

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

Sunday Services		
St George's Church 9:15am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh	St Thomas' Church 9:15am Service of the Word with Baptism Revd Angela Wynne	St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin HYMNS: 46, 811, 44, 666

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Maurice Ginniff, Christine Greenhalgh, Dawn Grundy, 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: Sheila Barnes

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: William Ashton, Harold Bowery, Leonard Cowburn, Elizabeth Davies, Annie Forshaw, Elizabeth Fothergil, Annie Higham, Squire Greenhalgh Hulton, James Leyland, Alice Miller, Mary Newton, Margaret Tattum, Doris Taziker, May Towers, Marian Twitchett, Herbert Woods, Alice Woodward.

Coming Up this week:

Monday 6th 10:30am – 11:30am	St Bartholomew's Church	Office Hour
Wednesday 8th 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church	Choir Practice
Thursday 9th 7:30pm	St Katharine's Church, Blackrod	Bible Study: Abraham – following God's call Revd Angela Wynne

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

Next Sunday: 12th December The Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Zephaniah 3. 14 - end / Philippians 4. 4 - 7 / Luke 3. 7 - 18

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

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

Today's Readings

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 God. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3. 1 - 4

Thus says the Lord God: ¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1. 3 - 11

My brothers and sisters, ³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that

comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3. 1 - 6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



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.**

NOTICEBOARD:

Updates:

From this week we will no longer be providing a weekly printed homily on the Pewsheets Plus.

Online services: there is an online Carol Service planned for 12th December and an online Family Christmas Service planned for Christmas Eve but we're reviewing how often we run these and what their content should be for 2022. Carol has sent out an e-mail asking for feedback and it's also printed below. Do feel free to e-mail any replies to Carol or to westhoughtonparish@gmail.com or pass us any written feedback if you want to remain anonymous.

Do note later in this Pewsheet the dates of the Carol Services, Nativity services and Christmas Eve crib services that are all child and family friendly.

Online service feedback:

Please could you help us with a little bit of feedback on the Team Online Services we produce?

1. Do you watch our online services?

A. Always. B. Sometimes. C. Used to watch but don't any longer. D. Never watched.

2. If you answered A or B, please can you tell us in a few words how you find the services helpful.

3. If you answered C, please tell us in a few words why you no longer watch the services.

4. Thinking about the future, what would you find helpful in terms of what we offer via the online services?

5. Please let us know any other comments, ideas or thoughts about the online services.

Thank you for your help. Please either e-mail your replies back to Carol back or, if you would prefer to write something down on paper or remain anonymous, please hand it to our Wardens at church.

Thanks again.

TODAY [5th December] Westhoughton Community Christmas Market

At The Hub, Central Drive, BL5 3DS | 11:00am – 3pm

Santa's grotto, children's activities, Christmas goods for sale, mince pies & mulled wine, music and more.

Free entry.

Covid Update

Following the news about the latest Covid Omicron variant, please note that the updated Government advice does not affect services of worship in our churches. As far as we are aware, there is no updated advice from the Government, Church of England or Diocese of Manchester.

We will continue our programme of stringent cleaning prior to services. Please continue to:

- wear a face covering [unless exempt] when arriving at / leaving or moving around the churches
- using the hand sanitiser available when arriving
- not attending if you or someone you live with has symptoms of Covid, are awaiting a test result or have been asked to isolate.

Many thanks for continuing to work with us on this; we are trying to respect everyone's views and run as much as we can while maintaining the health and wellbeing of all.

Organ Music at St. Bartholomew's:

For Advent / Christmas we're running the "Toccatà" series. Initially a toccata was a music piece played on a keyboard [from the Latin "toccare" = to touch] as opposed to a cantata which was a sung piece ["cantare" = to sing]. As organs developed, these became showier and flashier with organist/composers writing ever more and faster notes to show off the skill [or not] of the player. They reached their height in the Parisian Organ lofts of the late 19th – early 20th century with way too many notes for the hands and a big tune played on the pedals.



