

Sunday Services across the Team

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

Further details on the weekly pewsheets

**Third Wednesday of each month at St Bartholomew's:
 11:00am Holy Communion followed by Luncheon Club**

OFFICE HOUR RUNS ON A MONDAY AT St. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH 10:30 – 11:30am or Saturdays by appointment only [please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com]. For all enquiries relating to weddings, banns and for other routine matters, please contact the Rector, details below.

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	Revd Carol Pharaoh carol.pharaoh@gmail.com	01942 859251
Curate in Charge	Revd Andy Jones reverendandyjones@gmail.com	01942 813 750
Team Vicar	Revd Angela Wynne	01204 468150
Associate Vicar	Revd Malcolm Wearing	07557 658452
Reader Emeritus	Alan Morris	01942 817871
Reader Emeritus	Elaine Simkin	01942 810762

Parish Wardens

Edward McHale 01942 812193

Deputy Wardens

St Bartholomew	Christine Andrews Vacancy	01942 817146
St George	Pat James John Moore	01204 492994
St Thomas	Graham Andrews	

Items for inclusion in future newsletters should be sent to the parish office:
westhoughtonparish@outlook.com
 or given to Edward McHale, churchwarden and Director of Music

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk



Parish of St Bartholomew
 Westhoughton
 St Bartholomew St Thomas
 St George



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2022

Ryan Battersby [Tower Captain] writes:

TOWER NEWS

On the evening of Thursday 8th September, the news that was expected (but which we all hoped would not come) was announced. Within minutes, the half-mast Union Flag was placed on the tower flagpole, and the half-muffled tenor bell was tolled for one hour.



Tolling following the announcement

There are many times when it is an honour to be a bellringer, such as ringing for weddings, on Remembrance Sunday etc; this solemn hour of contemplation whilst stood tolling on my own, with my own thoughts, for Her Majesty The Queen, is the greatest honour I will ever have.



2 Union Flag at half mast

Our dedicated team of ringers were on hand to ring on the Friday at noon as requested by Buckingham Palace, to formerly mark the death of our beloved Queen. We rang fully muffled (leather pads placed either side of the clapper to soften the sound) as is the custom for the death of the Monarch. The last time fully-muffled bells were heard across Westhoughton was 1952 for the death of King George VI.

On Proclamation Day, the muffles came off and the flag raised to full-mast to announce our new Sovereign, King Charles III. We rang for 30 minutes in celebration of our new King, with churches and cathedrals up and down the country.



3 Waiting for the official Proclamation at 11.00am to raise the flag to full mast.

have rang for the Coronation in 1953, and all jubilees of 1977, 2002, 2012, and 2022, being organised over the years by Tower Captains Albert Greenhalgh, Geoffrey Fothergill, and most recently myself.

I want to thank my fellow ringers for their dedication and time; without them, our tower bells would not play their part in the fabric of our community, and continue customs established over hundreds of years.

It has been said that we all adopted a child-like imagining that The Queen would be here to guide, lead and comfort us forever; this is somewhat true, and makes our loss all the more real. The bell-ringers will remember Her Majesty The Queen with affection, and will honour her memory by ringing as necessary in support of her son.

God save The King.

The bells were re-muffled and the flag placed back at half-mast until the day after Her Majesty The Queen's funeral. The tenor bell tolled for one hour prior to the state funeral, and a Quarter Peal of 1288 changes of Plain Bob Triples was rung to formerly place on record this significant time of grief.

Westhoughton Ringers across the generations have ensured that the respect, love and gratitude for The Queen has been constant during her reign; the bells



4 Above the bells ready to ring for the Proclamation

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Sermon At the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the balm of your healing love. Amen.

The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory.

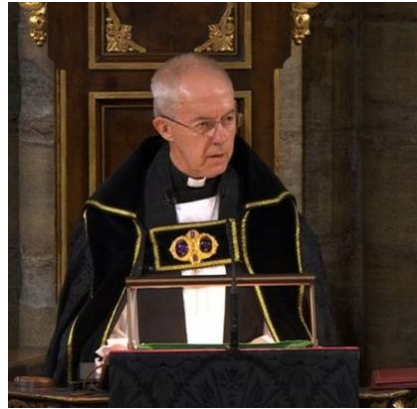
Her Late Majesty famously declared on a 21st birthday broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the Nation and Commonwealth.

