



SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
9:15am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin	9:15am Service of the Word Christine Andrews	11:00am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh / Elaine Simkin Hymns: 770, 702, 144, 116 / Choir, 728

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Brian Cato, Denise Gilliland, Nigel Ginniff, Joan James, Michael Partington, Barbara Penistan, Claire Pope, Kitty Pope Graham Spencer.

Those who have died: Edythe Smith

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Alice Bruton, Eileen Entwistle, Ellen Greenhalgh, Derek Hassall, Valerie Higham, Ethel Leyland, Mark Ramsden, Irene Roberts, Joyce Street.

NEXT SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

Readings: I Samuel 1. 20 - 28 / Colossians 3. 12 - 17 / John 19. 25b - 27

9:15am	Holy Communion at St George's	Revd Carol Pharaoh
9:15am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'	Revd Angela Wynne
11:00am	Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's	Revd Carol Pharaoh / Elaine Simkin

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

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – revawynne@gmail.com

FACEBOOK – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch
@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

Office Hours: Saturday mornings by appointment please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Material for the pewsheets should be sent to westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

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

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The week ahead:

	THE WEEK AHEAD	
Sunday 8th 2:00 – 3:30pm 6:30pm	St John's Church Wingates Revd Malcolm's house	Belonging to God – session 1 Lent Study Group – session 3
Monday 9th 9:30am – 11:00am 3:00pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	St. Bartholomew's Church St. Bartholomew's Church St. Bartholomew's Church St. Bartholomew's Church	Toddler Group – with Wiggle Worship Funeral – Edythe Smith St Bartholomew's Committee Meeting PCC Meeting
Tuesday 10th 10:30am	St John's Church Wingates	Lent Study Group – session 3
Wednesday 11th 10:30am – 11:30am 3:45pm 7:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St. Bartholomew's Church St. Bartholomew's Church	Talking tables Café Church – Prayer and Fasting Choir Practice
Thursday 12th 2:00pm 7:00pm	St Katharine's Church, Blackrod St. Bartholomew's Church	Lent Study Group – session 3 Lent Study Group – session 3
Friday 13th 7:30pm	St. Bartholomew's Church	Houghton Weavers concert
Saturday 14th 2:00 – 3:30pm 7:00 – 8:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St John's Church Wingates	Belonging to God – session 2 Ignite Youth Meeting

Mothersing Sunday

Next Sunday 15th March

We'll be running Mothersing Sunday services at all our churches with Admission of Young People to Communion.



Preparation sessions for receiving communion [**Belonging to God**] course are at **St John's Church Wingates** on
Sunday 8th March 2:00 - 3:30pm
Saturday 14th March 9:30 – 11:00am

Readings for Sunday 8th March 2026**Collect:**

Eternal God,
 give us insight to discern your will for us,
 to give up what harms us,
 and to seek the perfection we are promised
 in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Exodus 17. 1 - 7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Second Reading: Romans 5. 1 - 11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will

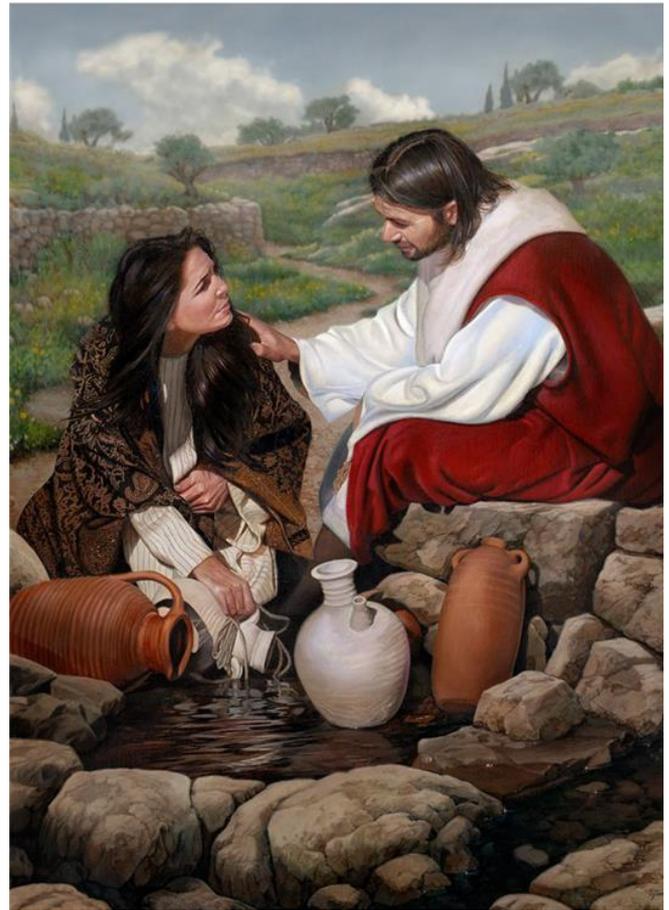
anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gospel Reading**John 4. 5 - 42**