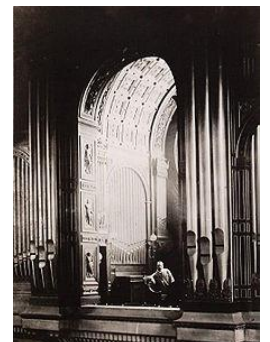
For Advent 2 we're having the Toccata from the Suite Gothique by Leon Boellmann [1862 – 97]. The Toccata of 1895 is probably the best-known and most popular movement of the *Suite Gothique*. It is a true perpetuum mobile with the hands playing a stream of semiquavers until the last several bars, where the intensity is ramped up for a dramatic ending. It's often described as the music played to accompany that part of the silent film where the villain has tied the heroine to the railway tracks and the train is steaming quickly towards her [probably not *Northern Rail*, then..] I've played this suite so much over the years, it's actually fallen to pieces and I've had to throw it out and so am

playing today from a new copy.

There are, of course, other organ toccatas from about the same time as the Boëllmann that are constructed similarly, in particular the work by Boëllmann's mentor Eugène Gigout—the *Toccata in B Minor* from 1890—and the famous Widor *Toccata* from 1879.

Boellmann was organist at St Vincent de Paul church in Paris, close to the Gare du Nord and is worth a visit. He married his mentor Eugene Gigout's niece and they lived with him; when Boellmann and his wife both died young in 1897/98, Gigout adopted their three children.

Before the service, we'll get Bach's prelude for Advent "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" [*O come, thou Saviour of the Gentiles*] – an arrangement that tries to convey a yearning for Christ's second coming.



St Thomas' are looking for a Rainbow leader for Tuesday nights. If you are interested please phone Tracey on 07782297997. Thank you.

Recording Attendance for School Admission

We have been asked to start 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.

The dedicated email account for parents to submit their attendance or intention to attend is no longer operating.

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 final in person session runs this week.

SESSION		Face to Face
ABRAHAM Following God's call		Thursday 9 th December 7.30 pm
		Leader: ANGELA W Venue: St Katharine's

Christmas Dinner on Jesus:

In past years, we've collected mince pies, cream crackers, biscuits and one year [as I hope we've all forgotten] Christmas puddings.

This year we're aiming at collecting 700 packets of Brandy Sauce (500g tetrapak carton) OR Custard (1kg Tetrapak carton). It's liquid not the powdered sort.



Please check that the use by date is after Christmas Day. Today, Sunday 5th December is the **final collection day**.

Many thanks to all who have been able to contribute.



Many thanks to all who contributed to the Poppy Appeal at St. Bartholomew's raising £54.24 for the Royal British Legion.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

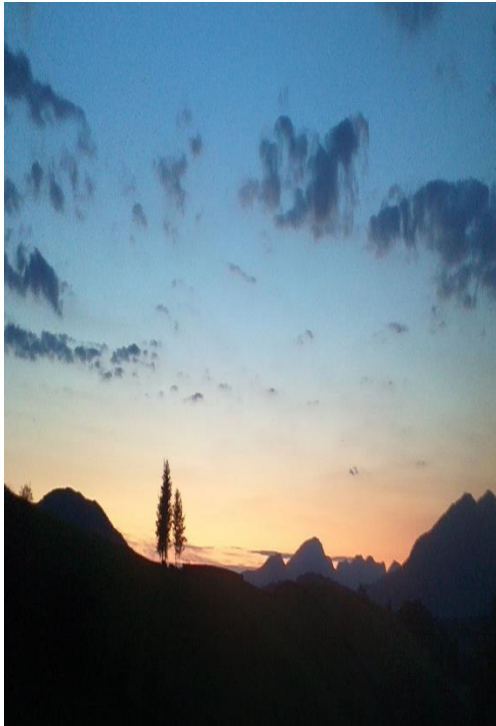
St George

Toy Services: Sunday 12th December

We're planning our Toy Services for Sunday 12th December at St. Thomas' [9:15am] in aid of Fort Alice and St. Bartholomew's [11:00am] in aid of Bolton Lions.

