

SUNDAY 23RD JANUARY 2022 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services				
St George's Church 9:15am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin	St Thomas' Church 9:15am Holy Communion Revd Malcolm Wearing	St Bartholomew's Church 11:00am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh / Revd Andy Jones HYMNS: 379, 160, 387, 692, 390		

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Cassie Buono, Brian Cato, Andrew Colman, Denise Gilliland, 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: Andrew Colman, Harold Morris, Elaine Wright, Anne Morris Krikken

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: William Aspinall, Arnold Astle, Joseph Brocklehurst, Eric Cook, Mary Dolphin, Phyllis Eastham, Nellie Goodacre, Matthew Lee, Frank Leyland, John Leyland, John Lowe, Alfred Naylor, Mark Pilkington, Madge Smalley, Vincent Smith, Joyce Stride, Jaqueline Winrow

Coming Up this week:

Sunday 23 rd			
I:00pm	St Bartholomew's Church	Baptism Matilda Rosemary THOMPSON	
2:00pm		Baptism Charlie COFFEY	
Monday 24 th			
10:30am – 11:30am	St Bartholomew's Church	Office Hour	
7:00pm	St Bartholomew's Church	St Bartholomew's Committee Meeting	
7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church	PCC Meeting	
Tuesday 25 th		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends	
Wednesday 26 th			
7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church	Choir Practice	
7:30pm – 9:00pm	St Katharine's Church	Being With course – second session	

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

Next Sunday: 30th January 2022

Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Readings: Malachi 3. 1 – 5 / Hebrews 2. 14 - 18 / Luke 2. 22 - 40

9.15 am Service of the Word at St George's Church

Revd Andy Jones

9.15 am Service of the Word at St Thomas' Church11.00am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's Chur

Elaine Simkin

Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's Church Revd Carol Pharaoh/Revd Andy Jones

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

Today's Readings

Collect:

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading:

Nehemiah 8. 1 -3, 5-6 & 8 - 10¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

New Testament Reading:

1 Corinthians 12. 12 – 31a ¹²Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are

many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

Gospel Reading ¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to





Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Post-Communion Prayer:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January We Saw His Star in the East...

Day 6 Sunday 23rd January

"They saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage" (Matthew 2:11) Gathered in worship around the One Lord

Readings

- Psalm 84 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
- Mt 28:16-20 When they saw him, they worshipped him.

Reflection

When the Magi from their far-away countries arrived at Bethlehem and saw the child with his mother, they worshipped him. In the presence of this revelation of God among us, eyes were cast down and knees bent. Similarly, when the disciples saw the risen Christ on the mountain in Galilee, they were amazed and troubled. Yet they worshipped him.

Do we see? Are we amazed? Are we truly worshipping? How many times do we remain blind to God's presence? How can we worship in truth if we do not really see first? In our narrow vision, too often we see only our tangled disagreements, forgetting that God's saving grace is to all, and that we share in the one Spirit who draws us into unity. Often in our pride we follow human laws and traditions, disregarding the love we are called to share as one people justified by Christ's blood.

As communities enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we are called to walk together towards the Christ-Child, offering homage as one people. The Spirit of compassion guides us to each other and only by following this guide will we be able to "worship in spirit and truth".

Prayer

Compassionate God, in your mercy, remove the scales from our eyes and lead us to repent and to worship you. In the midst of our sorrow and despite the depth of our sin, give us the capacity to love you with all our hearts. As we journey together with one heart and mind, may we glorify you in the Spirit's fellowship, and witness to those around us. Amen.

Hymn Verse

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee; Changed from glory into glory, Till in Heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley, 1747

Day 7 Monday 24th January

"Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11) The search for unity

Readings

- Hosea 6:1-6 (v6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice)
- Matthew 6:19-21 (v21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also)

Reflection

The prophet Hosea is known for his cry for justice and love to override religious ritual and regulations. We are called to make a treasure of our expression of love and our work for justice and to let that be the offering that we place before the manger. We know that God does not want our riches or burnt offerings, but rather that God's power works through our poverty: "I have no silver or gold". The Lord desires our loving hearts, filled with mercy, truly penitent and desiring change.