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this

mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³²But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting: ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' ³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we

believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'



At St George's we're using as the second reading

Matthew 11. 28 - 30

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. ³⁰ For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayers: The Third Sunday of Lent

God our Father, in your love and goodness grant us the help of your Spirit as we bring to you our prayers for the world. You have taught us to overcome our sins with prayer, fasting and generosity, accept our Lenten disciplines and when we fall by our weakness raise us up by your unfailing mercy.

We give you thanks for the universe, our great home, for its vastness and its richness, and for all the life which grows upon it, and of which we are part.

We praise you for the seamless sky and for the refreshing winds, for the warming sun, for the driving clouds and the rains they bring. We praise you for the vastness of the oceans and for fresh running water, for the everlasting hills, for the trees and for the grass which grows beneath our feet. We give you thanks for our senses by which we can see the splendour of your world around us today and everyday.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the government of the world and all the world leaders, that they may uphold what is right for peaceful union between all countries. We acknowledge with shame and sorrow all the sin, hatred and injustice which have led and still lead to violence and war. We pray for places in the world where tensions are high, and we pray that peace may reign over all in the end.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our neighbours, our friends and for the people around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. We pray for those who are old and lonely, those isolated because of ill-health, and those who find it difficult to make friends or be

accepted. Show us all what we can do to help, and teach us to be good neighbours and true friends.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We thank you Father for your many miracles of healing, and we pray for all who administer to the sick and infirm. We bring before you in a moment of quietness those we know or love who are ill or in need at this time, and we name them in our hearts. We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their sorrows and concerns be transformed into comfort and their loneliness into fellowship with you.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty Father, be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. May their sorrow be lit with the brightness of the Resurrection.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God our Father as we go out into the world today we remember that you son was tempted by the forces of evil but chose faithfulness rather than popularity, service instead of fame, sacrifice instead of power. These temptations still come to us Lord and we are far weaker.

We pray for the strength to shun them as he did so that we may be of use to God and to all people.

Holy Father, keep us in your truth

Holy Son, protect us under your cross

Holy Spirit, make us temples and dwelling places for your glory

Grant us peace all the days of our lives.

Amen

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

THE PARISH OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
WESTHOUGHTON



Sunday 8th March

11:00am

The Third Sunday of Lent



***The
Woman
at the
Well***

Holy Communion

All Welcome



Daft Questions Answered

There are lots of courses on Christian Basics but none that answer all the questions that everyone really wants to know. We ran a series a few years ago to try and answer these and it's probably time to run it again.

We're going to try and answer some more questions through the coming weeks about synods and bells. If you've got any questions, however daft they might seem, that you want answering, do let me know. Ed.

So, what are robes [vestments] all about?

Well, this is very long and complicated, but there are pictures!

We need to start in Old Testament times – I warned you this would be long.

At Mount Sinai, to stop the false worship of the golden calf, God gave Moses very specific instructions for worship in the tabernacle led by the tribe of Levi, including detailed descriptions of the robes to be worn including what they looked like and the material to be used, even down to their pants. It's all in Exodus 28 & 39 and Leviticus 8 if you want to read up. All priests had four special robes to wear with the High Priest having an extra four also. This was taken very seriously and a lamp was kept constantly burning in front of the "sacred wardrobe" where the robes were kept. The hymn "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" is referring back to the psalm [Ps.96 v9] where the translation literally is "worship in the beauty of holy robes."

