



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Sunday 7th February 2021 – The Second Sunday before Lent

TODAY'S SERVICES

11:00am Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's Church Revd Malcolm Wearing

We pray for:

Those who are ill: Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Irene Halliwell, Jenny Harris, Keith Haworth, Mario Heaton, Edith Ibbotson, Joan James, Patricia James, Mike Johnson, Jeffrey Lyon, Eileen Marsh, Norman Sidlow.

Those who have died recently: Mary Dolphin, Brenda Davies, James William Marshall

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Walter Beresford, Jane Briscoe, Emrys Evans, Nancy Green, Alice Gregory, Janie Howe, Ailsa Maddison, Brian Leslie Pilkington, Annie Sawyer, Joseph Arthur Southworth, William Woods.

This week: Welcome to worship this week as we come to the Second Sunday before Lent.

Sunday services at St. Bartholomew's will continue at 11:00am and will all be Communion services until end-February. Today's service is led by Rev Dr Malcolm Wearing who's based in our Team mainly at St. James' church, Daisy Hill and who is leading worship here for the first time so we offer him a welcome much, much warmer than the ambient temperature.

We still have no heating [see notices at the end] so if you are coming, do wrap up warmly again. If allowed to sing, hymns would have been:

- Chills of the north, rejoice
- Rescue the perishing
- Tell me the cold, cold story
- Minus forty days and minus forty nights

Next Sunday's service for the Sunday before Lent is led by Revd Angela Wynne.

Ash Wednesday 17th February. There will be a service at St. Bartholomew's that evening at 7:30pm and there will also be an on-line service for those not able to attend. See the notices at the end for details of this year's Lent course.

In this week's pewsheets, we move right to the beginning of the Bible with readings taken from the Book of Genesis, starting with the well-known creation story. As Genesis is the second longest book of the Bible [gold star for anyone who knew Jeremiah is the longest] there's a few pages of introductions to set the scene and explain how it all fits together. The bonus for reading it is that as the stories are so well known I haven't added the daily "what's all this about" section. If you want the quick "cheat sheet" version – God creates the world in his perfect image, humans come along and mess it up as sin enters the world [it takes until chapter 3], the rest of the Bible is how God's trying to put it all right again until we get to the Book of Revelation at the end of the Bible when everything returns to God's perfection. You may remember we looked at Revelation during November with the four word summary "God wins – The End!"

The daily prayers also tie in with the "Creation" theme as does Sunday's Gospel which starts with those initial words from Genesis "In the beginning..."

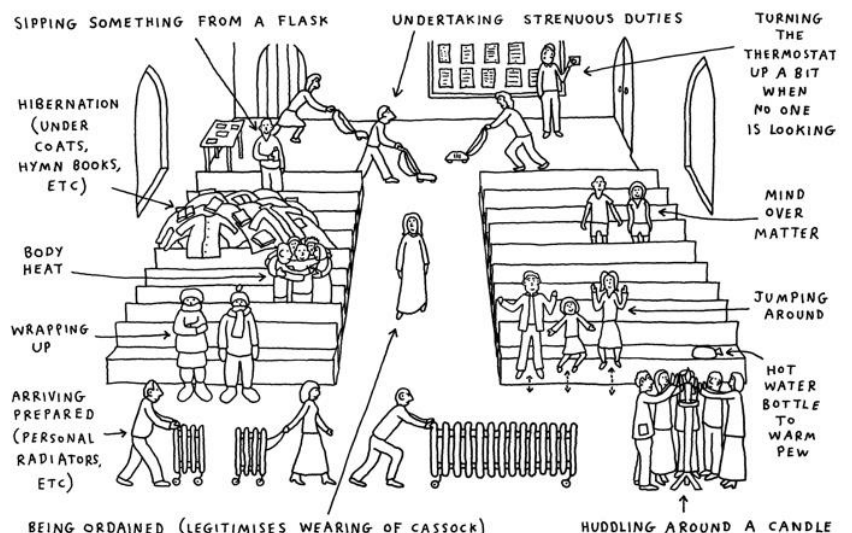
Informal Zoom Chat: We are holding a team meeting on zoom for coffee and chat every Sunday morning from 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. Please contact one of the clergy for the link if you would like to join. It's very informal so come and go as you wish. Thank you.

While services and attendance at church is limited, these pewsheets and on-line services will continue. Do keep any news, views and feedback coming. Please also check our Team YouTube channel for online services:

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

WAYS TO KEEP WARM

IN CASE THERE IS ONE YOU HAVEN'T TRIED





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The Collect:

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8. 1, & 22 - 31

¹Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago. ²³Ages ago I was set
up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth –
²⁶when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always,
³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the
human race.

