



SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2021
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

<p>St George's Church 9:15am</p> <p>Holy Communion Revd Andy Jones / Revd Carol Pharaoh</p>	<p>St Thomas' Church 9:15am</p> <p>Holy Communion Revd Angela Wynne</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am</p> <p>Service of the Word: Creation Elaine Simkin</p> <p>HYMNS: 713, 541, 650, 612 as in the service sheet</p>
--	--	--

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.

Those who have died recently: Revd Malcolm Edwards, James Tonge, Christine Edwards.

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Alice Alker, Elsie Beckett, William Bruton, Irene Butler, Sylvia Coop, Paul Dunnington, Mary Guest, Amanda Hartley, Wilfred Hartley, Evelyn Higham, Roy Hindley, Anne Mason, Harry Pemberton, John Scotson, Mary Westhead, Walter Whittle.

Coming Up this week:

<p>Monday 4th 10:30am – 11:30am 7:30pm</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church St John's Wingates</p>	<p>Office Hour Team council meeting with the Area Dean</p>
<p>Wednesday 6th 7:30pm 7:30 – 9:00pm</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church On Zoom</p>	<p>Choir Practice "Being With" course – first session</p>
<p>Thursday 7th 6:00 – 7:00pm 7:30pm</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church St John's Wingates</p>	<p>Confirmation Course – Session 3 Bible Study – Hannah, praying in pain Led by Revd Carol Pharaoh</p>

Further details on all events at the end of this pewsheet. Do keep any news, views and feedback coming.

Next Sunday: 10th October Harvest Services

Harvest Services [19th Sunday after Trinity]

Readings: Joel 2. 21 – 27 / Matthew 6. 25 - 33

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

Today's Readings:

Collect:

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 2. 18 - 24

¹⁸The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' ²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1. 1 – 4 and 2. 5 - 12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet.'

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but 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. ¹⁰It 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.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

Gospel Reading:

Mark 10. 2 – 16

²Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' ³He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' ⁴They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' ⁵But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." ⁷"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹Jesus said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' ¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Post Communion Prayer:

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen.**

Homily: Revd Andy Jones

Jesus blesses the children (Mark 10:13-16)

When was the last time as a grown up (I say this tentatively) you last thought and acted in a childlike way? I was reminded when I read this passage of an incident last week when I looked out of the vicarage kitchen window to see Harry aged 5, Nanna aged 67 and Gramps aged 70 jumping up and down on the trampoline in the garden. They were running around the netted enclosure pretending to be cars. I was there smiling at this lovely picture and at Harry's joy that his grandparents were sharing that particular moment with him. All of sudden I snapped back to the reality and my years of social work training came flooding back. I was going to the theatre in half an hour with Mrs. Jones and there I was entrusting my son to two grown adults who thought it was worth the risk to exceed the manufacturer's maximum weight recommendations on a child's trampoline!

Paintings will often depict Jesus with children throughout his ministry. We have so many references of Jesus advocating for children which is unusual when we think that in Jesus's time children had no rights or social status. These images also lead us to think about the special relationship that Jesus had with the children around him. They trust implicitly and without judgment in a very innocent way. In this passage I think that Jesus is telling us adults that these are the qualities that we should strive for. He does in fact say "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Another interpretation of this could be that Jesus is telling us that as his followers we should seek to be open to being powerless as opposed to seeking power surrendering ourselves to the will of God. This would be in line with loving out neighbours as ourselves; we are not seeing that anyone is better than anyone else, God holds us all in equal regard with the unique gifts that he has given us.

Are our discussions here flawed? Children can be very quizzical by nature, I can never get something past Harry without it being followed by a quiz; why is that and how does that work? I often have to admit that I don't know the answers too many of the questions and just concede with "I'm sorry, dad doesn't know."

Maybe this is the Eureka moment! Why should we not ask questions about our faith? Asking questions prompts us to dig a little deeper into our faith to further our understanding. The disciples questioned Jesus all the time and he would explain things patiently to them like a parent to a child. I know that I certainly wrestle with passages of the bible and their meaning. The wonderful thing about the bible that it speaks to us all in different ways dependent on where we are in our lives. Like a child in this passage we should have innocence to trust the answer but there is nothing to stop us asking questions.

Harry may doubt what I say, he may not understand what I say or why I'm saying he shouldn't leave his Lego on the floor so I don't step on it in the early hours of the morning but he does (eventually) listen. My love for him is no less because he doubts my logic sometimes and he knows that I will love and care for him come what may. It is fine for us to doubt and question our faith as the Lord will be here to help us and listen to our doubts, as we with wrestle with scripture. Scepticism is a good quality.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

When we think of children we tell that they should always question strange situations or strangers that they don't know. In the same way having blind faith has its drawbacks. Christian faith enables and encourages our childlike questions and explorations and nurtures the deepening of our faith and understanding.

My final point is around the warning that I feel Jesus is giving in this passage. The disciples speak sternly to the children and the parents trying to prevent them from having access to him. They had travelled everywhere with Jesus, witnessing his wonders and hearing his teachings. Were they protecting him not wanting him to feel overwhelmed? Or were they reluctant to share Jesus thinking that they were the only ones who could be near him, creating a physical barrier between Jesus and the parents and children. Almost setting themselves aside from them. When Jesus sees their refereeing he rebukes the disciples by saying that the little children should be able to come to be near him. There is another lesson here for us as Christians; we should not act as the disciples, stopping other people from coming to God. Our ministry should be about encouraging all the children of God to approach him. His love, grace and mercy is plentiful and boundless, there is enough for all those who will step forward.