In the Christian church, the earliest clerical clothing developed from the clothing worn by Roman citizens, especially those of high rank. The clergy adopted these and stuck by them, even when everyone else ditched them and moved on.



The basic garment worn was a simple white tunic known as a *dalmatic* which has basically developed into the **alb** today [from the Latin "*tunica alba*" or white tunic."] – a sort of clerical hoodie. The rope belt is known as a **cincture**.

Over this you wore other garments to show your place in society. A *pallium* worn over the tunic and slung over the left shoulder denoted philosophers or teachers [it's basically what we think of as a toga when we think of ancient Romans]. Politicians wore dazzling white ones [= *candidatus* in Latin, hence candidates today] to denote how pure and upright they were.



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To these were added an *apparel* again worn over the top. These were often worn by government officials, the stripes denoting rank [as left]. They started as simple usually brown/red stripes but became more ornate. To confuse us, these became what we know today as **dalamtics**, worn by deacons at communion services in some churches.



The other basic garment was an overcoat [St. Paul refers to his in 2 Timothy 4.13] which came in two different forms.



One was like a large circle of cloth with a hole cut in the middle to put your head through [known as a *paenula*]. By the 6th century, this developed into what we now know as a **chasuble** [from the Latin “*casula*” meaning “little house” – it was thought of as a shelter for the priest. “Chasuble on the Prairie” would have been a very different TV programme.]. This was simply because, wearing a *paenula*, you couldn’t get your arms out to lead a communion

service; modifications included attaching strings to draw the garment up, buttons to attach the extra material to and altar servers to hold it out of the way so the priest had their hands free. Eventually, they became more tailored and cut away for better practical use leaving us with the “holy poncho” shape we have today.



If you imagine cutting one of these *paenulae* up the middle, it would form a cloak or cape, as worn by most superheroes. This was known as a “*lacerna / byrrus*” and is what we know today as a **cope**. Originally, as with St. Paul, it was worn over everything else as a warm coat to keep out the cold in large unheated churches; now it’s worn by clergy usually on special occasions or major festivals. The little cape on the back is decorative but used to be a hood when worn in wet weather.



The **stole** is the coloured liturgical scarf [as shown] but didn’t develop from a scarf. In the first century BC, it became trendy to carry a rectangular piece of fine linen often embroidered with silk or gold and used as a handkerchief. When the Romans adopted it in the first century AD, as pockets hadn’t been invented, they wore it over their left shoulder / forearm or around their necks – it was called an “*orarium*.” Servants adopted the practice also and used it to clean and polish utensils and vessels. If you ever wash up with a tea towel

draped over your shoulder, you’re adopting a 2,000 year old Roman practice. By the end of the third century, these were used in churches to clean communion vessels and by the 4th century deacons, who were in charge of preparing and cleaning the communion vessels, wore these as ornamentation [they were now about 3-4 inches wide and 8 – 10 feet long]. Today, deacons still wear their stoles over their left shoulder & tied under the right arm [as shown] as a reminder of this role, following the detailed description given by the Fourth Council of Braga in the 7th century. Fringes and tassels were added in the 8th



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century and by the 9th century, the *orarium* became known as the *stola* [= *stole*]. Why the name change happened is unknown as a *stola* refers to a garment worn by women in the days when all clergy were men.

They are usually worn under chasubles but over surplices.

By the 11th century, a different form of robes appeared usually called choir dress and worn for non-communion services.



The **cassock** comes again from the Roman tunic which the church retained universally long after everyone else stopped dressing like Romans. It was basically the ordinary working street clothes of the day. The English traditional form is double breasted [as shown] whereas RC ones have 33 buttons down the front. Clergy usually wear black ones, bishops purple and canons black cassocks with red piping. In Royal Peculiars [churches run directly by the King such as Westminster Abbey] cassocks are often bright red.