Please bring unwrapped toys for these services, if you are able.

This Sunday will also be our **Nativity Service** at St. Bartholomew's.



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 on Wednesday 19th January 2022

The course will take place at St Katharine's Blackrod 7.30 to 9pm please contact for more information and joining information:

revawynne@gmail.com

reverendandyjones@gmail.com

Wednesday Midweek Communion Service:

It's on **Wednesday 15th December 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!

The next one is planned for Wednesday 19th January 2022.



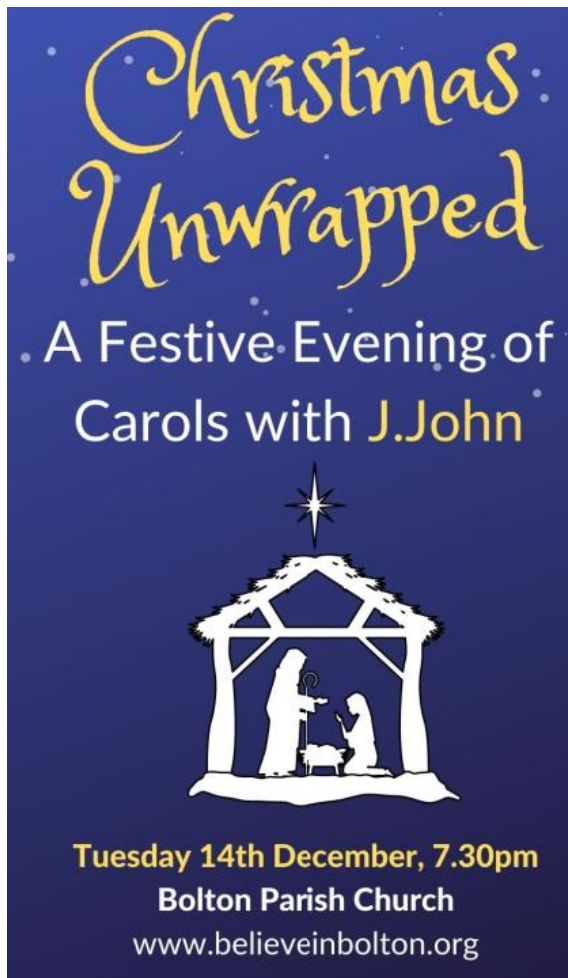
Wingates Band Christmas Concert:

It's on **Tuesday 14th December at St John's Church, Wingates**.

Doors open at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start. Tickets are £10 on the door and note that there are no refreshments this year.

[They have sent a poster but it's not printable]

**Believe in Bolton 'Christmas Unwrapped' Christmas Carols Event,
Bolton Parish Church, Tuesday 14th Dec, 7-30pm**



Following the success of the Believe in Bolton event last year, we would like to invite you to this year's event: Christmas Unwrapped.

Join us as we come together as a town on Tues 14th Dec at 7-30pm in the inspirational setting of Bolton Parish Church as we sing carols, listen to readings and stories, and hear a short message about the gift of Christmas from international speaker and author, J. John.

This event is free and you can just turn up on the evening so make sure you put the date in your diaries and come along with family and friends and enjoy what will be a fantastic occasion.

So join us on Tuesday 14th December, 7.30pm at Bolton Parish Church

For more information please visit our website: www.believeinbolton.org or visit our Facebook page.

For more information please visit the website: www.believeinbolton.org or visit the Facebook page or to see the launch meeting for the event, led by Bishop of Bolton Mark Ashcroft, explaining more details and how your church/organisation can be involved and promote the event please use the following link: (the meeting proper starts 4mins into the recording) https://youtu.be/Wi_xitW0HSA

Office Hour will run for the next few weeks but be taking a break over the Christmas period so won't run on Mondays 20th / 27th December or 3rd January 2022. You won't be surprised to find out that we aren't taking Saturday office hour appointments for Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

The Pretoria Pit Commemoration will take place to mark the 111th anniversary of the disaster on Tuesday 21st December at 7:45am in Ditchfield Gardens [to co-incide with the exact moment of the explosion]. The Service in St. Bartholomew's church will again be at 10:00am.



