

Sunday Services across the Team

All events in our Team are currently cancelled in line with the national guidelines for all churches across the country issued by the Church of England.

St. Bartholomew's Church will be open for a service each Sunday at 11:00am and St. George's & St. Thomas' churches at 9:15 am every Sunday. Guidelines about face coverings / distancing / signing in etc. will all still apply.

OFFICE HOUR HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN LINE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES. For all enquiries relating to baptism and weddings, 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
Joan O'Reilly		

Deputy Wardens

St Bartholomew	Christine Andrews <i>Vacancy</i>	01942 817146
St George	Pat James John Moore	01204 492994
St Thomas	<i>vacancy</i>	

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 - SEPTEMBER 2021

Hi all,

It's been great to mark some celebration in our churches over the last month. We've been able to celebrate some long delayed or postponed weddings at St. Bartholomew's and we're able to restart baptism services [although with some restrictions still] including some for our church family members.

We've also been able to bring back the service books at St. Bartholomew's and the sung parts of the communion services. We've also got hymn singing back at St. George's and the "Services on the Screen" are different every week and short and family friendly.

We were able to mark St. Bartholomew's Day on 22nd August and served refreshments afterwards for the first time since March 2020. Many thanks to all who helped with providing the wine and cakes, serving them and clearing up afterwards. The large number that stayed showed that after service tea & coffee is something we need to bring back in September so, if you can offer help with this as part of a rota, do let us know.

We're also looking at the best ways to restart the midweek communion service at St. Bartholomew's in September, possibly monthly in conjunction with the luncheon club so look out for more details of this.

We've got the usual "Hymn of the Month" and notices about forthcoming events plus yet more cartoons.

Do enjoy the remaining summer days before it's back to school,
Ed

Hymn of the Month – September

1 Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blest,
beneath your contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not,
what joys await us there;
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

2 They stand, those halls of Zion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

3 There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the song of them that triumph,
the shout of them that feast;
and they who with their Leader
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever
are clad in robes of white.

4 O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
that eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
to that dear land of rest;
who are, with God the Father
and Spirit, ever blest.

So this month we have a hymn which celebrates the joys of the joys of the heavenly kingdom. What you may not know is that it comes from a very long medieval satirical poem which took the mickey out of the corruption of the church and state in 12th century Europe.

The poem is known by its title “*De Contemptu Mundi*” or “*Hora Novissima*” from its first line and is the work of St Bernard of Cluny. He was born in about 1100AD and although both his parents were English, he grew up in Brittany [following the Norman Conquest] and spent much of his life in the abbey at Cluny. He dedicated the poem to the abbot Peter the Venerable.



Like many medieval texts, we owe the translation found in the hymn books today to John Mason Neale [1818-66] who we've come across a lot in past issues. After reading all 2,966 lines of the poem in the original Latin, he recognised that the greater part was a bitter satire on the corruption of the age but that the poem began with a rich description of the peace and glory of heaven that was not matched in any other texts of the time.

Neale published an initial translation of some of the verses in 1849 and a further set of 218 lines in 1858. From his translation of 16 verses from the beginning of the poem contrasting the glories of heaven to the evils of the world, Neale arranged four separate hymns:

- Brief life is here our portion
- The world is very evil
- For Thee, O dear, dear country
- Jerusalem the Golden

The last hymn is by far the most popular and accessible. The fourth verse printed above was much adapted by Hymns A&M in 1860 to better fit the tune, although the English Hymnal stuck with the original.

The tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley [1810 - 76] wrote the tune “Aurelia” specifically for this hymn but that tune is now wedded to “The Church’s one Foundation.” The tune to which this hymn is always sung today is “Ewing” written by **Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Ewing** [1830 – 95]

for one of Neale's other hymns taken from this poem, "For Thee, O dear, dear country." Ewing trained in law but joined the army serving with distinction in the Crimea War and with General Gordon in China.

Other than this hymn tune, he doesn't seem to have written another note of music. *He's shown here with his wife and dog, Hector.*



While he was abroad on active service, his cousin, also Alexander Ewing [Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Scottish Episcopal Church] was left to negotiate with hymn book editors about the use of the tune. He objected strongly when Hymns A&M paired this tune with the hymn "Jerusalem the Golden" and complained to the editor that the tune was "pathetic, not triumphant" and didn't suit the words at all.

