



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 St James the Apostle**

## TODAY'S SERVICES

9:15am	Service of the Word at St. George's	Elaine Simkin
11:00am	Holy Communion Service at St Bartholomew's	Revd Carol Pharaoh
9:15am	Service at St. Thomas'	Revd Angela Wynne

### We pray for:

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

**Those who have died recently:**

**And on their anniversaries this week we remember:** Alice Ashton, Brian Clare, Margaret Dowse, Thomas Farrimond, Lena Hodgkiss, Irene Maddison, Frederick Twitchett, Jim Wright.

### This week:

Sunday services at St George's and St Thomas' continue this week at 9:15am and St. Bartholomew's at 11:00am as this Sunday.

**Lockdown measure easing:** It's been a long time coming but we're starting to get back to normal. We're looking at a very slow and steady step-wise approach over the quieter summer months and there are some guidelines on the following page [note especially the requests about face coverings and distancing] with the detailed guidance right at the end of this pewsheet. We're trying to bring back what people requested most while respecting the views of those who are still very wary of easing lockdown measures. Please bear with us while we move forward gradually on this. It will seem that change is very slow to some and too rapid for others but we are always aware of everyone's views.

Firstly we are reintroducing congregational hymn singing at St George's and St. Bartholomew's today. If you have any questions or issues, please speak to the clergy or wardens.

**Today on the feast day of St. James,** we pray particularly for St James' Church in Daisy Hill, for Revd Malcolm Wearing, its congregation and the community in which it works, worships and witnesses.

**We pray also** for Darren Silcock and Charlene Foster celebrating their wedding at St. Bartholomew's this week on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

We have a look at some friends of Jesus [Martha, Mary and Lazarus] on Thursday comparing their different roles and temperaments. On Friday this week, the Church remembers St Ignatius of Loyola, so we've added some details of his life. Ignatian Spirituality still inspires and is followed by many people today and the daily prayers this week come from this tradition. Ignatian spirituality is a spirituality for everyday life. It shows that God is present in our world and active in our lives. It is a pathway to deeper prayer, good decisions guided by keen discernment, and an active life of service to others.

I think we'll all know his most famous prayer:

*Dearest Lord,*

*teach me to be generous;*

*teach me to serve You as You deserve;*

*to give and not to count the cost,*

*to fight and not to heed the wounds,*

*to toil and not to seek for rest,*

*to labour and not to ask for reward*

*save that of knowing I am doing Your Will*

**Online Services from July:** we're now running these on the first and third Sundays; as there isn't one this week, we've included a DIY service later in this pewsheet.

While services and attendance at church is limited, these pewsheets and on-line services will continue.

*Ed*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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## Covid 19 Measures update:

### What has changed:

- **Congregational hymn singing** is back at St. Bartholomew's and St. George's churches. We're starting small but looking to increase this over the summer
- **Face coverings:** although no longer mandatory, we ask that people wear them when arriving at, moving around or leaving church. When seated for the service, you may remove them but please be tolerant of the views of those around you
- **Distancing:** at St. Bartholomew's, we're asking people to leave a one-seat gap between families, individuals or bubbles. At St. George's the policy of collecting and returning your own chair will remain.
- **Bell ringing** will return at St. Bart's

### What we're looking at reintroducing over summer:

- **Additional seating** will return to St. Bartholomew's to free up the back room
- **Hymn books and service books** will return to St. Bartholomew's
- **Baptism and Wedding services are returning**

### What hasn't changed yet:

- **Collection Plates** will not be passed around
- **Sharing the peace** will not happen physically
- **Chalice [wine]** will be taken by the presiding minister but not shared with the congregation
- **School place registration** will continue with the e-mail system
- **Refreshments** under review and may happen as special events [back room needs to be cleared at St. Bart's, may be served in church / outside]
- **Sunday School** won't meet during August as was usual
- **Hand sanitiser / cleaning** will carry on as now
- **Signing in** will carry on until mid-August when the rules change.

*Just to note: on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 just before the start of World War Two the relatively new BBC television service stooped broadcasting after a Mickey Mouse cartoon. They started playing organ music but [ridiculously] ditched that and put out some radio programmes. When the TV service resumed on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1946 it started with the same Mickey Mouse cartoon just where they'd left off!*

*In the same spirit, the last hymn we sang together as a congregation on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was "Love Divine, all loves excelling." So it seems only right that we start with that hymn this Sunday.*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

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## St. James the Apostle

Well, we should be used to this now – here's St. James' top 10 best bits!

1. Nothing is known of St. James the Greater's early life, though it has been established that he is the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of John the disciple. He was born in Galilee and died in around 44 AD in Jerusalem.

2. The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater."

3. James and his younger brother, the apostle St. John, are designated Boanerges (from the Greek *boanerges*), or "sons of thunder" ([Mark 3:17](#)), perhaps because of their characteristic fiery zeal ([Mark 9:38](#), [Luke 9:54](#)).

4. With Saints Peter and Andrew, James and John were the first four disciples whom Jesus called ([Mark 1:16–19](#)). James was fishing with his father and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again. When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight.

5. Their question ("Tell us, when will this [the end of time] be, and what will be the sign when these things are all to be accomplished?") sparks Jesus' sermon on the last days and the end of time. [[Mark 13](#)]. *It's called eschatology if you really want to show off!*

6. As a member of the inner circle, James witnessed the raising of Jairus' daughter ([Mark 5:37](#), [Luke 8:51](#)).

7. Later, James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration [[Mark 9:2](#)], and when he and his brother wanted to call fire upon a Samaritan town, both were rebuked by Jesus.

8. James and John asked Jesus to let them sit, one at his right and one at his left, in his future glory ([Mark 10: 35–40](#)), a favour that Jesus said was not his to grant – *it's the reading below*.

9. Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod Agrippa I of Judaea who had him beheaded. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die and the only disciple whose martyrdom is recorded in the New Testament [[Acts 12. 2](#) – *also the reading printed below*]



10. As he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, his remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers, who buried him. In the ninth century his remains were discovered and moved to a tomb in Santiago de Compostela. Today, his remains can still be found in the Cathedral of Santiago [translates as St. James]. Santiago de Compostela is the most frequently visited place for pilgrims following Rome and Jerusalem.



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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## An Order for Morning Prayer

### Feast Day of St. James

#### *Preparation*

Jesus said to the disciples,  
'Go into all the world  
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'

*Mark 16.15*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.  
**Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.**

Open our lips, Lord.  
**And we shall praise your name.**

**We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.**

#### Prayers of Penitence

We run the race set before us,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.  
Therefore let us lay aside every weight,  
and the sin which clings so closely,  
bringing them to Jesus in penitence and faith.

*Hebrews 12.1*

Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners,  
who has transformed those we remember today,  
raise and strengthen us that we may transform the world;  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
ruler and judge of all;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of the age that is passing away,  
may the glory of the kingdom which the saints enjoy  
surround our steps as we journey on.