Over the top of this is worn the **surplice**, a loose white garment which can be very short and lace trimmed [= *cotta*], down to the ground or anywhere in between as takes your fancy. It probably developed in the 11th century as something clean and uniform you could throw on over your other clothes to keep warm but look smart for services [it's from the Latin "*super pellicium*" meaning worn on top of fur coats]. Choirs have also adopted the cassock and surplice as standard dress since the early 1800s although originally only wearing the surplice.



In Georgian England the fashion became to wear surplices cut up the middle and fastened by a button at the top as there was no way a minister could get the surplice over their head while wearing a large powdered wig! They're still retained by King's College Cambridge choir [the cut surplices, not the wigs].

For services, cassock and surplice are usually paired with a black scarf [known as a **tippet** - don't call this a stole] which are blue for readers and an academic hood. Again these developed from outdoors wear, both were usually fur lined and the hood was used to keep the rain off, although now it's simply decorative.



Bishops have a dress all their own although the days of wearing frock coats and gaiters is long gone. The surplice is replaced by a "**rochete**" where the sleeves are not bell shaped and gathered at the cuff covered with a scarlet or purple "**chimere**."



The "**mitre**" is the bishop's hat which started out as something to keep the rain off but has grown larger and more decorative over the years. It's supposed to represent the tongues of flame descending onto the heads of the disciples at Pentecost in shape, with the two peaks representing the Old and New Testaments.



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It has been said that wearing robes for services is like putting on the whole armour of God [Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 6 verses 13 – 17] with them representing the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit.

It's one of the things that causes divisions in churches often between those who would forget vestments altogether and those who will wear everything, with every church seemingly following local custom and practice.

Of the few rules, the biretta [the liturgical bobble hat – the colour of the pompom denoting rank] has been illegal in the Church of England since a ruling in the Privy Council in 1871. And under Canon Law drawn up in the times of James I, clergy were banned from wearing embroidered night caps or any colour other than pale stockings, rules finally repealed in 1969 long after anyone had last worn a nightcap, plain or otherwise.



It's probably only me, but when you're aware of these things it's amazing how many TV programmes and films just get it all wrong.

NOTICEBOARD

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen



Recording Attendance for School Admission

We are 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.

Office Hour – Baptism Bookings

We're now running Saturday morning appointments for booking baptisms. Please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com for an appointment.

Sunday School

We're meeting at both St Bartholomew's and at St George's churches this week

Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship

We're running each Monday in March until the final session on 23rd March at the usual time of 9:30 – 11:00am



Parish Weekend Away

For those who have been before to this event at Foxhills and would like to go again, or those thinking of attending for the first time, we're running it again in 2026 from 15th – 17th May so book the date in the diaries now.

Parish Website

At the last PCC meeting, we agreed that the Parish Website was no longer fit for purpose and that we wouldn't continue with it.

For the moment we're using the "A Church near You" website – please see

[St Bart's - A Church Near You](#)

Café Church

PLEASE NOTE that this term we're only meeting once every two weeks and the dates until Easter are shown below.

We're back this week on **Wednesday 11th March 2026** at the usual time of 3:45pm – 4:30pm as we start Lent and look at Prayer and Fasting.

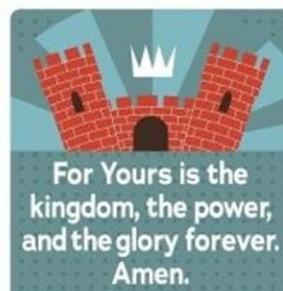
Date	Topic	Leader	Refreshments
	LENT & EASTER		
11- Mar	PRAYER & FASTING (Matthew 6. 5-18)	Carol	Jean / Fran
25 - Mar	EASTER EXPERIENCE	ALL	Helen / Bernard
	SUMMER TERM Next Café Church 22 nd April 2026		

Café Church

It meets every other Wednesday in term
time at

St Bartholomew's church

3:45 – 4:30pm



Lent

Prayer

and

Fasting

Matthew 6.5 - 18

Wednesday 11th March 2026

NB: Next meeting 25th March

Committee Meetings

Monday 9th March

6:30pm St Bartholomew's Committee

7:30pm PCC

Monday 23rd March

7:30pm St George's Committee

Ignite Youth meetings

The following meeting will be this Saturday 14th March.

