

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2023 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

<p>St George's Church 9:15am</p> <p>Nativity Service Elaine Simkin</p>	<p>St Thomas' Church 9:15am</p> <p>Service of the Word Toy Service Christine Andrews</p>	<p>St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am</p> <p>Holy Communion, Toy Service & Nativity Elaine Simkin / Revd Andy Jones HYMNS: as in order of service</p>
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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, Ellen Mary Wheeler, Arthur Winrow.

Those who have died recently:

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Harold Bond, Elizabeth Davies, James Galvin, David Highton, James Leyland, Wilfred Peters, Edwin Ritson, Leslie Simpson, Joseph Smalley, Sylvia Valentine, William Whitton, Herbert Woods, Alice Woodward.

As we reach the Second Sunday of Advent, we light the second of our Advent candles to remember the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ. Another of the great figures of Advent, John the Baptist, appears in our reading this week.



Coming Up this week:

Sunday 10th 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church	The Brixi Singers – Handel's Messiah Tickets £10 on the door
Monday 11th 9:30 – 11:00am 9:30 – 11:00am	St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Office Hour – for booking baptisms / other church business Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship
Tuesday 12th 8:00pm	St John's Church Wingates	Wingates Band Concert Tickets £10 on the door
Wednesday 13th 11:00am 3:45 – 4:30pm 6:45pm 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Midweek Communion followed by the Luncheon Club Café Church: Preparing for Christmas Baptism Preparation Session Choir Practice
Friday 15th morning	St Bartholomew's Church	St George's School Christmas Service

Next Sunday: 17th December 2023 The Third Sunday of Advent

NEXT SUNDAY: The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 61. 1 – 4 and 8 - 11 / 1 Thessalonians 5. 16 - 24 / John 1. 6 – 8 and 19 – 28

NB the Carol Services will be using different readings

9.15am Holy Communion / Christmas Party at St George's

Revd Carol Pharaoh

9.15am Holy Communion at St Thomas'

Revd Angela Wynne

11.00am Carol Service at St Bartholomew's

Revd Carol Pharaoh

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

westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Readings for Sunday 10th December 2023

Collect:

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40.1 – 11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

New testament Reading: 2 Peter 3. 8 – 15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a

thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1. 1 – 8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Advent Prayers:

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.
That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

Almighty God,
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ
first came to seek and to save the lost;
so may he come again to find in us
the completion of his redeeming work;
for he is now alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH,
WESTHOUGHTON**



Sunday 10th December

11:00am



Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion



Toy Service & Nativity

All Welcome

Congratulations:

The Christingle Service raised £115.** for the Children's Society.

Many thanks to all who attended or helped in any way

More Congratulations:

We exceeded our target of 400 and collected **534** selection boxes for the Christmas Dinner on Jesus.



Organ Music - St Bartholomew's

Last week for Advent Sunday we had, before the service, J S Bach's famous arrangement of "Sleepers, Wake" [*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* BWV 645] which is based on one of the great Advent chorale tunes. It was first performed on 25th November 1731 as part of his advent cantata for the 27th Sunday after Trinity and is a piece where the accompaniment played by the right hand is more famous than the tune played in the left hand. I take it at a rapid pace to try and get the feel of urgency in waking up and being alert and ready [the Gospel for that Sunday was that of the wise and foolish bridesmaids who were / were not prepared].



After the service, as part of the Advent Toccata series [*from the Latin word for "to touch" as opposed to a cantata "to sing" and designed to show off the skills of the organist*] we had the Toccata from the Suite Gothique by Leon Boellmann. The final of the four movements written in 1895 it does have a silent film quality to it of the villain tying heroine to the railway line as the train fast approaches. Northern Rail customers will have to use their imagination.

Boellmann [25 September 1862 – 11 October 1897] wrote about 150 works for organ, mostly quite short of which this is the most famous. He was organist of St Vincent-de-Paul church in Paris [the closest to Gard du Nord, if anyone's visiting] shown here at the console.

This week, some more Bach for Advent. Bach had about nine different attempts at setting the German Chorale "Come thou Saviour of the Gentiles" [*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*]. Today's setting BWV659 is the longest and features a walking bass in the pedal line, the accompaniment in the left hand and a very florid, ornamented version of the tune in the right hand. It's a tune we don't use but in the key of G minor, it's trying to convey the longing for the Saviour's coming.