One Victorian hymn book even set the hymn to Sir Arthur Sullivan's parlour song "The Lost Chord – [Seated on day at the organ, I was weary and ill at ease]" with Sullivan's apparent permission. One Sunday, when no-one's listening, we'll try it!

Confirmation 2021

Sunday 7th November 2021 3:00pm

St. Bartholomew's Church

If you are a young person who will be in in Year 6 or above from September 2021 and would like to consider confirmation, please ask an adult to pick up and complete a registration form from church. If you are an adult who would like to consider confirmation, please also get in touch. If we already have your details you don't need to apply again. We will be in touch about Confirmation Preparation Classes which will begin in September. Thank you.



Harvest Festivals

Sunday 10th October

We'll be holding our Harvest Festival Services on Sunday 10th 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 sheets available in all our churches. Please don't bring fresh produce as this cannot be stored or distributed efficiently.

If you're not able to be at the services, we will have St. Bartholomew's church open between 9:30am and 10:30am on Saturday 9th October if you wish to drop off items in advance.

Many thanks for your generosity.

Heritage Weekend
From 19th September 2021
St. James' Church, Daisy Hill

St. James' church are planning a series of on-line virtual but also in person events this year as part of Heritage Weekend. Further details on the website or to follow on the weekly pewsheets.

Other events, including many open churches, in Greater Manchester are listed on the website

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/printable-area-lists/county/Greater%20Manchester



Bell Ringing

Currently we have very few bell-ringers, which is why ringing on Sundays can be limited. If you'd like to learn to ring the bells, keep fit, make friends and even earn some pocket money, please get in touch and we can arrange a visit to the tower. *Please don't turn up unannounced as there are still Covid restrictions in place.*

Full training will be offered and practices are usually held on a Tuesday evening.

BELIEVE IN BOLTON 2021
UPDATE



A message from Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft,

Bishop of Bolton

I wanted to update everyone regarding the Believe in Bolton event with Canon J John.

The organising group of Believe in Bolton have taken the difficult decision to postpone the event with Canon J John to December and to have a Carol Service with J John as the guest Speaker.

However, we didn't want to lose the idea of uniting together in worship and mission in September. So we are inviting you to celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ and the wonders of the Gospel on the Friday of the planned Believe in Bolton event - September 17th at 7.30pm. This will be held at Bolton Parish Church by kind permission of the Vicar and wardens. We will be able to meet together to pray for our town and encourage one another in our churches as we enter a new season.

We are excited about all that God is doing in our midst and being able to celebrate the Good news of Jesus and his great and generous invitation to all to come to Him

We are grateful to all who have helped and supported us in our planning and continue to ask for your prayers. Further details will be publicised nearer the time.

Thank you and may God bless you.
Bishop Mark

(Believe in Bolton Steering Group Member)

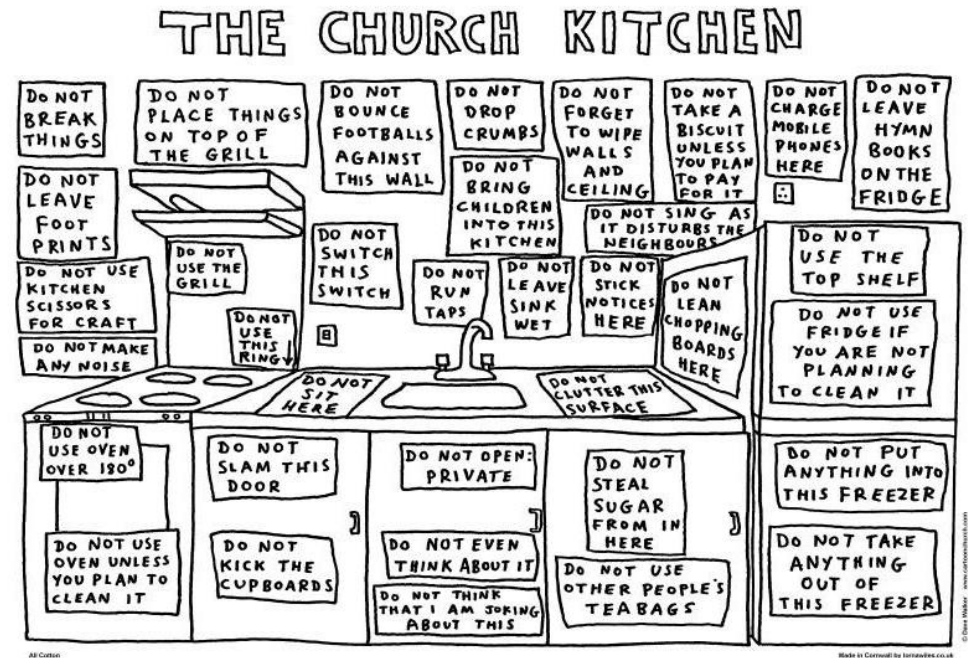
BIBLE STUDY: OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