Reply to

igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com



Spring Fair

St Katharine's Church, Blackrod

Saturday 21st March 10:00am – noon.

Wide range of stalls & refreshments

All welcome

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Provisional March 2026 Diary ... what's coming up

	March
Sunday 8^h	<p>The Third Sunday of Lent 9:15am St George's Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion</p> <p>St Bartholomew's Baptism Sunday <i>[none booked]</i></p> <p>2:00 – 3:30pm Belonging To God Course session 1 at St John's church 6:30pm Rev Malcolm's House – Lent course, session 3</p>
Monday 9th	<p>9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's 6:30pm at St Bartholomew's St Bartholomew's Church Committee 7:30pm at St Bartholomew's PCC meeting</p>
Tuesday 10th	<p>10:30 am St John's Church – Lent course, session 3</p>
Wednesday 11th	<p>10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – Lent: Prayer and Fasting 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice</p>
Thursday 12th	<p>2:00pm St Katharine's Church Church – Lent course, session 3 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Church – Lent course, session 3</p>
Friday 13th	<p><i>All day</i> St Bartholomew's Houghton Weavers' Concert 7:30pm start</p>
Saturday 14th	<p>9:30 – 11:00am Belonging To God Course session 2 at St John's church</p> <p>7:00pm – 8:30pm Ignite Youth Meeting at St John's Wingates</p>
Sunday 15st	<p>The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday Admission of Children to Communion</p> <p>9:15am St George's Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion</p> <p>6:30pm Rev Malcolm's House – Lent course, session 4</p>
Monday 16th	<p>9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's</p>

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St Bartholomew

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St George

Tuesday 17th	St Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron Saint of Ireland 10:30 am St John's Church – Lent course, session 4
Wednesday 18th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 11:00am St Bartholomew's Midweek Communion & Luncheon Club 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 19th	St Joseph of Nazareth 2:00pm St Katharine's Church Church – Lent course, session 4 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Church – Lent course, CANCELLED Whole Day - St Bartholomew's Church Westhoughton Schools present
Friday 20th	
Saturday 21st	St Bartholomew's Bolton Chamber Orchestra Concert 9:00am – noon Rehearsal 7:30pm Concert 10:00am – noon St Katharine's Spring Fair
Sunday 22nd	The Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:15am St George's Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas Café Church 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion SET UP for Easter Experience next week 6:30pm Rev Malcolm's House – Lent course, session 5
Monday 23rd	Easter Experience Week 9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's 7:30pm at St Bartholomew's St George's Committee meeting
Tuesday 24th	Easter Experience Week 10:30 am St John's Church – Lent course, session 5
Wednesday 25th	Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary Easter Experience Week 10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – Easter Experience 6:45pm St Bartholomew's Baptism Preparation [Ed] 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 26th	Easter Experience Week 2:00pm St Katharine's Church Church – Lent course, session 5 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Church – Lent course, session 4 / 5

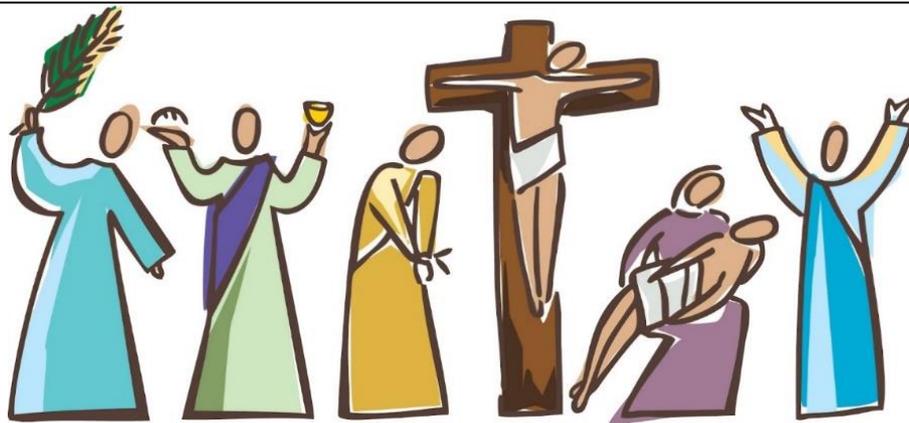
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Friday 27th	Easter Experience Week
Saturday 28th	
Sunday 29th	CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR Palm Sunday 9:15am St George's Café Church 9:15am St Thomas Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's Holy Communion
Monday 30th	Monday in Holy Week 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 31st	Tuesday in Holy Week