May we reflect the light of your glory this day

And so be made ready to come into your presence.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## The Collect for the Feast of St. James

Merciful God,  
whose holy apostle Saint James,  
leaving his father and all that he had,  
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death:  
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,  
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Acts 11.27–12. 2

<sup>27</sup>At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup>One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. <sup>29</sup>The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; <sup>30</sup>this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

<sup>1</sup>About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.



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## *Matthew 20. 20 - 28*

<sup>20</sup>The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. <sup>21</sup>And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' <sup>22</sup>But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' <sup>23</sup>He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

<sup>24</sup>When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>26</sup>It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Homily: Revd. Malcolm Wearing**

**The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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## Prayers

Encouraged by our fellowship with St. James and all the saints,

let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death...

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
Grant that your Church  
may faithfully hold and make known  
the faith that has come to us through the  
apostles,  
that with them and all your saints  
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. Amen**

**The Grace**



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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1. Christ upon the mountain peak  
stands alone in glory blazing.  
Let us, if we dare to speak,  
with the saints and angels praise him -  
Alleluia!

2. Trembling at his feet we saw  
Moses and Elijah speaking.  
All the Prophets and the Law  
shout through them their joyful  
greeting -  
Alleluia!

3. Swift the cloud of glory came,  
God, proclaiming in its thunder  
Jesus as his Son by name!  
Nations, cry aloud in wonder! -  
Alleluia!

4. This is God's beloved Son.  
Law and Prophets fade before him,  
first and last and only One.  
Let creation now adore him -  
Alleluia!

There are very few St. James' hymns, so here's a hymn for the Transfiguration at which St James was present.

**Words:** Brian Wren [b.1936] who has published seven collections of hymns, about 250 in total.

**Tune:** St Albinus H J Gauntlett [1805 – 76] also sung to the Easter hymn "Jesus lives, thy terrors now."





## Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July Joachim and Anne – parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Saints Joachim and Anne, are celebrated as the parents of the Virgin Mary. There are no mentions of them in the Bible or Gospels, however, and what we know comes from legend and unsanctioned, apocryphal writing from the second century AD. It is, however, why there are quite a few churches around dedicated to St Anne. As Jesus' grandparents, it's also a day when the church remembers and gives thanks for the work of grandparents everywhere.*



### Exodus 32.15 – 24 & 30 - 34

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went down the mountain. He had the two stone tablets with the agreement on them. The commandments were written on both sides of the stone, front and back. <sup>16</sup> God himself made the stones, and God himself wrote the commandments on them.

<sup>17</sup> Joshua heard the noise from the party in camp. He said to Moses, "It sounds like war down in the camp!"

<sup>18</sup> Moses answered, "It is not the noise of an army shouting for victory. And it is not the noise of an army crying from defeat. The noise I hear is the sound of music."

<sup>19</sup> When Moses came near the camp, he saw the golden calf and the people dancing. He became very angry, and he threw the stone tablets on the ground. The stones broke into several pieces at the bottom of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> Then Moses destroyed the calf that the people had made. He melted it in the fire. Then he ground the gold until it became dust and threw it into the water. Then he forced the Israelites to drink that water.

<sup>21</sup> Moses said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you that would make you do this? Why did you lead them to do such a terrible sin?"

<sup>22</sup> Aaron answered, "Don't be angry, sir. You know that these people are always ready to do wrong. <sup>23</sup> The people said to me, 'Moses led us out of Egypt, but we don't know what has happened to him. So make us some gods to lead us.' <sup>24</sup> So I told the people, 'If you have any gold rings, then give them to me.' The people gave me their gold. I threw the gold into the fire, and out of the fire came this calf!"

<sup>30</sup> The next morning Moses told the people, "You have committed a terrible sin! But now I will go up to the LORD, and maybe I can do something so that he will forgive you for your sin." <sup>31</sup> So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Please listen! These people committed a terrible sin and made a god from gold. <sup>32</sup> Now, forgive them of this sin. If you will not forgive them, then erase my name from your book."

<sup>33</sup> But the LORD said to Moses, "The only people I erase from my book are those who sin against me. <sup>34</sup> So now, go down and lead the people where I tell you to go. My angel will go before you and lead you. When the time comes to punish those who sinned, they will be punished."





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

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The story so far: Moses has led the people of Israel out of 430 years of slavery in Egypt across the Red Sea and into the wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land. God has given them the 10 Commandments and the people in a special service [see last Saturday's readings] had all promised to follow them faithfully for all time. But it doesn't work out like that.

**Verse 15-16** show that 'God had written' these commandments to emphasise how important that was – it's the literal word of God.

Joshua had gone a part of the way up the mountain with Moses but they came down together. They saw that the people were dancing in front of the image. Moses was so angry that he threw down and broke stones as a sign to the Israelites that they had broken their agreement with God.

**Verses 21-23:** Moses' questions showed how angry he was with his brother Aaron. He knew the Israelites had bad behaviour and Aaron's answer was the truth about the people. He even repeated their lack of respect for Moses. But Aaron did not seem to respect his brother either and agreed to the Israelites' demand to make the image. Aaron's excuse seems quite feeble - 'Then this gold image came out of the fire' as if it just appeared and was nothing to do with him.

**Verses 30-32:** Moses used the word "maybe". He was humble in front of the LORD asking him to forgive the sins of the people but he did not know how God would answer his prayer. Moses cared very much about his people and offered to receive their punishment instead.

The idea that God has a book may come from the lists of Israelites (**Numbers chapters 1-4**). The writer of **Psalm 69:28** refers to the 'book of those who live'. **Deuteronomy 9:20** tells us that Moses prayed especially for Aaron on that occasion. In the New Testament Paul was like Moses and almost wished that he had the Jews punishment in their place (**Romans 9:3**). Also, Paul spoke about the names in God's book as a list of people who will live with God always (**Philippians 4:3**). John wrote to the Christians at a place called Sardis about that book. They received God's promise because they had remained loyal and God would never remove their names from his book (**Revelation 3:5**).

**Verse 33:** God did not accept Moses' offer. He reminded Moses that a person is responsible for their own sin. Ezekiel also explains in detail that everyone is responsible to God because of their own sin (**Ezekiel 18:1-32**).

**Verses 34:** Moses' task was to lead the Israelites to the country that God had promised to them. God said that his angel would go in front of them. The LORD's angel had guided the Israelites before they reached the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:19**) and he promised that he would take the Israelites to that Promised Land (**Exodus 23:23**).

*O Christ Jesus,  
when all is darkness  
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
give us the sense of Your presence,  
Your love, and Your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust  
in Your protecting love  
and strengthening power,  
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,  
for, living close to You,  
we shall see Your hand,  
Your purpose, Your will through all things.*



## Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Exodus 33. 7 – 11 & 34. 5 – 9 & 28

### The Temporary Meeting Tent

<sup>7</sup> Moses used to take a tent a short way outside the camp. He called it “the meeting tent.”