In August and in each month up to the end of the year, we are holding some Bible Study groups based on Old Testament Characters. Some of these sessions will be face to face and others will be online on zoom. All are invited and welcome to attend any of the sessions. The attached gives details and times of dates of these. If people would like to attend an online session, please contact the leader in charge and the zoom details will be sent accordingly.

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS			
SESSION	Evening ONLINE	Daytime ONLINE	Face to Face
JONAH Running from God			Thursday 9th Sept 7.30 pm
			Leader: MALCOLM W Venue: St James'
HANNAH Praying in pain	Tuesday 21st Sept 7 pm	Thursday 23rd Sept 2 pm	Thursday 7th Oct 7.30 pm
	Leader: MALCOLM W	Leader: MATT DUNNE	Leader: BARBARA BERRY Venue: St John's
SAMUEL Hearing God's voice	Tuesday 19th Oct 7 pm	Thursday 21st Oct 2 pm	Thursday 4th Nov 7.30 pm

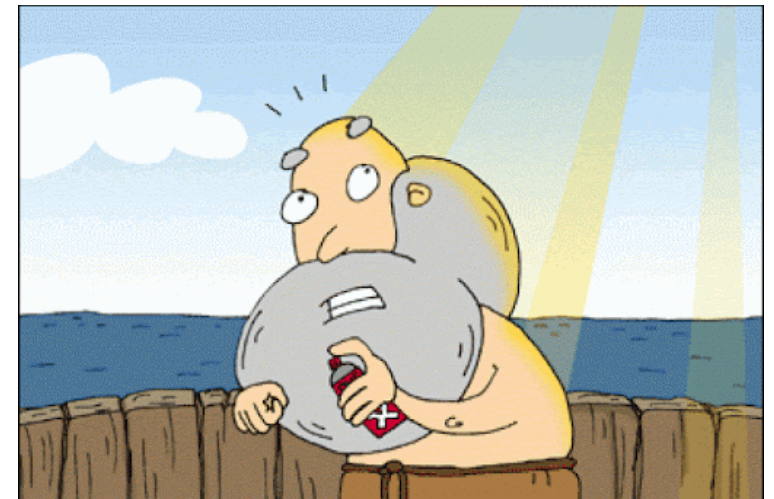
Freddy goes to the church and listens to the preacher. After a while, the preacher asks anyone with needs to be prayed over to come forward. Freddy goes up and the preacher asks, "Freddy, what do you want me to pray about for you?" "Preacher," says Freddy, "I need you to pray for my hearing." The preacher puts one finger in Freddy's ear and he places the other hand on top of Freddy's head and prays and prays and prays. After a few minutes, the preacher removes his hands and stands back. "Freddy, how is your hearing now?" "I don't know, Reverend," says Freddy. "My hearing's not until next Wednesday."

And as we look at starting refreshments after the services again ...





After fifty years as church organist, you had to admire Gladys' effort to embrace the new worship format.



Thanks to Jerry Moates (See Genesis 6-8)
HEY NOAH ... HAVE YOU SEEN THE MOSQUITOS?

01-21-2004