Easter Experience

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th March

We'll be running the Easter Experience for our local schools this year. If you can help set up [Sunday 22nd March afternoon] or on the days, please see Christine Andrews or sign up on the lists in church.

You can just sign up for a single morning or afternoon as available or more. We're after help staffing the stations but also providing refreshments.

We're also looking for volunteers to help run our **Good Friday Family Events Morning** at St Bartholomew's on **Good Friday 3rd April** from 10:00am – noon. If you'd like to help, please see any of the wardens.

Bolton Chamber Orchestra

Musical Folk Tales

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Westhoughton

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Folk Songs of the Four Seasons

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Old Wine in New Bottles

Gordon Jacob

Eight Russian Folksongs

Liadow

Tickets on the door on the night

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 27th April 2026 7:30pm

St Bartholomew's Church

The AGM is coming up at the end of April when we receive our annual reports and accounts for 2025 and elect our church officers and committees for the year ahead.

Electoral Roll:

It's basically a list of church members who are entitled to vote at the AGM.

In preparation for our Annual Meeting this year, we have to revise the roll. Anyone already on it simply stays on, there is no need to complete another form

You are eligible to join if you're 16 or over [*or about to be 16*] and worship with us at least once each month.

We'll have forms available now which must be completed by Easter Sunday 5th April. After that we can make any amendments to the new roll but cannot add any names until after the AGM.

Annual Reports:

If you have a report for 2025 to submit for our annual reports, please send it to westhoughtonparish@outlook.com **before the closing date of Easter Sunday 5th April**, so we can have them ready for distribution on 12th April.

Elections:

We're looking for [all of whom serve for 12 months unless indicated]

2 Parish wardens [*please use separate nomination forms*]

2 Assistant wardens from each church

3 Deanery Synod members [from across the parish, 3 year term 2026 – 2029]

2 PCC members from each church [*please use separate nomination forms*]

All the above serve on the PCC

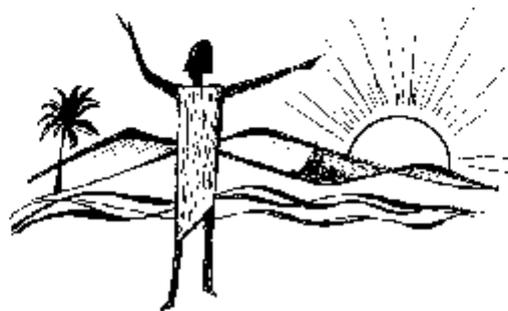
Up to 8 additional church members for each local church committee

Sidespeople from each church [no limit on numbers]



BLACKROD, DAISY HILL,
WESTHOUGHTON & WINGATES TEAM

Journeying Lent with the Psalms



A LENT STUDY GROUP for 5 weeks

Each Sunday starting 22nd February

6.30 pm at Malcolm's house (Email Malcolm via malcolm@crmm.co.uk for info)

Each Tuesday starting 24th February

10.30 am at St John's Church, BL5 3PL

Each Thursday starting 26th February

2 pm St St Katharine's Church, BL6 5EN

7 pm St Bart's Church, BL5 2BG

The Psalms can make our hearts soar, yet can also accompany us through our darkest moments too. Come and meet together with others, to explore what they have to teach us about God and ourselves.

All welcome.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



Doors at 7pm
Show starts at 7:30pm
Tickets (£17.50) – includes supper
Bring your own drinks

APPEARING AT WESTHOUGHTON PARISH CHURCH
Friday 13 March 2026
Tickets available from Church, Gee Tee's, or call 07816 855384

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS, The Northwest's Premiere Comedy / Folk Group, Stars of Radio and Television, **have been entertaining folk for a whopping 50 years!**, with their unique blend of popular folk music, humour and audience participation.