Anyone who wanted to ask something from the LORD would go to the meeting tent outside the camp. <sup>8</sup> Any time Moses went out to the tent, all the people watched him. They stood at the entrance of their tents and watched Moses

until he entered the meeting tent. <sup>9</sup> Whenever Moses went into the tent, the tall cloud would come down and stay at the entrance to the tent. And the Lord would speak with Moses. <sup>10</sup> So when the people saw the cloud at the entrance of the tent, they would go to the entrance of their own tents and bow down to worship God.

<sup>11</sup> In this way the LORD spoke to Moses face to face like a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would go back to the camp, but his helper, Joshua son of Nun, always stayed in the tent.

<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down to him in a cloud, stood there with Moses, and spoke his own name. <sup>6</sup> That is, the LORD passed in front of Moses and said, “YAHWEH, the LORD, is a kind and merciful God. He is slow to become angry. He is full of great love. He can be trusted. <sup>7</sup> He shows his faithful love to thousands of people. He forgives people for the wrong things they do, but he does not forget to punish guilty people. Not only will he punish the guilty people, but their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren will also suffer for the bad things these people do.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshiped the Lord. Moses said, <sup>9</sup> “Lord, if you are pleased with me, please go with us. I know that these are stubborn people, but forgive us for the bad things we did. Accept us as your people.”

<sup>28</sup> Moses stayed there with the LORD for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses did not eat any food or drink any water. And he wrote the words of the agreement (the Ten Commandments) on the two stone tablets.



*The tent where Moses met God was a simple tent; Moses had not made God’s special tent (the Tabernacle) yet. Moses placed that tent a distance away from the camp. The cloud showed that God was present there and the people worshipped God while Moses was in the tent. God spoke clearly and directly to Moses as good friends (Numbers 12:8). God allowed Joshua to be in the tent with Moses. This was a great honour and he probably heard Moses’ prayers. So Joshua was learning how to be a leader. This was before Moses knew about the future when God told Moses that Joshua would be the next leader (Numbers 27:15-18).*

*In the next section, God passed by Moses; we are not told whether Moses saw God, but we know what God said to Moses. He is the LORD, the great God, who wants to rescue his people. He loves us. He is very kind and he is willing to forgive people even if they think that they do not deserve God’s love. God is very kind and patient with his people. His love does not change and it never ends.*

*These ways to describe God appear again in many places in the Bible - see Numbers 14:18, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalms 103:8 and 145:8, Jonah 4:2 and Joel 2:13. It is God’s nature to forgive people who are sorry that they have done bad and wrong things.*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Moses included himself among the proud Israelites who refused to obey God many times. Moses spoke about the wicked things that 'we' have done. He asked God to forgive 'our' \*sin. But he prayed that God would continue to accept the\*Israelites as his people. He asked God to continue to go with them.

Moses had spent 40 days and 40 nights with God on the mountain previously when he first received God's 10 commandments (*Exodus 24:18*). God made that special promise (also called covenant or agreement) to all the Israelites. The agreement included the other rules (in *verses 12-26*.) Moses wrote down the 10 commandments and he probably wrote the other rules in *verses 12-26* at a separate time.

The warmth of the sun's embrace,  
the gentle breeze swept in by incoming tide,  
the rhythm of seasons,  
of new birth,  
death and recreation.  
All these speak so clearly of your love,  
your power  
and your beauty.

All are expressions of your creativity,  
and more importantly of yourself.  
As an artist might share his personality  
within each brushstroke,  
so within the myriad colours of a butterfly's  
wing  
you share the exuberance of your love

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

Exodus 34. 29 - end

### Moses' Shining Face

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he carried the two stone tablets of the agreement. Because he had talked with the Lord, his face was shining, but he did not know it. <sup>30</sup> Aaron and all the people of Israel saw that Moses' face was shining bright. So they were afraid to go near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them. So Aaron and all the leaders of the people went to him. Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup> After that all the Israelites came near Moses, and he gave them the commands that the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

<sup>33</sup> When Moses finished speaking to the people, he put a covering over his face. <sup>34</sup> Any time Moses went before the LORD to speak with him, Moses took off the covering. Then Moses would come out and tell the Israelites what the Lord commanded. <sup>35</sup> The people would see that Moses' face was shining bright, so he would cover his face again. He kept his face covered until the next time he went in to speak with the Lord.







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*Because Moses had talked to God, his face shone but he did not know that until he saw the people's reaction when they were afraid to approach him. So he covered his face until he went into God's tent. In the New Testament, Paul spoke about the time when Moses covered his face. He did it to hide the changes. Moses' face slowly shone less and less (2 Corinthians 3:7). Moses had wanted God to show him his wonderful bright light and God had answered Moses' prayer, so then his face shone. God had allowed Moses' face to reflect his wonderful bright light. Jesus showed himself in his wonderful bright light to three of his friends at the Transfiguration when Moses appeared too. representing God's Law and God's special promise to his people.*

Creator God

who breathed this world into being,  
who is discernible within  
the harmony of nature,  
the perfection of a butterfly's wing,  
the grandeur of a mountain range,  
the soaring eagle and humming bird,  
thank you for this world

which you have created.

Thank you for summer sun,  
which reminds us  
that your creative breath  
is still alive and active.  
Thank you for the warmth of your love,  
sustaining this world,  
your garden

## Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July Mary, Martha & Lazarus, companions of our Lord

Luke 10. 38 - 42

<sup>38</sup> While Jesus and his followers were traveling, he went into a town, and a woman named Martha let him stay at her house. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. <sup>40</sup> But her sister Martha was busy doing all the work that had to be done. Martha went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. <sup>42</sup> Only one thing is important. Mary has made the right choice, and it will never be taken away from her."

John 12. 1 - 8

### Jesus in Bethany With His Friends

**12** Six days before the Passover festival, Jesus went to Bethany. That is where Lazarus lived, the man Jesus raised from death. <sup>2</sup> There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Mary brought in a pint of expensive perfume made of pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

<sup>4</sup> Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' followers, was there—the one who would later hand Jesus over to his enemies. Judas said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a full year's pay. It should have been sold, and the money should have been given to the poor people." <sup>6</sup> But Judas did not really care about the poor. He said this because he was a thief. He was the one who kept the moneybag for the group of followers. And he often stole money from the bag.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "Don't stop her. It was right for her to save this perfume for today—the day for me to be prepared for burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have those who are poor with you. [G] But you will not always have me."



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

*To note* - The gospels name only one Martha, but multiple Marys: Mary of Nazareth (Jesus' mother), Mary of Bethany (Martha's sister), and Mary Magdalene. Because of their similar names, early Christians sometimes confused Mary Magdalene and Mary of Bethany.

## Mary and Martha

Mary and Martha are not frequently mentioned in the New Testament, but their names are well known. The most famous story about them appears in [Luke 10:38-42](#), but they also figure prominently in [John 11:1 - 12:8](#).