Rarely has such a promise been so well kept! Few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen.

Jesus – who in our reading does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: “I am the way, the truth and the life”. Her Late Majesty’s example was not set through her position or her ambition, but through whom she followed. I know His Majesty shares the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ as his mother; the same sense of service and duty.

In 1953 the Queen began her Coronation with silent prayer, just there at the High Altar. Her allegiance to God was given before any person gave allegiance to her. Her service to so many people in this nation, the Commonwealth and the world, had its foundation in her following Christ – God himself – who said that he “came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and



remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.

The grief of this day – felt not only by the late Queen’s family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and the world – arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us.

She was joyful, present to so many, touching a multitude of lives.

We pray especially for all her family, grieving as every family at a funeral - including so many families round the world who have themselves lost someone recently - but in this family’s case doing so in the brightest spotlight.

May God heal their sorrow, may the gap left in their lives be marked with memories of joy and life.

Her Late Majesty’s broadcast during Covid lockdown ended with: “We will meet again”, words of hope from a song of Vera Lynn. Christian hope means certain expectation of something not yet seen.

Christ rose from the dead and offers life to all, abundant life now and life with God in eternity.

As the Christmas carol says “where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.”

We will all face the merciful judgement of God: we can all share the Queen’s hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership.

Service in life, hope in death. All who follow the Queen’s example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say: “We will meet again.”



Hymn of the Month – October

As we're marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams this month [more of that in the October 2nd pewsheet] here's a hymn for which he provided the tune.

1 Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

2 Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright:
he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have the right
to be a pilgrim.

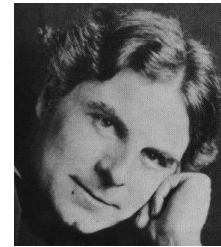
3 Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away;
he'll not fear what men say;
he'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Words:

These come from John Bunyan's [1628 – 88] spiritual classic "*Pilgrim's Progress*" and appear in the book when Mr Greatheart and Mr Valiant-for-truth near the end of their long pilgrimage.

Bunyan is one of the great figures of English Protestantism. Born in Elstow, Bedfordshire, he served in Cromwell's army during the English Civil war and later returned to his home village as an itinerant preacher. Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1661, he was imprisoned in a Bedford jail for 12 years. During a second, briefer period of imprisonment, he began writing *Pilgrim's Progress* the first part of which appeared in 1678 with the second part [from which these verses are taken] being published in 1684.

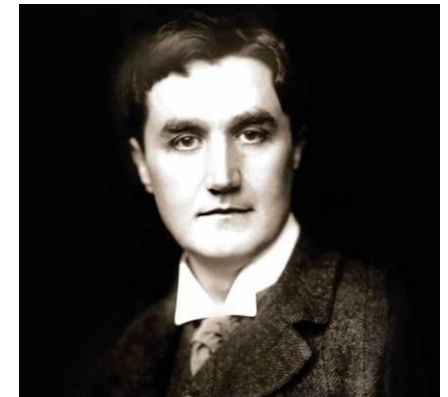
The Church of England remembers him each year with a lesser festival on 30th August.



It was only in the 20th century, however, that this poem has been sung as a hymn. Dr Percy Dearmer [1867 – 1936] substantially rewrote it before including it in the English Hymnal of 1906. He defended his rewriting at length on the grounds that the original was never meant to be sung by a congregation at services. Many hymnbooks now, however, including ours have reverted to the original words above.

In context in the book, the reader is asked to see Mr Valiant-for-truth as a courageous and valiant pilgrim. The first verse stresses the need for courage in view of discouragement, the second describes the fearless spirit a pilgrim must have to conquer their foes and the third points to the goal of the journey – life eternal in God's heavenly realm.