Having recently performed as a headline Act at The Great British Folk Festival, their single *“Wild Mountain Thyme”* appeared in the Heritage Charts Top 40 and is due to appear in an upcoming film, *‘Between Weathers’*. The band has recorded over 30 albums, 23 of which were arranged and produced by Steve Millington.

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS promise plenty of laughter with their infectious humour and funny stories galore. You'll hear the old Weavers favourites such as Blackpool Belle, Sit Thi Deawn, Matchstalk Men and Dirty Old Town, together with new songs penned by the lads, original poems and of course some audience requests thrown in to make every show a little different!

Jim Berry and Steve Millington, featuring *Simon Brady* on guitar and mandolin, is an exciting combination on stage which will certainly have you singing along to this feel-good show!

THE HOUGHTON WEAVERS **guarantee a wonderful evening of entertainment and their experience – together with their style and professionalism – ensures that, as their motto says, they always Keep Folks Smiling!**

www.houghtonweavers.com

www.facebook.com/houghtonweavers

St George's Update

Shop online at Easy Fundraising:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Register to support St George's Church, the Hoskers.

Each time you shop, suppliers make donations to our church.

Thousands of suppliers are involved.

Make sure cookies are active and Ad blockers are inhibited.

Use the QR code in pewsheet plus.



LENT CHALLENGE:

As we've done previously, we're challenging each of our church families to save for church funds using this easy-to-follow scheme for the 40 days of Lent.

Day 1 1p [Ash Wednesday]

Day 2 2p

Day 3 3p

Continuing to day 40 when we save 40p.

If all goes to plan, you should have collected a total of £8.20 which you can bring to church on Easter Day.

Happy Saving

Some local concerts:

Rutter's Requiem
and other seasonal music by Jenkins, Goodall, Purcell and Stainer

The Brixi Singers
Musical Director
Richard Lea

Sunday
March 8th 2026 at 3.00 pm

Harwood Methodist Church
Longsight, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3HX
Price £12 Under 16s free
(Tickets on the door or contact 07862736766)



LANCASHIRE
Lancashire Sinfonia
A NEW BLOOM

BRAHMS
Academic Festival Overture
FAURE
Pavane
DELIUS
Two Pieces for Small Orchestra
GRIEG
Peer Gynt Suite No.1
DVORAK
Symphony No.9 'New World'

CONDUCTOR
Jonathon-lee Young-Brookes
LEADER
Vincent Yip

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026
Bolton Parish Church

Doors open At 7pm Tickets available from our website
Tickets £10 | £15 | £18 www.lancashiresinfonia.co.uk

INSTAGRAM | LANCASHIRE_SINFONIA ~ FACEBOOK | LANCASHIRE SINFONIA



 **Bolton Choral Union**

Spring Awakening

Sunday, 22nd March - 7pm - Bolton Parish Church, BL1 1PS

Tickets - £12

News from our Diocese of Manchester

The **Prayer Diary** for March is [available here](#).

Celebrating Our Shared Journey: Deanery Gatherings Across our Diocese

This spring, please join us for one of our deanery celebration events taking place across the Diocese of Manchester. People from our parishes, chaplaincies, and schools will come together to reflect on how God is renewing lives and communities and to explore the next steps we can take together.

We'll share our diocesan vision, hear stories of hope from each deanery, and outline the national support and investment that is strengthening our mission and ministry.

At each gathering, we will explore the following four themes at the heart of our diocese's strategy and how national funding will support your deanery:

1. Parish Renewal
2. Growing Younger
3. Church Planting and Revitalisation
4. Developing Missional Leaders

You'll hear local stories of creativity, faithfulness, and discipleship offering ideas and encouragement for your own ministry context.

Each evening will be led by one of our bishops alongside members of the teams responsible for supporting the delivery of our shared vision. Through worship, prayer, and conversation, we will celebrate what God is doing, acknowledge the challenges we face, and highlight the support, resources, and investment available to help us flourish.