## Home away from home

The Gospels record that Jesus felt comfortable in the home of Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus. The four weren't just acquaintances; they were close friends.

When Jesus had come to resurrect Lazarus from the dead, He showed great respect and love for Mary and Martha ([John 11:3](#), [John 11:20-39](#)). They spoke to Jesus as if He were a part of their immediate family. Jesus was so troubled by their anguish over their brother's death that He was moved to tears before raising Lazarus to life again ([John 11:33](#)).

[Luke 10:38-42](#) portrays Jesus visiting the house of Martha (compare this with [John 12:1](#), which has the meeting take place at the house of Lazarus, who is not mentioned in Luke's story). Her sister, Mary, sits at Jesus' feet listening to him. Martha, "distracted by her many tasks," asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus replies: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her" ([Luke 10:41-42](#)). Luke's account also shows the closeness between Jesus and this family. But, though Jesus felt a deep affinity for all three, their personalities and perspectives differed.

## Martha's view of life

When we visit friends and relatives we have a good idea of how they think and act. Jesus was no different. He appreciated the differences among His three friends and felt comfortable enough to offer constructive advice as to their priorities.

Martha's outlook on life was quite different from Mary's. Martha's words and actions depict her as practical and efficient. Nothing is wrong with being practical and efficient if it doesn't interfere with the more important things in life. If it does, it can become a problem. God recorded important examples for us in Scripture ([1 Corinthians 10:11](#)), so we can learn from Martha's and Mary's recorded actions.

Martha appears to be the leader and the more hospitable and social of the two. When most people read this story, they often imagine a harried housewife complaining about her lazy sister. Jesus' gentle rebuke reminds his audience to attend to what's important—his presence.

## Mary's outlook

By contrast, Luke depicts Mary as a disciple sitting at Jesus' feet. Both women are engaged in different aspects of ministry, or ways of following Jesus and his teachings. "And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word" ([Luke 10:39](#)). If one were to read no further, one could assume Mary may have been a little lazy, leaving the needs of hospitality and hostess to her sister. It was Martha who invited Jesus into their home. It was Mary who simply sat at Jesus' feet, listening to Him talk. But who was the more hospitable, the more sociable and who was more concerned about serving her Saviour, Martha or Mary?

[John 11:1-12:8](#) also features the sisters. Here, they are located in Bethany, and the story revolves around Jesus' raising of their brother, Lazarus, from the dead. We are told that Jesus loved all three siblings ([John 11:5](#)), the only people mentioned by name in the Gospel as being loved by Jesus. Both women figure significantly in the story: Martha confesses that Jesus is the Messiah ([John 11:27](#)), and Mary's tears prompt Jesus to raise Lazarus ([John 11:28-44](#)). In gratitude, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfume at a banquet where "Martha served" ([John 12:2](#)). Here, Judas criticizes her for wasting money, but Jesus commends her. All four Gospels contain stories of a woman who anoints Jesus; only John names her as Mary of Bethany.





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

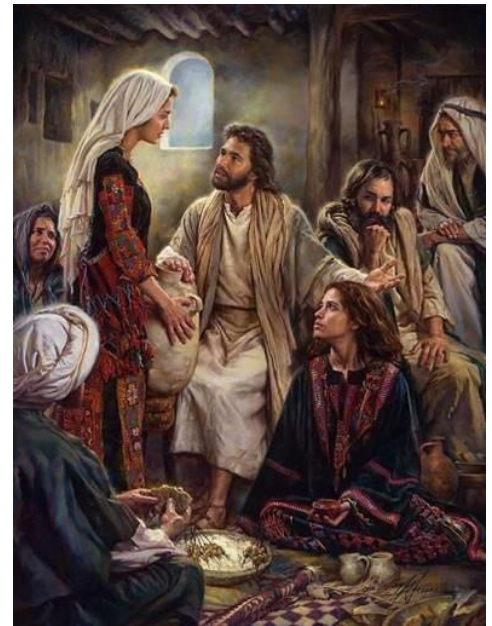
St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

*O Christ Jesus,  
when all is darkness  
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,  
give us the sense of Your presence,  
Your love, and Your strength.  
Help us to have perfect trust  
in Your protecting love  
and strengthening power,  
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,  
for, living close to You,  
we shall see Your hand,  
Your purpose, Your will through all things. Amen.*

*Father, I dedicate this new day to you;  
as I go about my work.  
I ask you to bless those with whom I come in contact.*



## Exodus 40. 16 – 21, 34 - end

<sup>16</sup> Moses obeyed the Lord. He did everything that the LORD commanded him.

<sup>17</sup> So the Holy Tent was set up at the right time. It was the first day of the first month during the second year from the time they left Egypt. <sup>18</sup> Moses set up the Holy Tent just as the Lord had said. He put the bases down first. Then he put the frames on the bases. Then he put the braces on and set up the posts. <sup>19</sup> After that Moses put the outer tent over the Holy Tent. Then he put the covering over the outer tent. He did these things just as the LORD had commanded.



<sup>20</sup> Moses took the Agreement and put it in the Holy Box. He put the poles on the Box and put the mercy-cover on it. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses put the Holy Box into the Holy Tent. He hung the curtain in the right place to protect it. In this way he protected the Box of the Agreement behind the curtain just as the LORD had commanded him.

## The Glory of the Lord

<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the Meeting Tent and the Glory of the LORD filled the Holy Tent. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not go into the Meeting Tent because the cloud had settled on it, and the Glory of the LORD had filled the Holy Tent.

<sup>36</sup> When the cloud rose from the Holy Tent, the Israelites would begin to travel. <sup>37</sup> But when the cloud stayed on the Holy Tent,





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

the people did not try to move. They stayed in that place until the cloud rose. <sup>38</sup> So the cloud of the LORD was over the Holy Tent during the day, and at night there was a fire in the cloud. So all the Israelites could see the cloud while they travelled.

We've looked at the Holy Tent before where Moses met with God. Here's we're creating a more substantial permanent Tabernacle. Eventually this would develop into the Temple at Jerusalem. In this account the writer emphasises the fact that Moses obeyed the LORD's instructions in every detail. Verses 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 all end with the words 'as the LORD had ordered him'. Verse 32 says, 'They did this as the LORD had ordered Moses'. The "Box of the Agreement" is also known as the "Ark of the Covenant" as in "Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark." It's fair to say that no-one knows where it is today but there are a myriad of books suggesting many possible locations.

God approved of all the work that Moses had finished and God's cloud came down over the special tent to show that God was present & approved of the work. Moses was God's loyal servant (Numbers 12:7). Moses had entered where God was present before this time but each time God had invited him. Cloud and fire had covered Mount Sinai when Moses went up it (Exodus 24:15-17). But this time Moses could not go into the tent when God's wonderful light filled it.