After the service, as part of the Advent Toccata season, we'll have the Dorian Toccata in D minor also by Bach [BWV 538]. It's not the very famous D minor toccata [BWV 565] and is very different from it. It opens with a semiquaver theme which is played throughout the piece by both hands and feet. It contains some very contrapuntal effects where the tune is split between the upper [swell] and lower [great] manuals [keyboards] of the organ and Bach himself even specifies which to use. We think this was very rare in Bach's day as he notes this very rarely and we think organists of that period would select the stops before playing the piece and play the whole piece through without changing manuals or stops.

Do enjoy
Ed

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 not meeting at either St George's and St Bartholomew's this week as it's our Nativity Services.

Office Hour

We're running this Monday 11th December from 9:30am – 11:00am

Please note that this will be the **FINAL** session before the Christmas and New Year break.

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

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

We're running this Monday 11th December from 9:30am – 11:00am

Please note that this will be the **FINAL** session before the Christmas and New Year break.
We'll be back in January.

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]

15th January 2024 **

11th 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 and hoping to get them back for the Christmas Eve Crib Service at 6:00pm raising funds for church. Even 20p per day will raise £5 over Advent.

Café Church

We're back on Wednesday 13th December from 3:45 – 4:30pm at St Bartholomew's church with our session looking at "Preparing for Christmas."

Please note that this will be the FINAL session before the Christmas and New Year break.

We'll be back next term in January.

	PRAYER		
8 Nov	The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6. 5-15 (Bible Chat Mats / Family Time)	Carol	Carole Linda
15 Nov	Listen and do / Samuel - 1 Samuel 3.1-21	Elaine	Lynne John
22 Nov	Prayer Stations (Experience session)	Angela	Sue Ged
29 Nov	The Pharisee's and tax collector's prayers - Luke 18:9-14	Joan	Jean Fran
6 Dec	Advent Agape Service	Andy	Carole Linda
13 Dec	Preparing for Christmas – Matthew 1.18-23	Christine	Lynne John
20 Dec –	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
8 Jan	Next Café Church 10 th January 2024		

Café Church

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

This week we're

Preparing for Christmas



Wednesday 13th December

**NB this is the final session before
the Christmas break.
We'll be back in January.**

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

December Diary ... what's coming up

<p>Sunday 10th 9:15am St George's 9:15am St Thomas' 11:00am St Bart's</p> <p>1:00pm St Bart's</p> <p>From ~ 2:30pm</p>	<p>The Second Sunday of Advent Service of the Word & Nativity Service of the Word & Toy Service Holy Communion - Toy Service & Nativity</p> <p>Baptism</p> <p>Brixton Singers – Messiah [tickets £10] <i>[afternoon rehearsal / evening performance 7:30pm]</i></p>
<p>Monday 11th 9:30am – 11:00am St Bart's 9:30am – 11:00am St Bart's</p>	<p>Office Hour <i>[final one before Christmas break]</i> Toddler Group and Wiggle Worship <i>[final one before Christmas break]</i></p>
<p>Tuesday 12th 8:00pm St John's Wingates</p>	<p>Wingates Band Concert – tickets £10 on the door</p>
<p>Wednesday 13th 11:00am St Bart's 3:45pm – 4:30pm St Bart's 6:45pm St Bart's 7:30pm St Bart's</p>	<p>Midweek Communion Service & Luncheon Club Café Church – Preparing for Christmas <i>[final one before Christmas break]</i> Baptism Prep meeting Choir Practice</p>
<p>Thursday 14th</p>	
<p>Friday 15th 9:00am - noon St Bart's</p>	<p>St George's School Christmas Service</p>
<p>Saturday 16th</p>	
<p>Sunday 17th 9:15am St George's 9:15am St Thomas' 11:00am St Bart's</p>	<p>The Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion – Christmas Party Carol Service & Nativity Carol Service</p>
<p>Monday 18th</p>	
<p>Tuesday 19th</p>	
<p>Wednesday 20th 7:30pm St Bart's</p>	<p>Possible Choir Practice</p>
<p>Thursday 21st 7:45am Ditchfield Gardens 10:00am St Bart's</p>	<p>Pretoria Pit Commemoration Pretoria Pit Commemoration Service</p>
<p>Friday 22nd</p>	
<p>Saturday 23rd</p>	
<p>Sunday 24th 9:15am St George's 9:15am St Thomas' 11:00am St Bart's</p> <p>4:00pm St Thomas' 6:00pm St George's</p> <p>11:30pm St Bart's</p>	<p>The Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve NO SERVICE NO SERVICE Holy Communion</p> <p>Crib Service Crib Service</p> <p>The First Communion of Christmas</p>
<p>Monday 25th 10:00am St Bart's</p>	<p>Christmas Day Holy Communion</p>