Let us then prepare the gift of a heart full of love. Kneeling in worship requires hearts that are contrite for the sin that divides us and obedient to the One we serve. This obedience revives, heals and reconciles everything that is broken or wounded in us, around us, and among us as Christians.

Unity is the gift offered to us by Christ. We grow in communion as we share the graces our different traditions have received, acknowledging that the source of all our gifts is the Lord.

Prayer

God, through your prophets you have called us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. In Christ, you have shown us what that looks like. Through your Holy Spirit you continually enable us to hear your words, to follow Christ's example, and to live as his disciples. So, as we gather at the manger, heal our wounds, reconcile our divisions and hold us together in your love. **Amen.**

Hymn Verses

Vainly we offer each ample oblation; vainly with gifts would his favour secure; richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, dawn on our darkness, and lend us your aid; star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Day 8 Tuesday 25th January

"They left for their own country by another road" (Matthew 2:12) Beyond the familiar routes of separation to God's new paths

Readings

- **Psalm 16** You show me the path of life.
- Matthew 11:25-30 Because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent, and

have revealed them to infants.

Reflection

We do not know what the wise men thought – they who were experts in astronomy and navigation – when they were warned to return by another road. They may well have been very confused, but the same light that illumined their journey showed them that there was another road, another possibility. They were called to change direction.

We often find ourselves bound by our familiar ways of doing things and of seeing the world. When these ways or 'roads' are closed, we wonder how to proceed and continue the journey. We have to trust that the everlasting One who gave us the light, can always find a way forward when our ways and paths are blocked. A fresh start is always possible when we are willing and open to the work of the Spirit. As churches we look to the past and find illumination, and we look to the future in search of new ways so that we can continue to shine the light of the Gospel as we journey by another way, together.

Prayer

Gracious God, when we only know one way and we think we must return to it, when we think that all roads are blocked, and we fall into despair, we always find you there, creating a new unexpected path before us. If we search our maps and find no route, nonetheless we always find you, who lead us by a yet more excellent way, trusting that you will always lead us back to you and forward in unity together. **Amen.**

Meditative Response

Journeying on parallel paths or often in opposite directions We are called by 'another way' to become pilgrim companions the people of The Way Compasses and maps orientated route finding and navigating together our backpacks not burdensome our boots crunching on, rediscovering ancient paths, walking humbly together with our God.

Tuesday 25th January The Conversion of St. Paul

St. Paul – Top Eleven Best Bits:

1. Saint Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century.

2. St. Paul was originally known as Saul, and he was a Roman citizen [born in Tarsus in Southern Turkey] but from a devoutly Jewish family.

3. He grew up in Jerusalem and was brought up by Gamaliel, a leading authority in the Jewish religious establishment (Sanhedrin). In addition to learning religious scriptures, he also studied Greek philosophers. In his daily life, he was a tent maker and continued to support himself financially in this work.

4. During his early life, St Paul was a Pharisee – a group of Jewish people who administered the law. He admitted to participating "beyond measure" in the persecution of Christians. This included taking part in the stoning of Stephen, a Christian [Acts 7:58-60;22:20]. One reason St Paul was so critical of the followers of Jesus was the fact he was appalled that Jesus died a 'criminal's death' on the cross. He couldn't reconcile that with how a Messiah would be treated.

5. But Saul experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity while on the road to Damascus [31 – 36 AD] – see tomorrow's reading. He was duly baptized and took the name Paul.

F	PAUL'S LETTERS AND M	ISSIC	NARY JOURNI	EYS
YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

6. Paul travelled the world, first to Arabia then back to Damascus. He also visited Jerusalem to see St. Peter. During these travels, he preached ceaselessly, often drawing criticism and anger from those who rebuffed his message. He taught that old religious rites, such as circumcision were no longer necessary & that faith in the redemptive power of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to save sinners was the essence of Christianity. St Paul also rebuffed the idea that Jews were a special people, due to their lineage from Abraham. St Paul's teachings helped move the early sect of Judaism into the separate religion of Christianity. Before St Paul, followers of Jesus Christ were

still associated with Judaism. St Paul successfully argued that Gentiles (non-Jews) could be converted directly to Christianity and didn't need to become Jews first.

