

### **Please Pray for Peace in our troubled world**

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease.  
and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

### **O Lord Jesus Christ,**

who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

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**Supporting St Bartholomew's** – There is a donations plate by the door at every service, and if you can Gift Aid your donation, please use & complete a yellow Gift Aid envelope with your details.  
There's also a "Contactless Collection Plate" if you prefer, also by the south door.

Or here's a QR code, which will  
take you straight to our donations page –



If you would like to find out how to support St Bartholomew's on a regular basis, then please go to our website for more information, or phone the Parish Office on 01793 853272. And thank you!

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### **Keep in touch, or let us know if any help is needed at:**

Telephone: 01793 853272

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

**Please visit our website:** [www.stbartholomews-wb.com](http://www.stbartholomews-wb.com)

for more information and links to Facebook & YouTube



***We seek to grow through prayer and  
share Christ's love through engagement with all.***

# **Weekly News**

## **28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**



### **Sunday**

**8:00 am Holy Communion**

**10:00 am Parish Eucharist** (followed by Refreshments in The Croft)

### **Wednesday**

**10:30 am Holy Communion**

and in anticipation

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**MAY GOD, WHO HAS CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS,**

**INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT,**

**BLESS US AND FILL US WITH PEACE**

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A big thank you from Janet Gilder to all who donated shoe boxes for the **GWH Brighter Futures appeal**. We sent 46 boxes on behalf of St Bartholomew's. Thank you

Many thanks also for generous support of the **Christmas Draw** – both prize donors & ticket buyers. With your help, we raised an amazing £505. Thank you

**Croft Volunteers:** If anyone feels they could spare a Friday or a Saturday morning to volunteer for a couple of hours, (once or twice a month) in the church Croft, please get in touch ([gregmax@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gregmax@hotmail.co.uk)) or 07836628952 (call/txt/what's app).

### **Next Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)** (followed by Refreshments in The Croft)

**10:00 am Parish Eucharist** (followed by Refreshments in The Croft)

**4:00pm Epiphany Carols**

A service of music, readings and prayers as we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the revelation of the Christ Child to the world.

followed by refreshments



**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

## **The Holy Innocents**

### **COLLECT**

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
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.

### **FIRST READING: *Jeremiah 31.15-17***

Thus says the LORD:  
A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.  
Thus says the LORD:  
Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears;  
for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD:  
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
there is hope for your future, says the LORD:  
your children shall come back to their own country.

### **SECOND READING: *1 Corinthians 1.26-29***

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose

what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

### **GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 2.13-18***

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:  
'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