So let us be open and trust in the Lord. Let us not be afraid to question and explore but to let everybody know that we are all welcome at his side.

Amen

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

NOTICEBOARD:

To receive these pewsheets, newsletters or special events leaflets electronically, please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

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

Confirmation Course:

Pathway one: will be held at St Bartholomew's church, Westhoughton from 6 pm to 7 pm on a Thursday evening starting from 23rd September and will be completed over six weeks.

Pathway Two: will be held at St John's Wingate on Saturday mornings 9.30 am to 12 pm there will be two Saturdays 25th September and 16th October the Saturdays will cover 3 sessions per Saturday.



The Confirmation Service is at St Bartholomew's on Sunday 7th November at 3pm.

Office Hour Returns: Booking a Baptism

We're going to run Office Hour each Monday morning from 10:30 – 11:30am.

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.

Alive + Free (a monthly contemporary worship service) is back again on **Sunday 3rd October 7pm at St.Elizabeth's Church, Horwich.**

ALIVE + FREE

Guest speaker: Dave Bagley MBE (Founder and Chief Executive of Urban Outreach)

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

OCTOBER – INCOME SURVEY: starts this weekend

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.



St Bartholomew's Refreshments:

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to help with refreshments after our Sunday Services. We're hoping to run these each week from now on.

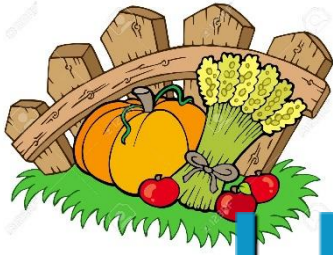
Please note that we'll serve them in the narthex rather than the back room as there's more space to spread out to keep a degree of distancing.

If anyone is interested on helping maybe once a month as part of a rota, please see one of the wardens. Many thanks.

BIBLE STUDY - OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

Bible Study groups based on Old Testament Characters are running in autumn. 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.

SESSION	Evening ONLINE	Daytime ONLINE	Face to Face
HANNAH Praying in pain			Thursday 7th Oct 7.30 pm
			Leader: Revd Carol Pharaoh Venue: St John's
SAMUEL Hearing God's voice	Tuesday 19 th Oct 7 pm	Thursday 21 st Oct 2 pm	Thursday 4 th Nov 7.30 pm
	Leader: ANDY JONES	Leader: ELAINE with CAROL P facilitating	Leader: ANDY JONES Venue: St Bart's
ABRAHAM Following God's call	Tuesday 16 th Nov 7 pm	Thursday 18 th Nov 2 pm	Thursday 9 th December 7.30 pm
	Leader: ANGELA W	Leader: CAROL P	Leader: ANGELA W Venue: St Katharine's



Harvest Festivals – Next Week

Sunday 10th October

We'll be holding our Harvest Festival Services on Sunday 10th October.

URBAN
OUTREACH (BOLTON)

We're supporting Urban Outreach again this year, which we continue to support throughout the year with our green Grub Tubs. For more details of their work through their foodbank see <https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/portfolio-posts/storehouse/>

We're collecting tinned and packet goods again, all items please within their sell-by dates. There is a recommended list of donations on the sheets available in all our churches. Please don't bring fresh produce as this cannot be stored or distributed efficiently.

If you're not able to be at the services, we will have St. Bartholomew's church open between 9:30am and 10:30am on Saturday 9th October if you wish to drop off items in advance.

Many thanks for your generosity.



Urban Outreach Foodbank – Essential items needed

Urban Outreach are currently short of a few specific items for their regular foodbank deliveries – **UHT Milk, Toilet Rolls, bottles of cordial and Size 6 Nappies.**

They also regularly need:

Tinned meat, veg, chopped tomatoes, fruit, 500g boxes of breakfast cereal, Cordial, Long life milk, Custard powder, 1kg bags of rice, Pasta (500g), Baked beans, Tinned soup, Jars of pasta sauce, Tinned pulses, Tinned vegetables (sweetcorn, peas, carrots and potatoes), Biscuits, Cereal bars, Tinned fish, Tea, jars of baby food (different ages), Incontinence pads, Male toiletries, Nappies, Wipes, Toilet rolls.

If you are able to provide any of these items please take them to Unit 4, Trinity Retail Park, Bradford Street, Springfield, Haulgh, Bolton, BL2 1HY (in the old 'Office Outlet' unit at the bottom on the far right opposite where Toys R Us used to be) on weekdays between 10am and 4pm or please place items in any of the grub tubs located at stores, churches and community centres across the town.

Please click [here](#) if you'd like to give a monetary donation.

For further information please contact Sam Bagley at samuel.bagley@urbanoutreach.co.uk

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

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.

Wednesday Midweek Communion Service:

The next one will be on **Wednesday 20th October at St Bartholomew's Church** at its new time of **11:00am**.

This is so we can follow the service with Luncheon Club at lunch time rather than as elevenses!



Annual Memorial Service

Sunday 31st October 2:00pm
St. Bartholomew's

Our annual Memorial Service at which we can remember our loved ones by name, by lighting a candle or simply in silent prayer will be on Sunday 31st October at 2:00pm at St. Bartholomew's church. The service will last about one hour.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

We'll have some sheets out soon to which you can add names of those you would like read out at this service.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

BEING WITH

You are invited to join an exciting new 10 week course called "Being With" which is for those wishing to explore the Christian faith more in an inclusive and supportive environment

Start date will be Wednesday 6th October

The course will take place on zoom from 7.30 to 9pm please contact for more information and joining information:

revawynne@gmail.com
reverendandyjones@gmail.com

CONTACT US:

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

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

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