The tune Monks Gate is one of 35 traditional folk songs adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams [1872 – 1958], the musical editor of the English Hymnal, for use in that book. It's based on a song called "Our Captain Calls" and was collected by Vaughan Williams from Mrs Verral who sang the tune to him in the village of Monks Gate near Horsham in Surrey.



IGNITE YOUTH
(The new name for Team Youth Church)
Saturday 19th November 2022 at 7 p.m.
St John's Church Wingates

Young People from across the team in year 6 and above are welcome to attend this event which is held monthly at St John's Church, on a Saturday evening.

Final meeting of the year will be on Saturday 10th December

Confirmation 2022
Thursday 4th November 2022 7:30pm
St. James' Church, Daisy Hill

This year's Confirmation service is being held at Daisy Hill and we pray for all our candidates being confirmed this year.

Don't forget ...
the clocks go
back tonight



DON'T FORGET:

Clocks go **BACK** one hour on Sunday
30th October



Harvest Festivals
Sunday 9th October

We'll be holding our Harvest Festival Services
on Sunday 9th October.

URBAN
OUTREACH (BOLTON)

We're supporting Urban Outreach again this year, which we continue to support throughout the year with our green Grub Tubs. For more details of their work through their foodbank see <https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/portfolio-posts/storehouse/>

We're collecting tinned and packet goods again, all items please within their sell-by dates.

There is a recommended list of donations on the Pewsheet Plus available in all our churches. Please don't bring fresh produce as this cannot be stored or distributed efficiently.



Many thanks for your generosity.

Annual Memorial Service

Sunday 30th October 2:00pm
St. Bartholomew's

Our annual Memorial Service at which we can remember our loved ones by name, by lighting a candle or simply in silent prayer will be on Sunday 30th October at 2:00pm at St. Bartholomew's church. The service will last about one hour.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



Coach Trip to Blackpool Illuminations Friday 28th October

leaving at

5.00pm from St James'
Daisy Hill,

5.10pm from St Bart's

5.20pm from St John's,

back around 9.30 to
10.00pm



Cost will be £14 per person – please sign up on the lists in church if you'd like a seat.

St Bartholomew's Parish Church
Westhoughton

AUTUMN FAYRE

CELEBRATION

Saturday 22nd October...10am to 2pm

Graft stalls, gifts, tombola, wine galore, pick and mix, refreshments, Breakfast/ lunch

Stalls available £15. (Raising funds for our charity)
contact Elaine 07732749871

Around the Team

At St James' church, Daisy Hill

Holy Communion from Book of Common Prayer

Every Wednesday at 10:00am

A quiet said service for those who prefer the more contemplative words of the Book of Common Prayer which lasts about 40 minutes.

Refreshments are available following the service.

Tuesday Coffee & Chat

10:00am - 11:30am

Check website for details

First Saturday Open Doors

Every First Saturday at 10:00am - noon



Our doors are open from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of each month to welcome people to come and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea, or a quiet time to themselves.

Dates for your diary:

Quiz Night 15th October

Christmas Fair 19th November 10:00am – 1:00pm.

At St John's church, Wingates



Monthly Men's Breakfast

First Saturday of every month, 9:00 – 10:30am

In October, November, December. Every First Saturday at 9 a.m. for 1hr 30m

Salvation Army
Aldred Street,
Bolton
BL3 3QZ

We hold a regular men's breakfast each month. Please note change of venue. Suggested donation £5.

It's a chance for men to meet up for breakfast and every two / three months a guest speaker is invited.

Bric-a-brac n' Brew

First Saturday of every month, 10:30am - noon

Coffee and refreshments are served.

Donations of food for Urban Outreach can be dropped off and there is a bookstall and bric-a-brac stalls in aid of church funds.



Thursday
Worship @
St John's

Join us at 6.30pm
every 2 weeks
for our Church Family Service

Our first service will be on
Thursday 6th October
lasting for 30-40 minutes
All welcome!

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

THE GIFTS, ARRANGED IN THEIR VARIOUS CATEGORIES