The cloud showed that God was present guiding the Israelites in their journey in the desert. They moved their camp only when the cloud moved. At night they saw the cloud still, because God put fire in it. God did what he had promised and lived among his people (Exodus 25:8; 29:43-45).

So we've reached the end of the Book of Exodus. The Book of Exodus began when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. Now they were free people, and God was living among them. God was guiding them and directing them. So they were confident that they would complete their journey to Canaan with God's help.

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God!  
He, whose Word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for His own abode;  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hov'ring,  
See the cloud and fire appear,  
For a glory and a cov'ring,  
Showing that the Lord is near;  
Thus they march, the pillar leading  
Fire by night and cloud by day,  
Safely on the manna feeding  
Which He gives them when they pray.
4. Saviour, if of Zion's city,  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name;  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

A hymn based on the passage above by John Newton [1725 – 1807] better known for his hymn "Amazing Grace."



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July

## Leviticus – Introduction:

We come now to the third book of the Old Testament [following straight on from Genesis and Exodus]. I'm please to say that we get just two readings from it today and tomorrow so we only need a brief introduction.

Leviticus means “having to do with priests and priestly matters” named after Jacob’s son, Levi whose descendants were the priests and high priests in the temple. It’s set while the Israelites are in the wilderness, camped at Mount Sinai. As this is the site of the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant [see yesterday] it’s considered a very holy place. The Book of Leviticus is a very long and detailed list of the legislation designed to prevent anything unclean or sinful coming into contact with that considered to be pure and holy as it would make it unclean. Think of it as the Social Distancing laws of its day. Jesus, of course, turned all this on its head by not following the Sabbath rules and mixing with those considered unclean or outcasts but still remaining the pure and holy Son of God.

We can struggle with much of the book’s contents over 2,500 years since it was written but at its heart stands chapter 19 defining holy behaviour with the command in verse 18 to “love your neighbour as yourself” later repeated in Jesus’ own teaching.

Leviticus 23. 1, 4 – 11, 15 – 16, 27, 34 - 37

### The Special Festivals

**23** The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Tell the Israelites: You will announce the LORD’s chosen festivals as holy meetings. These are my special festivals.

#### Passover

<sup>4</sup>“These are the LORD’s chosen festivals. You will announce the holy meetings at the times chosen for them. <sup>5</sup>The LORD’s Passover is on the 14th day of the first month just before dark.

#### Festival of Unleavened Bread

<sup>6</sup>“The LORD’s Festival of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th day of the same month. You will eat unleavened bread for seven days. <sup>7</sup>On the first day of this festival, you will have a special meeting. You must not do any work on that day. <sup>8</sup>For seven days, you will bring sacrifices offered as gifts to the LORD. Then there will be another special meeting on the seventh day. You must not do any work on that day.”

#### Festival of the First Harvests

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>10</sup>“Tell the Israelites: You will enter the land that I will give you and reap its harvest. At that time you must bring in the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest. <sup>11</sup>The priest will lift the sheaf to show it was offered before the LORD. Then you will be accepted. The priest will present the sheaf on Sunday morning.

#### Festival of Harvest

<sup>15</sup>“From that Sunday morning (the day you bring the sheaf to be presented to God), count seven weeks. <sup>16</sup>On the Sunday following the seventh week (that is, 50 days later), you will bring a new grain offering to the LORD.



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

<sup>22</sup> “Also, when you harvest the crops on your land, don’t cut all the way to the corners of your field. Don’t pick up the grain that falls on the ground. Leave it for poor people and for foreigners traveling through your country. I am the LORD your God.”

## Day of Atonement

<sup>27</sup> “The Day of Atonement will be on the tenth day of the seventh month. There will be a holy meeting. You must not eat food, and you must bring an offering as a gift to the LORD.

## Festival of Shelters

<sup>33</sup> Again the LORD said to Moses, <sup>34</sup> “Tell the Israelites: On the 15th day of the seventh month is the Festival of Shelters. This festival to the LORD will continue for seven days. <sup>35</sup> There will be a holy meeting on the first day. You must not do any work. <sup>36</sup> You will bring offerings as gifts to the LORD for seven days. On the eighth day, you will have another holy meeting. You must not do any work. You will bring an offering as a gift to the LORD.

<sup>37</sup> “These are the LORD’s special festivals. There will be holy meetings during these festivals. You will bring offerings as gifts to the LORD—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and drink offerings. You will bring these gifts at the right time.

*Chapter 23 contains a list of the holy days for the Jewish people including the important Jewish holidays which are usually in April, June and October and the weekly Sabbath Day. All of these holy days and special times are still important to the Jewish faith today.*

**The Sabbath.** This is the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week, our Saturday and means ‘day of rest’, an opportunity for God’s people to worship him each week. In [Genesis 2:3](#), God made the Sabbath very special as, after creating the heavens and the earth, he himself rested on that day. When the Jews left Egypt, God provided their food [called manna] and gave them a special, extra amount before each Sabbath, [Exodus 16:22-30](#) so that they were able to rest and to worship him on the Sabbath.

**The Passover.** This was a most important time for the Jews. It was during March or April when they remember the event just before God freed them from Egypt. We read of it as the 10<sup>th</sup> plague when the oldest son in every family in Egypt died, in just one night. But God told each Israelite family to kill a lamb and to put its blood round their door. When God saw the blood, he would ‘**pass over**’ that house and save the Israelites from death ([Exodus chapter 12](#)). It was at the time of Passover that the death and resurrection of Jesus occurred [Holy Week and Easer in the Christian Church].

**The Time of Unleavened Bread.** People usually add yeast to bread to make it ‘rise’. ‘Unleavened’ means that there is no yeast in the bread and it is flat. At this time, the Jews remember the events immediately after the first Passover. God led them out of Egypt so quickly that there was not even enough time for their bread to rise.

**The First Harvest.** There are several types of grain and the first one that becomes ripe in Israel is barley. [Ruth 1:22](#) tells us that Naomi returned home ‘at the start of the barley harvest’. The priest had to hold up (or wave, [verse 11](#)) a bundle of barley plants in front of the LORD to thank God who provided all the crops in the Israelites’ new country (Canaan, afterwards called Israel). So, by this ceremony, the Israelites gave the first grain of each harvest back to God.

**Pentecost and the Second Harvest.** The word ‘Pentecost’ means ‘50<sup>th</sup>’ or seven weeks, and this time it’s a harvest of wheat for making bread. Again, it reminded people that their food came from God but as well as this celebration, they should leave some food in the fields so that poor people and foreigners would find something to eat [also described in [Ruth 2.7-8](#)].

Pentecost is very important for Christians - we sometimes call it ‘the church’s birthday’. It was on the day, 50 days after Easter, that God sent his Holy Spirit. [[Acts chapter 2](#)].





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**The Day of Atonement.** *Leviticus 16* tells us what the chief priest did on the Day of Atonement [meaning to make one with God], so that God would forgive the people's sins. Here we read what the ordinary people did. They saw their sins as God saw them.