Christmas Services December 2021:

Sunday 19th December:

Nativity Service at St. George's 9:15am

Carol Service at St. Thomas' 9:15am

The Parish Christmas Carol Service

St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am



Christmas Eve: Fri 24th December:

Crib Service at St. Thomas' 4:00pm

Crib Service at St. George's on Christmas Eve at 6:00pm

Midnight Eucharist at St. Bartholomew's at 11:30pm.

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December:

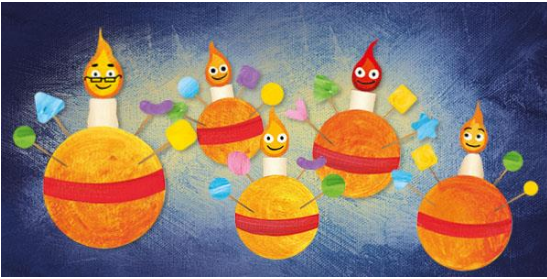
Joint Christmas Day service at 10:00am at St. Bartholomew's

Boxing Day: Sunday 26th December

Joint Communion Service 10:00am St. Bartholomew's

[no service at St. George's or St. Thomas' that Sunday].

All these will be open services – please feel free to attend.



Many thanks to all who supported our Christingle service at St. Bartholomew's on Advent Sunday.

If you would still like to donate electronically to help the work of the Children's Society, we have a page at the link below

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/christingle/st-bartholomews-church-westhoughton>

Urban Outreach – Christmas Dinner on Jesus hamper packing – volunteers needed please

Urban Outreach are taking names of those that would like to help with the Christmas Dinner on Jesus hamper packing for 2021. If you would like to help please email Jeanette/ Laura at admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk letting them know which session you would like to help out on.

The sessions are as follows:

Hamper Packing

Wednesday 15th December 10am - 12noon

Wednesday 15th December 2pm - 4pm

Thursday 16th December 10am - 12noon

Fresh Vegetable Packing

Wednesday 22nd December 10am - 1pm

The venue is yet to be confirmed!

Many thanks, Your friends at Urban Outreach (Bolton)



To mark International Day of People with Disabilities on Friday 3 December, the Diocese of Manchester released a series of videos where we hear from Christians in the Church of England in Greater Manchester and Rossendale who live with different disabilities. They share very personal stories about how they have found a welcome in the Church of England and been encouraged to fulfil their Christian calling.

In the five films we hear from ordinands, who are studying at theological colleges, a serving member of clergy and a retired minister who lost his sight as an adult. Each contributor has something to say about how people who have experience of living with a disability, either personally or within their family, can flourish in the Church.

Watch the videos at www.manchester.anglican.org/disability-and-vocations



Christians Together in Bolton Town Centre

Community Carol Singing

Carol Singers Needed! Everyone Welcome!

If you enjoy singing Christmas carols then please join us singing to Christmas shoppers and staff in Bolton Town Centre this December:

Tuesday 14th December, in Bolton Market
11am to Noon

(Meet at 10-50am in the seating area in the centre of the indoor market)

Tuesday 21st December, in Crompton Place,
St Andrew's Court & Victoria Square,

11am to Noon

(Meet at 10-50am at Subway in Crompton Place)

Everyone welcome, just turn up on the day to one, two or all of the events; no practice required; song sheets will be provided. For more info contact 07500928573 or E-mail Keith Armstrong at tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk

Youth Team Church
at St John's Church, Wingates
Saturday 18th December 7:00pm

The first session was brilliant and lots of fun was had by all in attendance, this time there will again be activities and a time of worship.

The chosen food voted by youth church members will be chips.

Can I ask you to remind those attending to think about what they would like to name the youth church as we will ask all in attendance for their suggestions.

Those wishing to attend please email so we know how many to plan for:
parishteammusic@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

OFFICE HOUR: Mondays 10:30am – 11:30am at St. Bartholomew's church [just drop in] or Saturday mornings by appointment e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com