These gatherings are for everyone: clergy, lay leaders, members of PCCs, school staff, chaplains, volunteers, new worshippers, and anyone curious about where God might be calling us. We hope you'll leave inspired and equipped to share this vision in your local context.

Dates and Locations

Each venue will open at 6.45pm for refreshments and the event will start at 7.15pm. You are welcome at any gathering but you'll get the most from attending your local deanery evening. As each gathering follows the same format, you only need to book onto one event.

Tuesday, 21st April – Bolton Deanery [Book Your Place Here](#)

St Peter's Halliwell, Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5RR

Join the Archbishop of York at Manchester Cathedral

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, will visit our diocese as part of his [Faith in the North](#) tour of the North of England. Archbishop Stephen is sharing the relevance of the Lord's Prayer for today's world and inviting people to rediscover it as a foundation for Christian life. His tour is also inspired by the Northern Saints - Hild, Cuthbert, Bede and Paulinus - whose spirit of mission continues to shape Christian identity and outreach throughout the region.



During his visit, which will take place on Thursday, 19th March, the Archbishop will spend the morning at The Blue Coat School in Oldham, joining students and staff for collective worship and conversation about the Lord's Prayer. He will then visit Oldham Parish Church to experience [Sing My Soul](#), hear the Choral Scholars perform and learn more about their children's choirs.

Archbishop Stephen will meet clergy and lay leaders involved in intercultural mission for lunch and later tour Fabric Church, to find out how this growing city-centre church is reaching students and young professionals.

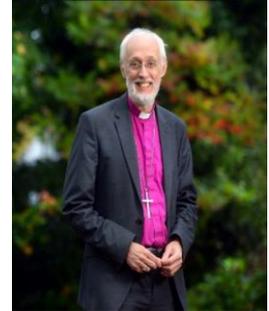
The day will conclude with a special Lord's Prayer event at Manchester Cathedral. Everyone is warmly invited to attend as we gather with the Archbishop to reflect, pray and take part in this significant moment in the Faith in the North journey. [Book your place here.](#)

[Read More](#)



Bishop David to Retire in the Summer of 2027

The Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Revd Dr David Walker, has announced that he will retire in the summer of 2027. Bishop David shared the news yesterday in this pastoral letter to clergy, lay leaders, and congregations across the Diocese of Manchester:



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of you will be aware that in 2027 I reach my 70th birthday. To avoid speculation, and to minimise the gap between my retirement and the arrival of the next Bishop of Manchester, I wish to set out my intentions as early as possible.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that I have now heard that His Majesty the King has agreed to my retirement. Further to this, last week I received a signed Declaration from the Archbishop of York declaring that the See of Manchester will become vacant as from 31st July 2027. In making this Declaration, the Archbishop has confirmed that I can continue for what will be two months beyond my actual birthday. This is to allow me, amongst other things, to preside at the Pentecost Ordinations, and to relinquish my responsibilities at a point when things calm down for the summer holidays.

Until then, I intend to remain fully engaged in the service of Manchester Diocese as your bishop. There will be a time for formal farewells to be made, but it is not yet for a while!

Please continue to hold Sue and me in your prayers, as I hold you all in mine.

Yours ever,

David

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

There will be opportunities for us to express our gratitude for Bishop David's ministry and to say our farewells properly. We will share further details on these occasions, as well as on the process for appointing the next Bishop of Manchester, over the coming months.



A PRAYER FOR IRAN

BY THE RT REVD DR GULI FRANCIS-DEHQANI,
BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

Ever loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran
and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom,
compassion and moderation:
that people of good will would seek
harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers
and sisters in all places,
in praying for peace with justice,
through him who is the prince of peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONTACT US:

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh

01942 859251 carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Team Vicar: Revd Angela Wynne 01204 468150 – revawynne@gmail.com

FACEBOOK – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

Follow us on twitter @Wparishchurch

@Westhoughtontowerbellringers

Material for the pewsheets should be sent to

westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Website

[St Bart's - A Church Near You](#)

Office Hours:

Saturday mornings by appointment please e-mail

westhoughtonparish@outlook.com