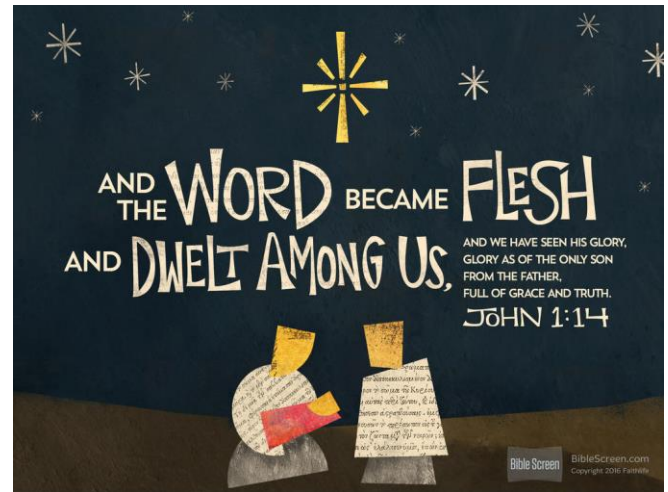
New Testament Reading: Colossians 1. 5 - 20

¹⁵Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on
earth were created, things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers –
all things have been created through him and for him.
¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things
hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the
church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the
dead, so that he might come to have first place in
everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was
pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased
to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or
in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his
cross.

Gospel Reading:

John 1. 1 - 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the
beginning with God. ³All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came into
being. ⁴What has come into being in him was life, and
the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in
the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was
not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The
true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into
the world.
¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being
through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He
came to what was his own, and his own people did
not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who
believed in his name, he gave power to become
children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of
the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and
we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only
son, full of grace and truth.



The Post Communion Prayer:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of
life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on
earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's
cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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Homily 7th February – Carol Pharaoh

Cornflakes by Candlelight

It must have been around 6:40 am a couple of weeks ago. I was in the kitchen sorting out breakfast when suddenly I was plunged into darkness due to one of Westhoughton's notorious power cuts. Fortunately, the kettle had just boiled and my early morning cuppa was ready. The darkness was overwhelming for a few moments. Where's my mobile phone with the torch App? Where are the candles? Where are some matches? It didn't take too long to find what I needed and, by candlelight, Peter and I were able to resume breakfast. I'm often struck by how much light a tiny candle flame gives out in a dark room. In the dark, we can feel a bit disorientated and scared, but, in the light, we can feel warm and safe and cosy.

The bible describes Jesus as the light of the world and Jesus spoke a lot about light. In our reading today we hear how Jesus came as a light to all people. It's a fabulous reading that we often hear around Christmas. It's well worth reading slowly and digesting it as it is more like a poem than a story and the words need time to penetrate our understanding. God came and lived with us or dwelt among us in Jesus.

God going camping

A more accurate translation scholars would tell us of the word 'lived' or 'dwelt' in this passage is that God 'pitched his tent' among us. God came down to basics for us. This extraordinary image draws much of its significance from the Old Testament 'tent' (or 'tabernacle') in which God **dwelt** among his people Israel. So, Jesus came and roughed it. Jesus didn't come and live on earth because he fancied a holiday here. He didn't come to just experience the loveliness of it all. He was born in a very turbulent time in history and he was born into the messiness of it all. He didn't just experience joy and delight. He experienced pain and suffering and inhumanity. God in Jesus came as light shining in darkness. In entering his creation, and participating fully in its life, he confronts the darkness and the mess, and shows himself a God of love. Jesus came as a light to the world and no amount of darkness can extinguish this light. *'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.'* (John 1:5)

There is tremendous hope in these words. No matter how hopeless things seem, darkness will never overcome. From the vileness of coronavirus to a young man who tragically chooses to take his own life, from a cancer cell to a war-torn country, darkness will not overcome.

Power

So, what effect does this have or should have on our lives as Christians? What should our response be?

John, in this gospel reading, doesn't beat about the bush. He tells us that there will be those who reject God or not accept him. But there will also be those who will receive and be receptive to God in Christ Jesus. These people, we are told, will be given 'power to become children of God'. Power is a pretty strong word to use. Do we grasp the gift we have been given? Well, I think that's partly to do with how well we reflect the light - that light shining in the darkness.



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Reflecting the light

There was a fascinating TV programme a while ago about the moon. It coincided with a time when there was a lunar eclipse. If you think about it, the moon shines because it's reflecting the sun's light. When a lunar eclipse occurs, the earth's shadow stops the moon reflecting the sun's light. So, if we are to reflect the **Son's light** (God's son Jesus), we can't let anything come between us and the Son to eclipse that light. In the sight of God, we are all flawed. Recognising that is one reason why we attend worship and belong to a church. We let things come between us and God. We are flawed and we want to be better.

Looking towards Lent

Lent is soon upon us – a specific time in the Christian calendar when we make a special effort to think more deeply about how we are flawed and how we can be better. Even though we will still be in lockdown and, as so often has been said, things will be different this Lent, there's no excuse for not making some extra effort in getting closer to God and learning more about him and his church. As we also know, our plans can change very quickly in the pandemic, but here's a taster of what's planned in the team.

On Ash Wednesday, 17th February, there will be opportunities to attend a service of Holy Communion face to face and also on-line. (Watch out / listen out for more details.) We are also holding a zoom study group on Tuesday evenings and on Thursday afternoons. The study is based on a course called 'Faith pictures' put together by Church Army. The course explores how we can get better at sharing our faith and uses video and discussion times to think about this theme. (With it being on zoom, you will need to let Angela, Malcolm or I know you want to come then we can send you the relevant zoom links, together with the corresponding course sheets.) We will also publicise details about Holy Week and Easter when we have a better idea of what's allowed.

God will give us the power to be children of God, to grow in faith and to reflect his light. What he asks in return is that we put some effort in. Lent, Holy Week and Easter gives us a great opportunity to do just that.