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Tuesday 26th	Boxing Day – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 27th	
Thursday 28th	
Friday 29th	
Saturday 30th	
Sunday 31st 9:15am St George's 9:15am St Thomas' 11:00am St Bart's	The First Sunday of Christmas NO SERVICE NO SERVICE Holy Communion

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 24th to 26th 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

St Katharine's Coffee Morning

Saturday 16th December 10:00am – noon.

Book sale [all 50p], raffle and singing from Blackrod Community Choir. All welcome.

Wingates Band Christmas Concert

Tuesday 12th December

Doors open 7.30 pm

8 pm start

**Tickets £10
available on the door
(incl refreshments)**

**St John's Wingates Church
Chorley Road,
Westhoughton,
BL5 3PL**



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The Brixii Singers
Conductor Richard Lea

Handel's Messiah

Ellen Riley (Soprano)
Julie Whittle (Mezzo)
Philip O'Connor (Tenor)
Joe Murphy (Bass)

Sunday December 10th - 7.30
St Bartholomew's Church
Westhoughton BL5 2BG
Price £10 Under 16s free
(Tickets on the door or contact 07862736766)



Monthly

Midweek Communion and Luncheon Club

Wednesday 13th
December
11:00am



**NB – this is a week earlier than
the date given previously**

St. Bartholomew's Church

All welcome

Reverse Advent Calendar

As you open the doors on your Advent Calendars this year, we could help support the work of Urban Outreach by donating an item to our Green Grub Tubs.

We've suggested some items that they require. Each day, just add an item and drop them off each week at any of our churches.

Many thanks to all who support this throughout the year.

Christmas Reverse Advent Calendar

<p>Washing powder, fabric softener</p>  <p>1</p>	<p>Gravy, sauces</p>  <p>2</p>	<p>Pasta</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Tinned tomatoes</p>	<p>Rice</p>  <p>5</p>
<p>Toiletries</p>  <p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Box of biscuits/ chocolates</p>	<p>Nuts and confectionery</p>  <p>8</p>	<p>Tinned fish</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>Coffee</p>  <p>10</p>
<p>Jam</p>  <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Breakfast cereal</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Tea bags</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Tinned/ packed desserts</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Long-life fruit juice</p>
<p>Instant mashed potatoes</p>  <p>16</p>	<p>Tinned vegetables</p>  <p>17</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Cooking sauces</p>	<p>Tinned potatoes</p>  <p>19</p>	<p>Tinned meat</p>  <p>20</p>
<p>Squash</p>  <p>21</p>	<p>Rice pudding</p>  <p>22</p>	<p>UHT long-life milk</p>  <p>23</p>	<p>Tinned fruit</p>  <p>24</p>	<p>25</p> 

**ADVENT /
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES**
DECEMBER 2023



Sunday 10th December

9:15 am St. George's
9:15 am St. Thomas'
11:00am St. Bartholomew's

Second Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word – Nativity ++
Service of the Word – Toy Service ++
Holy Communion -

Toy Service & Nativity ++

***We hold our Toy Services today – please bring unwrapped gifts which are donated to Fort Alice [St. Thomas'] or Bolton Lions [St. Bartholomew's]*

Wednesday 13th December

11:00am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion / Luncheon Club

Sunday 17th December

9:15 am St. George's
9:15 am St. Thomas'
11:00am St. Bartholomew's

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion & Christmas Party
Carol Service & Nativity ++
Carol Service ++

Our traditional Carol Services with the well-known readings telling of the birth of Christ and favourite carols for all.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Thursday 21st December

Pretoria Pit Anniversary

7:45am Ditchfield Gardens
Act of Remembrance

10:00am St. Bartholomew's
Pretoria Pit Anniversary Service

We gather to mark the 113th anniversary of the Pretoria Pit Mining Disaster.



