and selfish ambition, there will also be
disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the
wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable,
gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good
fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who make peace.
¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where
do they come from? Do they not come from
your cravings that are at war within you? ²You
want something and do not have it; so you

commit murder. And you covet something and
cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and
conflicts. You do not have, because you do not
ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask
wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your
pleasures.

⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the
devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to
God, and he will draw near to you.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9. 30 - 37

After leaving the mountain ³⁰Jesus and his disciples
went on from there and passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was
teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of
Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they
will kill him, and three days after being killed, he
will rise again.' ³²But they did not understand what
he was saying and were afraid to ask him.
³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he
was in the house he asked them, 'What were you
arguing about on the way?' ³⁴But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another
who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the
twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be
first must be last of all and servant of all.' ³⁶Then
he took a little child and put it among them; and
taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷'Whoever
welcomes one such child in my name welcomes
me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not
me but the one who sent me.'

The Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Homily: Alan Morris

THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST.....

Mark 9 v.30-37

"May the words that I write and the thoughts and meditations of those who read them be now and always acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord our Rock and our Redeemer." Amen

I have lost count of the many interesting people I have encountered while standing in queues from Alton Towers to Panjim. If queuing was to become an Olympic sport then Team GB should excel. However, in most other parts of the world it seems not to be the case. How many of us have arrived at a bus stop or train station when on a continental holiday to find ourselves alone until the transport arrives? At this point the restaurants empty, the crowds arrive from hedgerow and byway and someone inevitably says -"the first shall be last and the last shall be first." Another example of an everyday phrase or saying that many do not know is biblical in origin.

But, what did Jesus really mean with this saying that Mark records for us? Mark's gospel is the earliest and is sharp and to the point. He does not deal with interpretation but records events as and when they happened and often seems in awe of what he describes. Prior to this section there had been a situation that could have been a turning point in Jesus's ministry as far as we are concerned.

I believe that although Jesus was divine he allowed himself to become truly human to experience all those feelings and worries; and joys, that we experience. Although he overcame the temptations in the wilderness, these did not end there. He was born a Jew, brought up a Jew, in a society that was male dominated with little regard to "women's' rights" and a prejudice against the Gentile world especially the traditional enemies of the Jewish race. He must have been subject to decisions, confrontations, doubts about his mission.

Fast wind back a few weeks to the story as told by Mark of the Phoenician woman, a Syrian by birth who came to Jesus asking him to cure her daughter who had mental health problems. Initially Jesus was reluctant to intervene as she was of a race hated and ostracised by the Jews. If he intervened he risked alienating himself from the Jews, the chosen, who he had come to "save', to bring back to the ways of their God. Indeed his own disciples would probably have been shocked if Jesus even considered speaking to this woman. However he answers the woman with these well-known words, "Let the children be satisfied first, it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." This may well have satisfied the disciples and the other Jewish listeners but it did not satisfy the woman. She replied "even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps."

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St Thomas

St George

At this point not only did Jesus heal the woman's daughter but I feel it was at this point that Jesus fully realised his mission was not only to the chosen people but to the Gentiles - to the whole world. Otherwise we may well not be worshipping together today. The first to receive the message rejected it, the Gentile world embraced it. One view of the first being last and the last first.

However, Mark goes on to record a kind of power struggle culminating with the requests of James and John (which we will read of in due course) They seem to have wanted a prominent position in the cabinet of a type of heavenly parliament to come. Even before that, as we gather from the gospel reading they had been whispering who was the greatest so Jesus confronts them "if anyone wants to be the first he must make himself last of all and servant of all." Not an easy ask.

To answer their question of who is the greatest Jesus takes a young child after saying "if anyone one wants to be first, he must make himself last and the servant of all." A child, the epitome of innocence, as yet untouched, unconditioned, uncorrupted with the current prejudices, greed and self-importance and attitudes that had infiltrated the religious and secular life of the times.

"Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too."

The words of Mark's gospel, as well as the verse from the hymn are hardly shrouded in mystery. We read and sing them but do we do as we read or sing? Or in contemporary jargon, do we "put our money where our mouth is?"

Another gospel reference sees Jesus saying "Go and do Thou likewise."

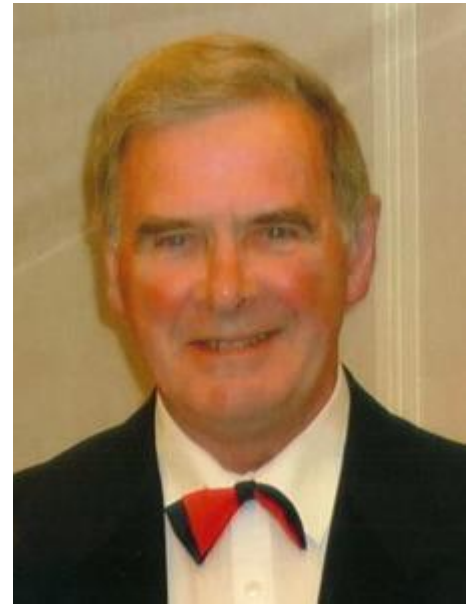
"Oh God our Father, help us today and every day to live as true men and women. Help us to live as Christ did, putting duty before pleasure, others before self, and no one before you." Amen.