Jesus the Light

The passage from Paul's letter to the Colossians reminds us that Jesus was there at the beginning of the world and will be there at the end of the world. *'Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things.'* (Colossians 1:20) When we gather together each week either face to face or on-line, we come together reconciled and to rejoice in the God who makes himself known in Jesus, bringing light wherever there is confusion, darkness or death. We come together to offer our lives to him. **Amen.**



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Intercessions –

God in creation

Let us pray for our own needs and for the needs of others,
following the pattern which Jesus gave
when he taught us to pray to God our Father.

Through our love of our city,
through our care for the welfare of its people,
through our care for its buildings, open spaces
and roads which link us,
through our respect for the melting pot of
cultures, races and languages
that make your city sing:
Father, hallowed be your name.

In our work places and in our homes,
in our centres of commerce and learning,
of industry and services, law courts, sports
grounds and art centres,
and where policy is planned:
Father, your kingdom come.

By our seeking your guidance,
by our keeping your commandments,
in our consumption of energy and resources,
by our living true to our consciences:
Father, your will be done.

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger,
for our own needs, and the requirements of our
neighbours,

by co-operation, sympathy and generosity:
give us today our daily bread.

Because we have broken your commandments,
doing what we ought not to do and neglecting
what we ought to do:
forgive us our sins.

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing
or exploitation:
we forgive those who sin against us.

When prosperity lulls us to false security,
or hard times prompt us to despair,
When success makes us boastful,
or failure makes us bitter:
**lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

In the assurance of faith,
in the confidence of hope,
in the will to serve,
in the seeking of safe and sustainable cities,
help us to love Christ as Lord,
and our neighbour as ourselves.

**for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**



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The Book of Genesis:

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and opens with one of the most famous first sentences of any literary work: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* It's where we find the famous stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the ark, Abraham and Isaac, and a well-dressed dreamer named Joseph.

On its own, the book of Genesis reads like a string of epic stories: a tragic saga of a world that just keeps going wrong, despite its Creator's intentions. But Genesis isn't a stand-alone book. It's the first instalment in the five-part Torah (or Pentateuch), which is the foundation of the Old Testament; it's the history of how the nation of Israel got its population, its land, and its religion.

Important characters in Genesis

Genesis is the second-longest book of the Bible (after Jeremiah) which means there are a lot of characters in Genesis. In terms of getting an overview of the book, these four characters are the most important ones to know about:-

1. God [obviously] - the creator of heaven and earth, including Adam and Eve. God makes all things "very good," but when humans rebel against God, the world slips back into chaos. The rebellion against God, bringing a curse on the world, growing so violent that God destroys everyone but Noah and his family. God is still at work today to bring the world back to "very good" status again—and chooses to begin this work through a man God names Abraham.

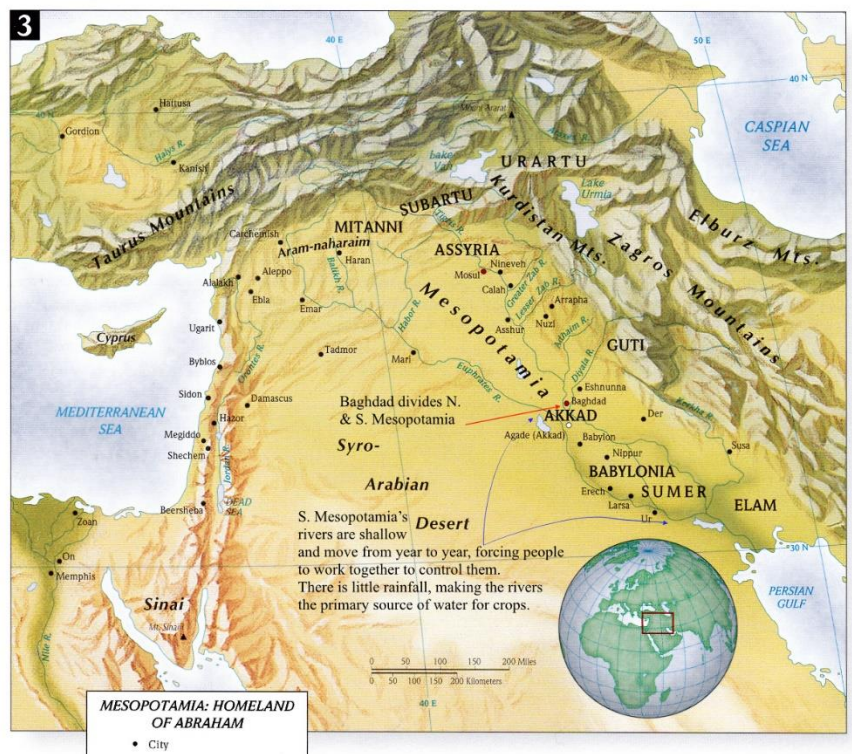
2. Abraham (formerly Abram)—the man whom God chooses as the patriarch of a special nation. Abraham journeys through the land of Canaan, which God promises to give to Abraham's descendants. God makes a covenant (a special binding agreement) with Abraham—which is where Israel's story as a nation truly begins.

3. Jacob/Israel—Abraham's grandson. Jacob tricks his father and brother, so receiving a special blessing. He has twelve sons, to whom the twelve tribes of Israel trace their lineage.