Sunday 24th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 am St. George's

NO SERVICE

9:15 am St. Thomas'

NO SERVICE

11:00am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion ++

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm St. Thomas'

Crib Service ++

6:00 pm St. George's

Crib Service ++

11:30 pm St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion

The first Communion of Christmas with favourite carols in a candlelit setting

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

10:00 am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion ++

There will be no services at St. Thomas' or St. George's churches today

Sunday 31st December

The Sunday after Christmas

11:00 am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion

There will be no services at St. Thomas' or St. George's churches today

Services marked ++ are particularly family and child friendly



Other Carol Services

If you just can't get enough carol singing, as well as the services in our Parish, there are other Carol Services at:

Sunday 17th December 6:00pm St Mary's Church, Deane [*guest organist Ed*]

Sunday 17th December 3:00pm St Katharine's, Blackrod

Sunday 17th December 6:00pm St James' Daisy Hill

Urban Outreach's 'Christmas Dinner on Jesus' Hamper Making



Christmas Volunteers wanted: For those who are willing to be a volunteer for this year's Christmas Dinner on Jesus, there are a number of jobs including box making, hamper box packing and fresh bag packing - along with the usual setting up and clearing away. In order to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to volunteer you will only be allocated one volunteer slot. If you would like to sign up for more than one you will be added you to a reserve list just in case there are not enough volunteers. Please book in for the session you would like to volunteer by emailing admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk or by calling Urban Outreach on 01204 385848 and asking to speak to Laura or Jeanette.

- Tue 12th December 10am-12pm Hamper Box Making**
- Wed 13th December 10am-12pm Hamper Box Making**
- Thur 14th December 10am-12pm Hamper Box Making**
- Fri 15th December 10am-12pm Hamper Box Making**
- Mon 18th December 10am-12pm Single Person Hampers**
- Thur 21st December 10am-1pm Veg Bag Making**

Christmas Singalong on Bolton Market

The Bolton Town Centre Chaplaincy's
and the Town Centre Churches' Christmas Singalong



All are welcome on a

Christmas Singalong

On Bolton Market

Tuesday 19th December at 11am

(Meet in the seating area in the centre of Bolton Market from 10-45am)

- Singing a combination of Christmas Carols and Christmas Songs
- No singing talent required! Just turn up on the day and sing your heart out!
 - Song sheets and musical accompaniment provided
 - Great chance to meet others from the Bolton community
 - Light lunch after the singing at 12 noon for all participants - prepared by the Bolton Market Traders

For more information please contact Keith Armstrong on tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk or 07500928573



BWFC Christmas Carol Service



For more information, including how to purchase tickets, for the BWFC Christmas Carol Service please use

the following link: <https://www.bwfc.co.uk/news/wanderers-christmas-carol-service-date-announced>

Advent Prayer for Peace

From the Diocese of Manchester:



This year has seen the launch of our Transforming Prayer Community. Over 700 people have joined to pray together each day and offer support, encouragement, and inspiration.

As we enter the season of Advent, we are pleased to share this seasonal prayer which draws us together as we pray for peace for all people. Written by the Revd Luke Maguire, Rector of All Saints, Stretford, and one of the founding members of the prayer community.

If you haven't yet joined, please sign up to our [Transforming Prayer Community](#). Each week we share a reflection from a member of our prayer community and have an active, friendly Facebook group too. [Join us there!](#)

[Read more](#)

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD



A Prayer for Peace this Advent

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the light of the world,
the hope of the nations,
and the peace of those who turn to you.
As we prepare to celebrate your birth at
Christmas,
shine your light into our lives,
bring healing to your world,
and let peace break out in every heart and home.
May our hearts be filled with your love
and our mouths filled with the song of heaven:
Glory be to you, our King,
and peace to all people on the earth!

Amen.



A reflection for the first week of Advent

John said, “I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: make a straight way for the Lord.” (John 1:23)

These words of John the Baptist set the scene for the gift of Advent – a time to listen, watch, prepare, make ready and welcome.

The voice cries out into the wilderness of our hearts and the busyness of our lives inviting us to make ready our hearts to welcome Jesus in all the ways he comes to us. Advent is an invitation to open our hearts afresh to Jesus, to welcome the light and hope that he alone gives. We need not be afraid to open our hearts to him - Jesus robs us of nothing but offers us everything.

In all the busyness of our lives during these days how will we make time each day to prepare well to open the door of our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, born in the fullness of time?

The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

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

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