7. Eventually, Paul returned to Tarsus, where he was born. He preached there until he was called by Barnabas to come to Antioch. After a year spent in Antioch, a famine occurred in Jerusalem and the pair was dispatched to the city with charitable offerings. They accomplished this mission, and returned to Antioch.

8. Paul and Barnabas then went forth on a mission to



Cyprus and throughout Asia Minor. They established several churches in their travels. After establishing his churches, Paul remained in communication with the faithful, often writing letters to answer questions and resolve disputes.

9. Paul travelled throughout much of Europe, particularly in Macedonia, Greece, and Italy. While preparing for a missionary trip to Spain, he was imprisoned in Caesarea by the Jews for two years. Since he could claim rights as a Roman citizen, he was eventually released. He travelled again, was shipwrecked in Malta, and was imprisoned for another two years for preaching in Rome. Despite these imprisonments, Paul continued to preach.

10. He spent his remaining years writing letters to the early church and acting as a missionary. Within the 27 books of the New Testament, seven books are signed by St Paul and are considered to be his writings – Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians and Philemon. Another seven books are likely to have been written by or had input from St Paul.

11. In 67 AD, Paul was arrested in Rome for a second time and this time he was beheaded under Emperor Nero. According to John Chrysostom, Nero knew Paul personally.



NOTICEBOARD:

Please find below a short act of worship which we hope you will find useful.

https://youtu.be/O1bZB3YDNT0

We hope to send you a link each Thursday with a short act of worship each time. At the moment we are exploring the theme of Epiphany in these short videos. Following Candlemas we will have a look at some Old Testament characters and starting in Lent we will look at some of the Psalms. We would appreciate any feedback you may have.

With prayers and best wishes Carol

Organ Music at St. Bartholomew's:

For Epiphany we're continuing the "Toccata" 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.

Today, for the penultimate of these, we'll have the Carillon Sortie by Henri Mulet.

Mulet was born on 17 October 1878 in Paris. His father Gabriel Léon Mulet was choirmaster of the Basilica of Sacré-Cœur, where his mother Blanche Victoire Augustine Gatin would also play the harmonium. He originally intended to be a cellist, but later served as an organist in Paris.

Mulet's most notable works are for organ: the *Esquisses byzantines* (1914-1919) and the *Carillon-Sortie* (1911/12). The former, a set of ten pieces, was a recollection of the Romano-Byzantine architectural style of Sacré-Cœur and five of the pieces are named after some of its features, including "Campanile" (bell-tower) and "Chapelle des Morts" (chapel of the dead). The *Carillon* has been called "one of the great showpieces of French Romantic organ music". It's a going out piece based on a peal of bells – it's not clear if Mulet based this on a specific church / cathedral bell peal or whether it is his own invention.

In 1922 Mulet published "Les tendances et antireligieuses néfastes de l'orgue moderne", an attack on modern schools of organ building. He deplored the trend to create organs which he felt were more appropriate for the cinema than for church: the organ was "a stained-glass window. Its tones of imposing and embracing calm flood the air of our cathedrals, in the same way that ...stained-glass windows bring down meditation upon the congregation."

In 1937, Mulet, following a financial crisis, destroyed his manuscripts and many of his possessions and left Paris for Draguignan (Var) There he continued as a church organist until 1958, often in poverty (his wife opened a toy-shop in the hope of increasing their income). Ill-health led them to retire to a convent in Draguignan, where he died in 1967. Although he'd been forgotten by this time, his music lives on.

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.

Committee Meetings:

The next PCC meeting will be this week on **Monday 24th January** at 7:30pm at St. Bartholomew's church.

St. Bartholomew's church committee will meet immediately before that on 24th January at 7:00pm.

'Threads through Creation' at Chester Cathedral

'Threads through Creation' is a spectacular display of twelve huge silk panels retelling the creation story from the first pages of the Bible. It's a vibrant combination of silks, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers, gold leaf – with miles of thread and eight million stitches!