Christians believe that atonement happens by the death of Jesus once for all people in all time. His death means that now we do not have to offer the gifts in the Book of Leviticus.

**Festival of Shelters and Final Harvest.** This was the time when the Jews gathered the last of the harvest and remembered that God had 'gathered' them at last from Egypt. They lived in tents as they went from Egypt to Israel and to remember this, they lived in shelters or tents for a week during September or October. They used the branches of trees to make shelters.

It's usually at around the same time of year that we would celebrate our Harvest Festival.

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God.  
We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything  
to reach the end  
Without delay.  
We should like to skip  
The intermediate stages.  
We are impatient of being on  
The way to something unknown,  
Something new,  
And yet it is the law of all progress  
That it is made by passing through  
Some stages of instability ---  
And that it may take a very long time.  
And so it is with you.*

*Your ideas mature gradually ---  
Let them grow,  
Let them shape themselves,  
Without undue haste.  
Don't try to force them on,  
As though you could be today  
What time will make you tomorrow.  
Only God could say what this new spirit  
Gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
That his hand is leading you,  
And accept the anxiety of  
Feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.*

## Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Today the church remembers St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus 1556

Born Inigo Lopez de Loyola in 1491, the man known as Ignatius of Loyola was born in Loiola, northern Spain. At the time, the name of the village was spelled "Loyola." He was the youngest of thirteen children. His mother died when he was just seven, and he was then raised by Maria de Garin, who was the wife of a blacksmith.

Despite the misfortune of losing his mother he was still a member of the local aristocracy and was raised with dreams of becoming a great leader.

At eighteen, he became a soldier and seeking wider acclaim, he began referring to himself as Ignatius, a variant of Inigo. The young Ignatius also gained a reputation as a duellist.

Ignatius fought in several battles and he had a talent for emerging unscathed. His talent earned him promotions and soon he commanded his own troops.





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

In 1521, while defending the town of Pamplona against French attack, Ignatius was struck by a cannonball in the legs. One leg was merely broken, but the other was badly mangled. To save his life and possibly his legs, doctors performed several surgeries. Despite their best efforts, Ignatius' condition deteriorated. After suffering for a month, his doctors warned him to prepare for death. On June 29, 1521 Ignatius began to improve and as soon as he was healthy enough to bear it, part of one leg was amputated which sped his recovery.

During this time of, Ignatius began to read whatever books he could find. Most of the books he obtained were about the lives of the saints and Christ. These stories had a profound impact on him, and he became more devout. One story in particular influenced him, "De Vita Christi" (The life of Christ). The story offers commentary on the life of Christ and suggested a spiritual exercise that required visualizing oneself in the presence of Christ during the episodes of His life. The book would inspire Ignatius' own spiritual exercises. As he lay bedridden, Ignatius developed a desire to become a working servant of Christ.

By the spring of 1522, Ignatius had recovered enough to leave bed and on March 25 he entered the Benedictine monastery, Santa Maria de Montserrat.

He then walked to a hospital in the town of Manresa. In exchange for a place to live, he performed work around the hospital. He begged for his food. When he was not working or begging, he would go into a cave and practice spiritual exercises. His time in prayer and contemplation helped him to understand himself better. He also gained a better understanding of God and God's plan for him.

Ignatius began recording his thoughts and experiences in a journal. This journal would be useful later for developing new spiritual exercises for the tens of thousands of people who would follow him and remain invaluable today and are still widely practiced.

The next year, in 1523, Ignatius made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. His goal was to live there but the Holy Land was a troubled place and Church officials did not want Ignatius to complicate things further. They asked him to return after just a fortnight.

Ignatius realized he needed to obtain a complete education. Returning to Barcelona, Ignatius attended a grammar school, filled with children, to learn Latin and other subjects. After completing his primary education, he travelled to Alcala, then Salamanca, where he studied at universities. In addition to studying, he often engaged others in lengthy conversations about spiritual matters.

These conversations attracted the attention of the Inquisition. In Spain, the Inquisition was responsible for ferreting out religious dissent and combating heresy. The Inquisition accused Ignatius of preaching without any formal education in theology and introducing heresy. Ignatius was questioned three times by the Inquisition, but he was always exonerated.

Ignatius eventually decided he needed more education, so he travelled north, seeking better schools and teachers. He was 38 years old when he entered the College of Saint Barbe of the University of Paris. This education was very structured and formalized. Later, Ignatius would be inspired to copy this model when establishing schools. Ignatius earned a master's degree at the age of 44. When he subsequently applied for his doctorate, he was passed over because of his age. He also suffered from ailments, which the school was concerned could impact his studies.

While at school in Paris, Ignatius roomed with Peter Faber and Francis Xavier. The men became friends and Ignatius led them in his spiritual exercises. Other men soon joined their exercises and became followers of Ignatius. The group began to refer to themselves as "Friends in the Lord," an apt description.

The circle of friends, shared Ignatius' dream of traveling to the Holy Land, but conflict made such a journey impossible. Denied the opportunity to travel there, the group then decided to visit Rome. There, they resolved to present themselves to the Pope and to serve at his pleasure. Pope Paul III received the group and approved them as an official religious order in 1540. The band attempted to elect Ignatius as their first leader, but he declined, saying he had not lived a worthy life in his youth. He also believed others were more experienced theologically. The group insisted however, and Ignatius accepted the role as their first leader. They called themselves the Society of Jesus. Some people who did not appreciate their efforts dubbed them "Jesuits" in an attempt to disparage them. While the name stuck, by virtue of their good work the label lost its negative connotation.

Ignatius imposed a strict, almost military rule on his order. This was natural for a man who spent his youth as a soldier. It might be expected that such rigour would dissuade people from joining, but it had the opposite effect.





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The Society of Jesus soon found its niche in education. Before Ignatius died in 1556, his order established 35 schools and boasted 1,000 members.

Today, the Society of Jesus is known for its work in educating the youth around the world. Several universities have been founded in the name of Ignatius and in the traditional Jesuit spirit.

Ignatius' passed away on July 31, 1556, at the age of 64. He was beatified by Pope Paul V on July 27, 1609 and canonized on March 12, 1622.

## Leviticus 25. 1, 8 - 17

25 The LORD spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai. He said,

### Jubilee—the Year of Release

<sup>8</sup>“You will also count seven groups of seven years. This will be 49 years. During that time there will be seven years of rest for the land. <sup>9</sup>On the Day of Atonement, you must blow a ram’s horn. That will be on the tenth day of the seventh month. You must blow the ram’s horn through the whole country. <sup>10</sup>You will make the 50th year a special year. You will announce freedom for everyone living in your country. This time will be called ‘Jubilee.’ Each of you will go back to your own property. And each of you will go back to your own family. <sup>11</sup>The 50th year will be a special celebration for you. Don’t plant seeds, don’t harvest the crops that grow by themselves, and don’t gather grapes from the vines that are not trimmed. <sup>12</sup>That year is Jubilee. It will be a holy time for you. You will eat the crops that come from the field. <sup>13</sup>In the year of Jubilee, you will go back to your own property.