4. Joseph—Jacob's favourite son [of *technicolour dreamcoat fame*], who has prophetic dreams of greatness. He is also able to interpret other people's dreams. His brothers sell him into slavery, but through his God-given wisdom, he ascends to the position of second-in-command over all Egypt.

Key themes in Genesis

The book of Genesis is full of stories we know from Sunday school, like Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and Jacob's ladder. But the story of Genesis is really all about setting the stage for what is to come: it's the long [very, very long] prologue to Israel's beginnings as a nation. Specifically, it's the story of the promises God made to humans—promises that God begins to carry out through the rest of the Bible.





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In fact, if the main thrust of Genesis were summed up in one verse, it would be these words that God said to Abraham:

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." (Gn 17:7).

So a few of the key themes are:

1. Covenant

A covenant is a solemn, binding agreement that makes two or more parties one. Covenants usually involve promises, conditions, blessings for keeping the covenant, and curses for breaking it. Genesis has a lot of these agreements, including God's covenant with Noah's post-flood world ([Genesis 9:1–17](#)) and his covenants with Abraham ([Genesis 15, 17](#)).

Covenant is what moves the story forward in Genesis. God promises the childless Abraham that he will be the father of nations, that his descendants will have a land, and that the world will be blessed through them. For 38 of Genesis' 50 chapters, the story follows Abraham's family as God begins fulfilling the first part of that promise: Abraham has eight children, who have children of their own, and so on and so forth. The next four books tell the story of how these descendants become a nation and make their move toward claiming their promised land.

2. Blessing

In the 12th chapter, God promises to bless Abraham, bless his allies, curse his enemies, and eventually, bless the world through him ([12:1–3](#)). This kick starts the rest of the book, and indeed the rest of the Bible, into gear. From this point on, God has a special relationship with Abraham and his family. The rest of Genesis watches this promise unfold—and it involves a lot of people getting blessed.

The narrative of blessings is especially important when we get about halfway through the book, when Jacob "inherits" (i.e., tricks his dad into giving him) the blessing that God had given to Abraham and Isaac. This blessing was originally intended for Jacob's older brother Esau. But before another Cain and Abel situation takes place, Jacob escapes to a distant land, where he starts a new life. When Jacob returns, he wrestles with God—who blesses him.

3. Records and genealogies

A key repeated phrase in Genesis is, "this is the account of ...," or "these are the records of..." followed by either a list of names or a bunch of stories. In fact, this is pretty much all of Genesis. The second chapter opens with the account of the "heavens and the earth," ([2:4](#)). Then the book of Genesis swings us through a long series of family trees:

- Adam's family line ([5:1](#))
- Noah's family line ([6:9](#))
- The nations that stemmed from Noah's sons ([10:1](#))
- Abraham's family ([11:27](#))
- Ishmael's family ([25:12](#))
- Isaac's family ([25:19](#))
- Esau's family ([36:1](#))
- And finally, Jacob's family ([37:2](#))

These genealogies may feel trivial to us, but they give us a good idea of how the ancient Israelites thought about the countries surrounding them. For example, the nations of Israel and Edom don't



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tend to get along in Scripture. (There's an entire book of the Bible about how Edom did Israel wrong.) Genesis frames this rivalry: they've been getting each other's nerves since Jacob stole Esau's blessing!

4. Promised land

One more important theme in Genesis: the land of Canaan. God promises that Abraham's descendants will possess that land [[chapter 15](#)] but this promise is not fulfilled until the book of Joshua. Abraham wanders through Canaan, Isaac settles there, and Jacob eventually settles here, too. At the end of the book, however, the budding nation of Israel is living as guests in Egypt. The next four books of the Bible tell us how they make their way back to Canaan. So where things happen is just as important as what is happening.

Zooming out: Genesis in context

Genesis is the first book of the Bible, but importantly, it's the first book of the law of Moses. Genesis told the ancient Israelites that God had befriended their ancestors, promised them a land, and had a plan to bless the world through them. But the story of Genesis is really just the prologue to Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Together, these five books tell the story of how Israel became God's special nation.

Genesis ends with Israel in Egypt as special guests. But Exodus begins with Israel being enslaved by their hosts. Through the remainder of these books, God rescues Israel from Egypt, declares them to be his people, and leads them through the wilderness to their promised land. Genesis explains how Israel came to be in Egypt in the first place, and why, of all the places on earth, God led the nation of Israel to that patch of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

The stories in Genesis set the backdrop for vital theological principles in the rest of the Bible. In Genesis, we see that God has authority over the world. We see that humans and other creatures are in rebellion against God's order. We see the hints of God's plan to redeem his creation back to himself.

Genesis also introduces Abraham, the ancestor of Israel through whom the whole world will be blessed. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the three chief patriarchs of the nation Israel (which gets its name from Jacob). Jacob's sons and grandsons have their own families, which eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel.

Abraham believes God's promises to him, and Abraham's faith is reckoned to be righteousness ([Gn 15:6](#))—that is, it satisfies God. The concept of righteousness by faith is repeated in the New Testament ([Ro 10:10](#)), and Paul states that all who share Abraham's faith are the spiritual children of Abraham ([Ga 3:6–9](#)).