NOTICEBOARD:

I would like to thank all who sent flowers and cards of sympathy to me when Robert died on 18th August 2021. I apologise for being so long in doing this but the funeral was not until 7th September and it has been hard to get round to saying 'thank you' to you all.

Will see you in Church soon.

Love - Joan Warner and family



Church Attendance for School Places:

To register attendance, **please e-mail:**

bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com

giving both your name / your child or children's names and the church you would usually attend. You will need to do this even if you attend a service and sign in. Only one e-mail per week will be counted [even if you would have attended more than once in any week]. Please do NOT use any other e-mail address to register church attendance as these will not be included. Thank You

IRONMAN UK: Sunday 26th September

Please note that the Ironman UK is taking place next Sunday morning [26th September]. There are local road closures planned from 6:30 – 11:30am that morning, so do check your route or leave extra time to get to church that morning.

OCTOBER – INCOME SURVEY: Advanced warning

It's almost that time of year again when we have to do our income survey. If you are 16 years old or older and attend church 12 times or more each year, you'll be given a form and just asked to tick which box best reflects your income.

Even if you have a low or no income or receive a student loan / benefits, we need you to complete a form. Once completed, place the form in the box provided.

The form is anonymous [your name will not appear on it] and no-one from our churches will ever see it.

PLEASE complete one form each [not one per family], but ONLY one even if you attend every week, and do it at the church you attend most often [if you attend different churches within the team]. Our diocese use the information to determine our annual parish share so we need the information to be complete and accurate.

Many thanks for your help with this.

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St Bartholomew's Refreshments:

We're looking at restarting tea / coffee after the service at St. Bartholomew's in September. If anyone is interested on helping maybe once a month as part of a rota, please see one of the wardens.

Many thanks.

PCC Meeting / St Bartholomew's Committee Meeting:

The next PCC meeting is planned for Monday 20th September 7:30pm at St. Bartholomew's with the ST. Bartholomew's committee meeting before at 7:00pm.

The agenda should have been circulated, please contact me if you haven't received one.

BIBLE STUDY - OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

Bible Study groups based on Old Testament Characters are running online **THIS WEEK**. Some of these sessions will be face to face and others will be online on zoom. All are invited and welcome to attend any of the sessions. The attached gives details and times of dates of these. If people would like to attend an online session, please contact the leader in charge and the zoom details will be sent accordingly.

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS			
SESSION	Evening ONLINE	Daytime ONLINE	Face to Face
HANNAH Praying in pain	Tuesday 21st Sept 7 pm	Thursday 23rd Sept 2 pm	Thursday 7th Oct 7.30 pm
	Leader: MALCOLM W	Leader: MATT DUNNE	Leader: BARBARA BERRY Venue: St John's
SAMUEL Hearing God's voice	Tuesday 19th Oct 7 pm	Thursday 21st Oct 2 pm	Thursday 4th Nov 7.30 pm

Office Hour Returns THIS WEEK: Booking a Baptism

We're going to run Office Hour each Monday morning from 10:30 – 11:30am starting on 20th September. If you wish to book a baptism, please come along and we'll make the arrangements then.

If you can't make Mondays, we are also offering some Saturday mornings. These will be by appointment, so please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com and we'll fix up a suitable time.

If you wish to book a wedding or arrange for your Banns to be read, please contact the rector.

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St George

Secondary School Forms:

School Admission Forms (Secondary Schools ONLY)

If you have any school admission forms that you would like us to complete, please put your forms in an envelope along with a note stating which church building(s) you usually attend. If you attend St Thomas' Church, please also include a photocopy of your church attendance card(s). Please also include a contact number for us to contact you on. Then please bring your envelopes along to any of our churches when they are open for church services and drop them in the box provided. Alternatively you can pop them through the Rectory letter box. (Off Market Street in Westhoughton, up the drive by the old Barclays Bank building.) We will let you know when your form is ready to collect and where from. Alternatively, if you would like us to post the form(s) back to you, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. **Please be aware** that all the schools are only asking us to provide information relating to church attendance, up to and including 15th March 2020. No church attendance or intent to attend from this date, will give you any additional points. THANK YOU.

Apologies – this notice should have appeared in mid-August but disappeared into the i-cloud or somewhere.

Any Questions?

BBC Radio Four's 'Any Questions?' is being broadcast live from Bolton Parish Church on Friday 1st October at 8.00pm. If you would like to be in the audience (and maybe submit a question to the panel), free tickets can be booked through Eventbrite

<https://tinyurl.com/2utzwccy>

CONTACT US:

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Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – revawynne@gmail.com

Curate: Revd Andy Jones 01942 813 750 Email: 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

Or to westhoughtonparish@outlook.com