<sup>14</sup>“Don’t cheat your neighbours when you sell your land to them. Don’t cheat one another when you buy or sell land. <sup>15</sup>If you want to buy your neighbour’s land, count the number of years since the last Jubilee, and use that number to decide the right price. You are only buying the rights for harvesting crops until the next Jubilee. <sup>16</sup>If there are many years before the next Jubilee, the price will be high. If the years are few, the price will be lower. So your neighbour is really only selling a number of crops to you. At the next Jubilee, the land will again belong to that family. <sup>17</sup>You must not cheat each other. You must honour your God. I am the LORD your God.

*Chapter 25 contains yet more special times and days that began in Leviticus chapter 23. As well as Sabbath Days once a week, there must be Sabbath Years every seven years. After 7 Sabbath Years, there must be a very special year on the 50<sup>th</sup> year called a Jubilee Year. All this is about freedom - the land is free from seeds and harvests and people are free. The idea of the Jubilee Year reminds the Jews that:*

- The LORD had set them free from Egypt.*
- The land belonged to the LORD*
- The Jewish people must trust God to provide their food.*

*So the Jewish people had to prepare for Sabbath Years and Jubilee Years and store enough food for them. Life would be simple in the Sabbath Years, as it was on the way from Egypt to Israel. Most people would not live through more than one Jubilee Year.*

*We do not know whether a proper Jubilee Year has ever happened as the Bible does not mention any such occasion. The Jubilee Year was part of God’s perfect plan for the Israelites and may be still to come.*

*The Hebrew word for the ram’s horn ‘trumpets’ was ‘yobel’ and we get our word ‘jubilee’ from this.*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The Jubilee Year began on the Day of Atonement (see [Leviticus 23:26-32](#)) when God forgave his people's sins and, during that year, God gave freedom to all his people. They returned to the places where their families lived. If they had sold their family's land, God gave the land back to them again.

[Verses 14-18](#) It is against God's law to carry on business in an unfair manner. [Numbers 36:9](#) tells us that in the Jubilee Year, land must go back to its original owner. [Leviticus 25:24](#) also says that the buyer did not own the land permanently as it really belonged to God. He lent it to the people when they came into Canaan. If the people wanted to remain in this land, they had to obey God.

*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,  
my memory, my understanding  
and my entire will.*

*All I have and call my own,  
You have given all to me,  
to you, Lord, I return it.*

*Everything is yours; do with it what you will.  
Give me only your love and your grace,  
that is enough for me. **Amen.***

## NOTICEBOARD:

**URBAN OUTREACH** **BL** Bolton Lunches

**Volunteers Needed!**

**What:** The summer is approaching and Bolton Lunches is going ahead—bigger than ever before! We need people each morning over the summer holidays to make sandwiches and pack the lunches.

**When:** Monday 26th July—3rd September (not including 30th August for the bank holiday). The doors will open at 6.45am for you to get ready and we will start the session at 7am. This will run until 8.30am.

**Where:** The Food Hub Unit 4 (formally Office Outlet), Trinity Retail Park, Springfield, Bolton, BL2 1HY.

**How:** You **MUST** book in by emailing [admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk](mailto:admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk) or calling 01204 385848 and letting us know which sessions you will be attending.

In Partnership With:

**Bolton at Home** **Bolton Council** **home bargains**

**Bolton Together** **in the community** **Seddon** **Warburtons**

*Working alongside churches and community groups to ensure no child goes hungry this summer.*



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## Church Attendance for School Places:

To register attendance, please e-mail:

[bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com](mailto:bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com)

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

## Confirmation Service:

This is being held today at St Katharine's, Blackrod. There are a total of 7 candidates, 3 of whom are from Westhoughton Parish.

Due to ongoing Covid measures, please attend the service as there will be no room. It will be a non-Eucharistic Service and the young people will be strongly encouraged to go to their own home church the week after. They will receive a certificate on the day but will receive a gift at their home church on 1<sup>st</sup> August. We pray today for the three candidates from this parish, Ava, Ruby and Libby.

**There is a further Confirmation service planned for November this year.**

## Next Sunday: The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

**Readings: Exodus 16. 2 – 4 & 9 - 15 / Ephesians 4. 1 - 16 / John 6. 24 - 35**

**9:15 am Service of the Word at St George's Church Revd Andy Jones**

**11:00am Holy Communion Service St. Bartholomew's Church Revd David Griffiths**

**9:15am Service at St. Thomas'**

**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](mailto:carol.pharaoh@gmail.com) [www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk)

**Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne** 01204 468150 – [revawynne@gmail.com](mailto:revawynne@gmail.com)

**Curate: Revd Andy Jones** 01942 813 750 Email: [reverendandyjones@gmail.com](mailto:reverendandyjones@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK** – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch

Material for the news sheet should be sent to Joan Warner by Wednesday morning 01942 818821 [joan.warner35@outlook.com](mailto:joan.warner35@outlook.com)

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

[westhoughtonchurches@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonchurches@outlook.com)



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## **ST BARTHOLOMEW'S Corona Virus – Covid-19 Information**

**As we ease restrictions, the following regulations are in place.**

**This will be reviewed regularly in line with any Government and Church of England updates.**

### **Church Services:**

**We will have a service at St. Bartholomew church at 11:00am each Sunday**

There will be no midweek services or 8:00am services in the parish at the moment; this is under review and will be reassessed in September.

### **Please do not attend:**

- If you have symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you are in a household where a member has symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you have been asked to isolate as part of a contact tracing programme or as part of medical treatment

### **Pattern of Services:**

**The services may not all be communion services but may include Services of the Word.**

### **Arriving at Church:**

**Please follow all the guidelines concerning social distancing and note that attendance will be limited.**

- Entrance will be via the main door
- You will be asked to register so that we can have a contact tracing system in place. Attendance sheets are stored for 21 days and destroyed in line with Data Protection Measures. This is NOT a school form attendance register. This will be reviewed after the new guidance on Track and Trace coming into effect in mid- August.
- Alcohol gel will be available to clean your hands.
- **We may need a set a limit on numbers attending**
- **Face coverings are no longer mandatory in line with Government regulations but we ask that people wear these when entering or leaving. Once seated, you may remove your face covering for the duration of the service. We respect each person's view on whether they wish to wear a face covering during the service or not. It may be possible to set aside an area of the church where face coverings will be worn, if this is requested.**

### **Within the Church:**

**Social distancing will be strictly observed.**

- The layout of seats will look very different – do not try to move them. Additional seating will be returned during August
- Doors will remain fixed open to avoid people touching door handles / door panels
- Hymn books and service books will be reintroduced during August
- There will be a table with service sheets. You will be invited to take one and you must take this home with you; please do not leave it behind.
- The offertory plate will also be on this table. There will be no offertory taken during the service.
- Families / “bubbles” may sit together. We ask that people maintain a one seat gap between families / “bubbles” as part of social distancing.