Genesis sets forth several biblical themes that weave across the rest of the Bible:

- **God's authority.** God is the maker of all things, and He is sovereign over nature and humanity. We see His creative work in the first two chapters of Genesis, but we also see His sovereignty in choosing Abraham, blessing the Hebrews, and protecting Egypt from famine.
- **Man's rebellion.** Adam and Eve disobeyed God in Eden, but that's only the beginning. Cain presents an unacceptable sacrifice, the world becomes violent in the days of Noah, people construct the tower of Babel, and so on and so forth.
- **God's judgment.** God evicts Adam and Eve, He sends a flood to destroy the earth, and He rains fire on Sodom and Gomorrah ([Gn 19](#)). God is holy, and sin must be punished.
- **God's preservation of life.** God promises a descendant to Eve ([Gn 3:15](#)), He saves Noah's family in an ark, He delivers Jacob from Esau's wrath, and He allows Egypt to survive a harsh famine through Joseph's wisdom.
- **Blood sacrifice.** God skins animals to cover Adam and Eve after they sin ([Gn 3:21](#)), and He provides a ram for Abraham to take Isaac's place ([Gn 22](#)). The blood sacrifice motif becomes far more prominent in the book of Leviticus.



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It's a grand book with many of the Bible's most well-known stories, but it's only the beginning.

Overview of Genesis's story and structure

Genesis can generally be broken into two large movements, each one the beginning of a bigger story. The first is the story of God's relationship with the world. The second is the origin story of God's relationship with Israel.

Movement 1: God and humanity (Genesis 1–11)

Genesis opens with God creating the heavens and the earth, the stars, the plants, the animals, and humans: **Adam and Eve**. God places Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but they rebel against God, introducing a curse of sin and death to the world.

Adam and Eve have children (including Cain and Abel), and those children have children. Eventually the world becomes so violent that God sends a great flood to destroy the world, but He spares the only righteous man, **Noah**. Noah builds his famous ark to escape the floodwaters with his family (and many animals). After the waters recede, God promises to never again destroy the earth with a flood.

This movement culminates with the strange story of the Tower of Babel. The people of earth come together to make a great city and a name for themselves. At this time, God and the divine beings with him scatter the people of earth by confusing their languages and setting up different nations (Genesis 11, Deuteronomy 32:8).

Movement 2: God and Israel

Act 1: Abraham & Isaac

(Genesis 12–24)

Hundreds of years later, God calls Noah's descendant, **Abram**, to leave his family and journey to the land of Canaan. God promises to bless Abram with many descendants, and to bless all the nations of the world through him. Abram believes God's promise, even though he is old and childless. God considers him to be righteous, and changes his name from Abram to **Abraham**. Later, Abraham has a son, **Isaac**.

Act 2: Isaac

(Genesis 25–27)

Isaac dwells in the land of Canaan and has twin sons: **Jacob and Esau**.

Jacob grows up, tricks Esau into giving away his blessing, and Esau's not too happy about this. So ...

Act 3: Jacob/Israel

(Genesis 28–36)

Jacob then leaves town to live with his uncle. He marries, has 13 children, and lives with his uncle for 20 years before God calls him back to Canaan. As Jacob returns to the land of Abraham and Isaac, his name is changed to **Israel** (35:9–12).

Act 4: Joseph

(Genesis 37–50)

Of Jacob's 12 sons and one daughter, **Joseph** is his favourite. Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery, and he becomes a prisoner in Egypt. His God-given ability to interpret dreams becomes valuable to the Pharaoh, however, and so Joseph is released from prison and made second in command of all Egypt. Joseph warns Pharaoh that a terrible famine is coming, and stockpiles food for the coming years. Joseph's predictions are correct: the famine reaches Canaan, and his brothers come to Egypt to buy food. The brothers reconcile, and Joseph provides for all the children of Israel to move to Egypt until the famine is over. The book of Genesis ends with the death of Joseph, whose last prediction is that God will bring the children of Israel back to the promised land. God begins fulfilling this in the next movement of the story: the book of Exodus.



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GENESIS

	Creation <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1-2	Fall <i>CHAPTERS</i> 3-5	Flood <i>CHAPTERS</i> 6-9	Nations <i>CHAPTERS</i> 10-11	Abraham <i>CHAPTERS</i> 12-25	Isaac <i>CHAPTERS</i> 26-27	Jacob <i>CHAPTERS</i> 28-36	Joseph <i>CHAPTERS</i> 37-50
Beginnings	Beginning of the human race				Beginning of the chosen race			
Result	Confusion and scattering				Bondage in Egypt			
History	Primeval history				Patriarchal history			
Chronology	Over 2,000 years				Approximately 300 years			
Emphasis	Four major events				Four important people			
Key Words and Phrases	"In the beginning" (1:1) "Generations" (5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)							
Theme	God promises to redeem and bless His people.							
Key Verses	3:15; 12:3							
Christ in Genesis	Pictured in the seed of the woman (3:15); Melchizedek, the high priest (14:18); the humiliation and exaltation of Joseph (chapters 37-50)							



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Monday 8th February

Genesis 1. 1 - 19



The Beginning of the World

¹ God created the sky and the earth. At first, ² the earth was completely empty. There was nothing on the earth. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit moved over the water.

The First Day—Light

³ Then God said, "Let there be light!" And light began to shine. ⁴ He saw the light, and he knew that it was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God named the light "day," and he named the darkness "night."