Chester Cathedral - until 1 March.



Children's Society Boxes

The Children's Society boxes are now due for emptying.

Please bring your box along to church, we will arrange for them to be emptied and then return the empty box to church for you to collect. If you are not able to bring your box along to church and would like us to collect it, please ring and we will arrange collection. If you would like a box or simply to make a donation to The Children's Society, please contact us.

Christine & Andrew Jolley Westhoughton Parish representatives The Children's Society Tel : 01942 815820

The 'Prayers for Bolton' Service - 96.5 Bolton FM



lan Smart and Sue Snowden present this inspirational service each Sunday at I Iam which includes an act of worship for those currently unable to attend church services. The preacher this week, Sun 23rd Jan is Glen Atkinson, minister at St John's Methodist Church in Horwich, and next week, Sun 30th Jan, is Ian Smart.

Bolton FM is available on 96.5FM and online at <u>www.boltonfm.com</u> – it is also available on your smartspeaker and digitally via Tuneln.

If you miss the show you can listen to a recording on the Bolton FM website: <u>https://www.boltonfm.com/listen-again/</u>

Watch a short video of Ian explaining the Prayers for Bolton Service by using this link: <u>https://youtu.be/HCI5p1WLF1A</u>



Interfaith/Uniting Communities Information

The Bolton Unity Project's 'Community Winter Walks'



Everyone is welcome to join the Bolton Unity Project (Bolton Christian Community Cohesion, Bolton Wanderers in the Community, Bolton Interfaith Council, Bolton Solidarity Community Association, Bolton Council of Mosques and Bolton Hindu Forum) on a series of 5 'Winter Walks in January and February aimed at bringing people together from different backgrounds in the Bolton community:

Thursday 27th January, 2pm

Rivington Reservoir – Great Hall Barn to Liverpool Castle

Thursday 3rd February, 2pm

*Tree Planting with the Woodlands Trust at Walker Fold *(Please note that the Tree Planting and Guided Walk have swapped dates from the original

plan)

<u>Thursday 10th February, 2pm</u>

Last Drop Village to Turton Towers

All the walks are fairly gentle and about 2-3 miles in length taking about an hour (although the tree planting activity will be on a steepish slope and could be trickier). Each walk will include a stop for refreshments either during or after the walk.

If you would like to participate in any of the walks please contact Keith Armstrong on tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk who will send you more details of meeting points, directions etc.

Greater Manchester 'Online' Holocaust Memorial Day Service – Thurs 27th Jan, 12 noon



PEOPLE from Greater Manchester and across the country are invited to join a virtual service to remember the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides, and to hear the vital testimony of those whose lives have been affected by these atrocities.

Greater Manchester's annual Holocaust Memorial Day service will take place on Thursday 27 January, bringing together faith and community leaders from across the city-region. As it was last year, the service will be held online in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Broadcast live to residents through Facebook, YouTube and Twitter from 12:00pm, the service will hear from speakers including Holocaust survivor Gisela Feldman and pupils from Falinge Park High School, a Beacon school for the Holocaust. There will also be musical performances from Cantor Charles Chait, as well as readings and prayers, and a minute's silence led by Rabbi Daniel Walker from Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation.

Candles of remembrance will be lit by representatives from the Jewish Representative Council and Greater Manchester's equality panels.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day takes place under the theme of 'One Day', which can be interpreted in many ways, including 'one day when life changed' and 'one day in the future'. As well as commemorating the Holocaust, Holocaust Memorial Day is a day to remember those that endured and survived other genocides, including in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

We do hope you will join us by watching the service online from 12:00pm on the Mayor of Greater Manchester's <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> channels or by searching 'Greater Manchester Holocaust Memorial Day Service 2022' on YouTube.



You are invited to join and 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

This is running every Wednesday evening.

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

CONTACT US:

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

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – <u>revawynne@gmail.com</u> **Curate:** Revd Andy Jones 01942 813 750 Email: <u>reverendandyjones@gmail.com</u>

> 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 <u>westhoughtonparish@outlook.com</u>