### **Children / Young People's provision:**

**We are not able to offer this to comply with social distancing**

- The toy box, children's books and soft play bags will not be available
- Families must sit together in church; gathering in the back room or narthex is NOT allowed.
- Sunday School will not resume until September while the back room is being cleared and will be dependent upon sufficient leaders.



# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## The Service:

The form of the service will be very different to comply with Church of England guidelines. As an example

- It is recommended that services are shorter
- Robes may not be worn
- There will be less movement during the services – we may stand to sing hymns and sit for the rest of the service [as instructed by the presiding minister]. This will be reviewed in September.
- There may be only one or two readings
- A sermon may not be preached if printed on the pewsheets
- Sharing the peace is not allowed physically; people are asked to remain in their seats and may make a gesture of peace.
- At communion services, only the bread will be administered; the altar rails will not be used and people will be advised to come forward in a distanced queue, receive and return to their seat following the one-way system in place & using hand sanitiser provided.

## After the service:

Serving of refreshments is being reviewed

- Until the back room is cleared we may serve the in church / outside / on special occasions only. This will be reviewed in September.
- Do not block exit routes and exit doors.
- If chatting, please respect people's wish to maintain a safe distance

## School Form Signing:

This has not altered

- Church attendance can now be recorded but we cannot do this in ways that would be unsafe, break social distancing rules or put anyone attending at risk of transmitting or catching Covid / coronavirus.
- **From Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, if you do attend a service within the team or would have attended a service had restrictions not been in place** [i.e. you would have attended St. Thomas' church, a Café Church Service, an 8:00am service] or where you cannot attend due to limits placed on attendance, **please e-mail:**

[bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com](mailto: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 as these sheets are for contact tracing purposes only and must be destroyed after 21 days.
- 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.

## Please contact us:

**Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh** 01942 859251 [carol.pharaoh@gmail.com](mailto:carol.pharaoh@gmail.com)

**Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne** 01204 468150 [revawynne@gmail.com](mailto:revawynne@gmail.com)

**Curate: Revd Andy Jones** 01942 813750 [reverendandyjones@gmail.com](mailto:reverendandyjones@gmail.com)

## Further Information:

Please see also the Parish website [www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk](http://www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk)

Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Government Coronavirus website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>  
and safe use of places of worship [places of worship](#)

Or e-mail the Parish Office [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com) [NB not staffed 24 hours]

*Please note that this is a rapidly changing situation which is being updated frequently. We will aim to provide the latest information available.*

Edward McHale [Churchwarden] 22/07/2021 update





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## Corona Virus – Covid-19 Information: St George's Sunday Services

**St. George's is holding a service each Sunday morning at 9:15am**  
**The following measures will apply for the protection of all but are being reviewed as restrictions ease. Please read and follow the guidelines below.**

### Church Services:

**We will have a service at St. George's church each Sunday at 9:15am**

We are not able to run Café Church at the moment – this will be reviewed in September with the new school year. It may be necessary to cancel a service at very short notice [for example if there is an outbreak affecting the school and access is not permitted].

### Please do not attend:

- If you have symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you are in a household where a member has symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid-19 / Coronavirus
- If you have been asked to isolate as part of a contact tracing programme or as part of medical treatment

### You may wish not to attend: **If you are in a high risk or vulnerable group**

We review our risk assessment regularly and update this in line with the latest information & guidance from the Government and the Church of England. We believe that we have minimised the risk as far as is possible. If you have any concerns or want further information, please see the websites listed at the end of this sheet or contact the clergy / parish wardens.

### Pattern of Services:

**The services will be all-age communion services or family-friendly Services of the Word.**

### Arriving at Church:

**We are planning to maintain a degree of social distancing with one-way systems and spaced seating**

- Entrance will be via the main door
- You will be asked to register on entering so that we can have a contact tracing system in place. Attendance sheets are stored at St. Bartholomew's church [for easier access] for 21 days and destroyed. This is NOT a school form attendance register.
- Alcohol gel will be available to clean your hands. You will be directed into church through one of the side entrances following a one way system
- **Face coverings are no longer mandatory in line with Government regulations but we ask that people wear these when entering or leaving. Once seated, you may remove your face covering for the duration of the service. We respect each person's view on whether they wish to wear a face covering during the service or not.**

### Within the Church:

**Social distancing will be maintained as far as is possible.**

- The seating system will be maintained. You will be asked to collect a chair from the chair rack on entering and asked to sit in a particular area of the hall. Please follow the instructions as we seek to fit everyone in safely distanced.
- Doors will remain fixed open to avoid people touching door handles / door panels. Fire doors & the roof panels may be opened to increase ventilation.
- No books will be handed out
- There will be a table with service sheets. You will be invited to take one and you must take this home with you; please do not leave it behind. As much as possible may be done on-screen
- The offertory plate will also be on this table. There will be no offertory taken during the service.
- Please do not block entrances / exits or routes around the building





# PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

## Children / Young People's provision:

We are not able to offer Sunday School due to the limited access. This will be reviewed in September with the start of the new school term, following discussions with the school.

- Families must sit together in church for the duration of the service.

## The Service:

The form of the service will be very different to comply with Church of England guidelines.

### As an example

- Services may be shorter and the content differ from week to week
- Robes may not be worn
- There will be less movement during the services – no standing / moving around
- Congregational singing is allowed and there will be hymns
- We will not share the peace physically or move around at this point in the service
- *[At communion services, only the bread will be administered; the altar rails will not be used and people will be advised to remain in their seats and the priest will come to them to administer communion]*

## After the service:

Serving refreshments will be reviewed and may restart in September

- Please leave in a socially distanced manner following the one-way system and the designated exits. Please do not crowd around chair racks / entrances & exits.
- Everyone will be asked to take their own chair back to the chair rack.
- Do not block exit routes and exit doors.
- You may gather in a socially distanced manner for a chat

## School Form Signing:

Attendance or intention to attend is now recorded by e-mail; this has not changed

- Church attendance can now be recorded but we cannot do this in ways that would be unsafe or put anyone attending at risk of transmitting or catching Covid / coronavirus.
- **From Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020, if you do attend a service within the team or would have attended a service had restrictions not been in place** [i.e. you would have attended a Café Church Service, an 8:00am service] or where you cannot attend due to limits placed on attendance, **please e-mail:**

[bdhww.churchattendance@gmail.com](mailto: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 as these sheets are for contact tracing purposes only and must be destroyed after 21 days.
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- Please do NOT use any other e-mail address to register church attendance as these will not be included.

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<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Or e-mail the Parish Office [westhoughtonparish@outlook.com](mailto:westhoughtonparish@outlook.com) [NB not staffed 24 hours]

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