There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the first day.

The Second Day—Sky

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a space to separate the water into two parts!" ⁷ So God made the space and separated the water. Some of the water was above it, and some of the water was below it. ⁸ God named that space "sky." There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the second day.



GOD CREATED LAND AND PLANTS



The Third Day—Dry Land and Plants

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so that the dry land will appear." And it happened. ¹⁰ God named the dry land "earth," and he named the water that was gathered together "seas." And God saw that this was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth grow grass, plants that make grain, and fruit trees. The fruit trees will make fruit with seeds in it. And each plant will make its own kind of seed. Let these plants grow on the earth." And it

happened. ¹² The earth grew grass and plants that made grain. And it grew trees that made fruit with seeds in it. Every plant made its own kind of seeds. And God saw that this was good.

¹³ There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the third day.

The Fourth Day—Sun, Moon, and Stars

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the sky. These lights will separate the days from the nights. They will be used for signs to show when special meetings begin and to show the days and years. ¹⁵ They will be in the sky to shine light on the earth." And it happened.

¹⁶ So God made the two large lights. He made the larger light to rule during the day and the smaller light to rule during the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth. ¹⁸ He put them in the sky to rule over the day and over the night. They separated the light from the darkness. And God saw that this was good.



¹⁹ There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the fourth day.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew St Thomas St George

"Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies."

(Psalm 148:1-4)

Tuesday 9th February

Genesis 1. 20 – 2. 4a

The Fifth Day—Fish and Birds

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water be filled with many living things, and let there be birds to fly in the air over the earth." ²¹ So God created the large sea animals. He created all the many living things in the sea and every kind of bird that flies in the air. And God saw that this was good.

²² God blessed all the living things in the sea and told them to have many babies and fill the seas. And he blessed the birds on land and told them to have many more babies.

²³ There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the fifth day.



The Sixth Day—Land Animals and People

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce many kinds of living things. Let there be many different kinds of animals. Let there be large animals and small crawling animals of every kind. And let all these animals produce more animals." And all these things happened.

²⁵ So God made every kind of animal. He made the wild animals, the tame animals, and all the small crawling things. And God saw that this was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Now let's make humans who will be like us. They will rule over all the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. They will rule over all the large animals and all the little things that crawl on the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself. He created them male and female. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Have many children. Fill the earth and take control of it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the air. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ God said, "I am giving you all the grain bearing plants and all the fruit trees. These trees make fruit with seeds in it. This grain and fruit will be your food. ³⁰ And I am giving all the green plants to the animals. These green plants will be their food. Every animal on earth, every bird in the air, and all the little things that crawl on the earth will eat that food." And all these things happened.

³¹ God looked at everything he had made. And he saw that everything was very good.

There was evening, and then there was morning. This was the sixth day.

The Seventh Day—Rest

² So the earth, the sky, and everything in them were finished. ² God finished the work he was doing, so on the seventh day he rested from his work. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day. He made it special because on that day he rested from all the work he did while creating the world.

⁴ This is the story about the creation of the sky and the earth.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

*Every creature, every plant,
every rock and grain of sand
proclaims the glory of its Creator,
worships through colour, shape,
scent and form.
A multi-sensory song of praise.
Creator God, may we join
with the whole of your creation,
in praising you, our Creator,
through the fragrance*

and melody of our lives.

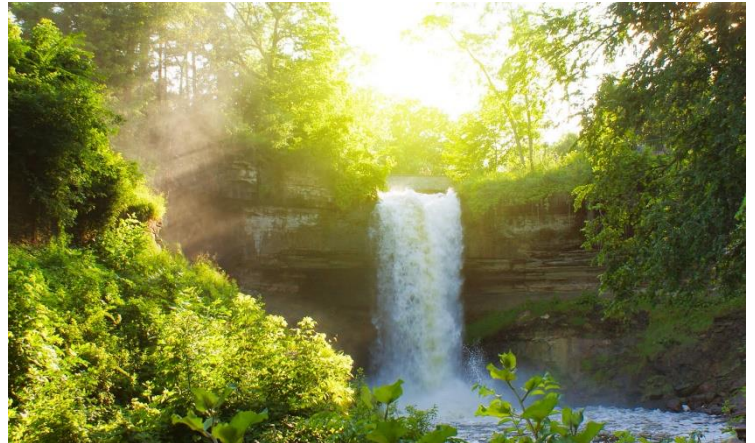
*This world,
Your creation,
Rolled into a sphere,
Packaged in sunshine,
Gift-wrapped in love,
Given to us,
Thank you.*

Wednesday 10th February

Genesis 2. 4b – 9 & 15 - 17

This is what happened when the LORD God made the earth and the sky. ⁵This was before there were plants on the earth. Nothing was growing in the fields because the LORD God had not yet made it rain on the earth, and there was no one to care for the plants.

⁶So water came up from the earth and spread over the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God took dust from the ground and made a man. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nose, and the man became a living thing. ⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in the East, in a place named Eden. He put the man he made in that garden. ⁹Then the LORD God caused all the beautiful trees that were good for food to grow in the garden. In the middle of the garden, he put the tree of life and the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil.



¹⁰A river flowed from Eden and watered the garden. The river then separated and became four smaller rivers. ¹¹The name of the first river was Pishon. This river flowed around the entire country of Havilah. ¹²(There is gold in that country, and that gold is pure. A kind of expensive perfume and onyx are also found there.) ¹³The name of the second river was Gihon. This river flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river was Tigris. This river flowed east of Assyria. The fourth river was the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden. ¹⁶The LORD God gave him this command: "You may eat from any tree in the garden. ¹⁷But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!"

*May this eternal truth be always on our hearts,
That the God who breathed this world into being,
Placed stars into the heavens
And designed a butterfly's wing,
Is the God who entrusted his son*

*to the care of ordinary people,
became vulnerable that we might know
how strong is the wonder of Love.
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp.
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.*



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Thursday 11th February

Genesis 2. 18 - end

A Companion for Adam

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "I see that it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make the companion he needs, one just right for him."

¹⁹ The LORD God used dust from the ground and made every animal in the fields and every bird in the air. He brought all these animals to the man, and the man gave them all a name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the tame animals, to all the birds in the air, and to all the wild animals. He saw many animals and birds, but he could not find a companion that was right for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to sleep very deeply. While he was asleep, God took one of the ribs from the man's body. Then he closed the man's skin where the rib had been. ²² The LORD God used the rib from the man to make a woman. Then he brought the woman to the man. ²³ And the man said,

"Finally! One like me,
with bones from my bones
and a body from my body.
She was taken out of a man,
so I will call her 'woman.'"

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife. In this way two people become one.

²⁵ The man and his wife were naked, but they were not ashamed.



*In your time, Creator God,
this world was put in place,
and in your time
became beautiful,
through the craftsmanship of your love.
Remind us always
as we look at sunrise,
landscape or tiny child,
to look beyond the artist brush
or created thing,
to the artist and creator.*



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St George

Friday 12th February

Genesis 3. 1 - 8

The Beginning of Sin

3 The snake was the most clever of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. The snake spoke to the woman and said, "Woman, did God really tell you that you must not eat from any tree in the garden?"

2 The woman answered the snake,

"No, we can eat fruit from the trees in the garden. **3** But there is one tree we must not eat from. God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch that tree, or you will die.'"

4 But the snake said to the woman, "You will not die. **5** God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree you will learn about good and evil, and then you will be like God!"

6 The woman could see that the tree was beautiful and the fruit looked so good to eat. She also liked the idea that it would make her wise. So she took some of the fruit from the tree and ate it. Her husband was there with her, so she gave him some of the fruit, and he ate it.

7 Then it was as if their eyes opened, and they saw things differently. They saw that they were naked. So they got some fig leaves, sewed them together, and wore them for clothes.

8 During the cool part of the day, the LORD God was walking in the garden. The man and the woman heard him, and they hid among the trees in the garden.



By the word of our Lord the heavens were made.

By the spirit of our Lord was life begun.

By the wisdom of our Lord his laws were laid.

By the love of our Lord was born his Son.

By the grace of our Lord mankind was saved.

By the power of our Lord the victory was won.

Saturday 13th February

Genesis 3. 9 - end

9 The LORD God called to the man and said, "Where are you?"

10 The man said, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid. I was naked, so I hid."

11 God said to the man, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from that special tree? I told you not to eat from that tree!"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me gave me fruit from that tree. So I ate it."

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

She said, "The snake tricked me, so I ate the fruit."

14 So the LORD God said to the snake,

"You did this very bad thing,

so bad things will happen to you.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

It will be worse for you
than for any other animal.
You must crawl on your belly
and eat dust all the days of your life.
¹⁵ I will make you and the woman enemies to each other.
Your children and her children will be enemies.

You will bite her child's foot,
but he will crush your head."

¹⁶ Then God said to the woman,
"I will cause you to have much trouble
when you are pregnant.

And when you give birth to children,
you will have much pain.
You will want your husband very much,
but he will rule over you."

¹⁷ Then God said to the man,
"I commanded you not to eat from that tree.
But you listened to your wife and ate from it.

So I will curse the ground because of you.
You will have to work hard all your life for the food the ground produces.

¹⁸ The ground will grow
thorns and weeds for you.

And you will have to eat
the plants that grow wild in
the fields.

¹⁹ You will work hard for your
food,
until your face is covered
with sweat.

You will work hard until the
day you die,
and then you will become
dust again.

I used dust to make you,
and when you die, you will
become dust again."

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve. He gave her this name because Eve would be the mother of everyone who ever lived.

²¹ The LORD God used animal skins and made some clothes for the man and his wife. Then he put the clothes on them.

²² The LORD God said, "Look, the man has become like us—he knows about good and evil. And now the man might take the fruit from the tree of life. If the man eats that fruit, he will live forever."

²³ So the LORD God forced the man out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground he was made from. ²⁴ God forced the man to leave the garden. Then he put Cherub angels and a sword of fire at the entrance to the garden to protect it. The sword flashed around and around, guarding the way to the tree of life.





PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

*Deep peace I breathe into you,
Deep peace, a soft white dove to You;
Deep peace, a quiet rain to you;
Deep peace, an ebbing wave to you!
Deep peace, red wind of the east from you;
Deep peace, grey wind of the west to You;
Deep peace, dark wind of the north from you;
Deep peace, blue wind of the south to you!
Deep peace, pure red of the flame to you;
Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you;
Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you;
Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you;
Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you,*

*Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you!
Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the sleeping stones to you!
Deep peace of the Flock of Stars to you,
Deep peace from the Son of Peace to you,
Deep peace, deep peace!
And with the kindness too of the Father
Peace!
In the name of the Three who are One,
Peace! And by the will of the King of the Elements,
Peace! Peace!*

NOTICES:

St. Bart's Heating:

You may know that the boilers for the heating are located in the cellar under the tower. A combination of recent rainfall, melting snow and a blocked drain meant that this area flooded causing damage to the boilers. The drain has now been cleared and the pump is working well in keeping the cellar dry. The cost of cleaning and repair of the boilers and replacement electrics is high. Rather than repair the current old boilers, it may be better [and more economical in the long term] to replace them with something more modern and efficient and possibly move them and the controls out of the cellar and into church. We are looking at all options and nothing is a cheap and easy fix but 30 years on from the re-opening, we need to plan ahead for the next 30 years. As ever, many thanks to all who are coming and putting up with the cold – these things never happen in summer.

We've also had a major survey of all the church electrics at St. Bartholomew's. It's generally in good shape but there are some remedial works we'll need to carry out in response to this.

Parish Share:

We managed to pay approx. £53,200 towards the target of £57,200 in 2020, about 93% of that requested. Many thanks to all who have continued to give so generously throughout the last year and who continue to do so. Despite churches being closed or restricted for long periods of the year, we still have all the usual upkeep and maintenance, insurance, gas electric and water bills to pay. It has been and remains a financially difficult time particularly with other sources of income [baptisms, weddings, church hire, social events, concerts] simply not being possible. We thank those involved in managing our finances during this impossible time [Graham Andrews, Elaine Simkin, Andrew Jolley, John Thompson, Claire Smith and all].

If you would like to give to our churches or wish to review how you give [direct debits / standing orders / envelope schemes] or the option of Gift Aid for any donations, please contact the clergy, any of our finance team or me here and we'll make sure we put you in touch with the correct person.

Many thanks.

Mary Dolphin's funeral:

As with all funeral services at the moment by law, attendance has to be strictly limited and must be by invitation only. If you wish to make a donation in memory of Mary, the chosen charities are the British Legion and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute [RNLI]. Links for making donations are given below:

British Legion: <https://neverforget.tributefunds.com/In-Memory/Mary-Dolphin>.

Royal National Lifeboat Institute <https://rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate-in-memory/donate>
please quote her RNLI support number 16705754



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew St Thomas St George

LENT COURSE 2021 – FAITH PICTURES

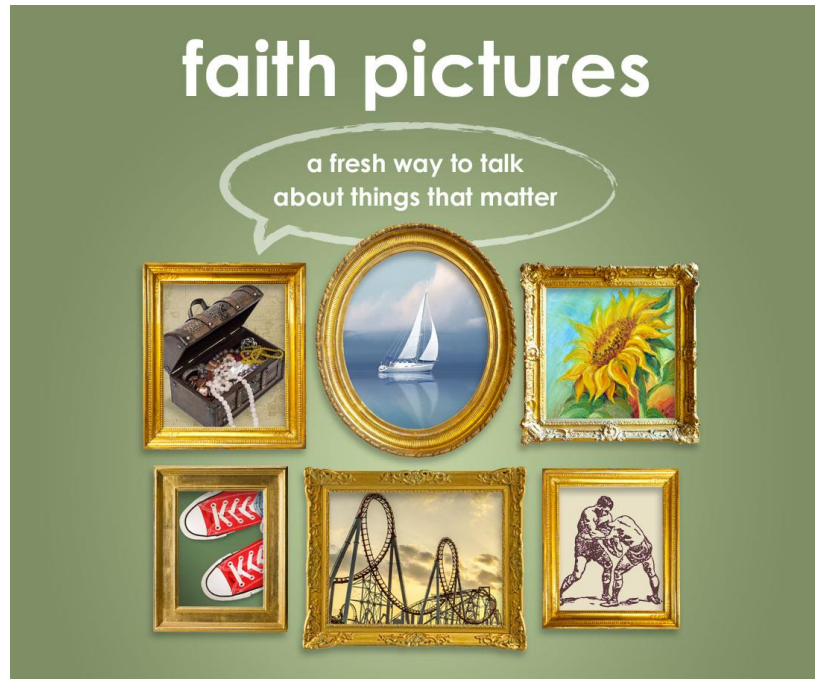
Faith Pictures is a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The heart of the course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. This is because the kinds of communication which best stick in the mind are concrete and rooted in story.

The course aims to be accessible and light-hearted, without jargon or inflexible methods. Each session contains a short video and encourages discussion.

COMING SOON ON ZOOM.

- From Tuesday 23rd Feb at 7 pm and every Tuesday for 6 weeks.
- From Thursday 25th Feb at 2 pm and every Thursday for 6 weeks.

Please email Carol, Angela or Malcolm to let us know you want to join us and we will send you the link and more details. Thank you.



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

Next Sunday: The Sunday next before Lent

Readings: 2 Kings 2. 1 - 12 / 2 Corinthians 4. 3 - 6 / Mark 9. 2 - 9

11:00am Holy Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's church Revd Angela Wynne

Do contact us if we can offer any help or support at this time.

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

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

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