



SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
9:15am Service of the Word Joan Johnson	9:15am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin	11:00am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin / Sue Aveyard Hymns: as in the service sheet

This week we pray for:

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

Those who have died: Alan Brockley, Lमारiego Manna, Edna Holden

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Ashton Bullough, Colin Caldwell, Elizabeth Fox, Michelle Hamilton, Allan Harrison, Richard Hodgkiss, Wilfred Mather, Barry Mercer, Joseph Riley, Mary Simpson, Jintana Smith, Robert Walmsley, Jean Whittle, Mark Williams.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

NEXT SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

St George

Readings: Acts 2. 14a & 36 - 41 / I Peter 1. 17 - 23 / Luke 24. 13 - 35

9:15am	Café Church at St George's	Lay Led
9:15am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'	Revd Simon Cook
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: on sabbatical

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

Next Sunday we're marking the 30th anniversary of the opening of St George's church and school on St George's Day in 1996. There's a special Café Church service that morning with members of the school attending. All welcome – do come along and join in the celebrations.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The week ahead:

Monday 20th 9:30 – 11:00am 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship PCC meeting
Tuesday 21st 10:30 – 11:30am	St John's Church Wingates	Continuing the Psalms course
Wednesday 15th 10:30 – 11:30am 11:00am 3:45 – 4:30pm 7:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Talking tables NOT midweek communion and luncheon club Café Church – Noah Choir Practice
Thursday 23rd 7:00 – 8:30pm	St George – martyr St Bartholomew's Church	Continuing the Psalms – psalm 90
Saturday 25th 10:30am - noon	St Mark the Evangelist St John's Church Wingates	Ignite Youth – Community Connections cafe

PCC meeting:

There will be a brief meeting of the PCC on **Monday 20th April at 7:30pm** in St Bartholomew's church.

The only items on the agenda are the review of the annual reports and accounts for 2025 and to recommend these for acceptance at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 27th April. There are further details of the AGM later in this pewsheet plus.

Readings for Sunday 19th April 2026**Collect:**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.**First Reading: Acts 2.14a & 36 - 41**

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified. ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' ³⁸ Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1. 17 - 23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at

the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth[Ⓜ] so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply[Ⓜ] from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel: Luke 24. 13 - 35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[Ⓜ] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[Ⓜ] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went

to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah[□] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They

said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us[□] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.



Prayers: The Third Sunday of Easter

Lord, as we walk our earthly path be with us on the road, accompany us and encourage us in all we do.

Those on the Emmaus Road were disappointed and confused; be with all who are disappointed today; for those who are fearful of these times as they see all their plans put on hold. Come alongside them with your reassuring presence.

Lord Jesus, accompany and encourage them.

Those on the Emmaus Road had suffered frightening times; be with those we know who are suffering today; those who are ill, those who are fearful because others are ill, those who have lost their job, those who work for the good of others despite the cost to themselves.

Lord Jesus, accompany and encourage them.

Those on the Emmaus Road found a companion to share their journey. Open our eyes to those we need to accompany on their road today. Give us courage and the resources to reach out to others that we meet in our daily lives.

Lord Jesus, accompany and encourage us.

Those on the Emmaus Road completed their journey and recognised their Lord. We pray for those who have completed their earthly journey. We pray for all those who mourn their passing.

Lord Jesus, accompany and encourage them.

Now may we walk forward confident that Christ is beside us as we journey today, knowing the love of God around us and the power of Spirit within us in and the blessing of the Holy Three be the gift that we freely give away. **Amen**

Lord, You walk alongside us and listen - so hear our prayers for all who are suffering and in pain at this time, those dying and those grieving, those who are sick and those caring.

Help your Church be a family where the deepest hurts and disappointments can be shared without judgement. Help every one of your people find a true friend within your family, so that the barriers of loneliness may be broken and we, in our turn, may listen to the pain of the world with love and compassion.

Lord, You open the Scriptures to us so that our hearts burn - so we pray for Your family, scattered at this time, that we may yet hear Your voice speaking to us in the power of Your Spirit. Hearing your voice, may we work so that the world perceives Your activity and presence among us, bringing Your kingdom of justice and healing. Guide the nations and rulers of this world with Your wisdom in this time of challenge so that peace and reconciliation may become the reality of a new age, through whose birth pains we are living.

Lord, You sit with us at the table and break bread for us so that we are welcomed into Your presence - so hear our prayers for those who are lonely and shut in by the crisis we are experiencing. Help your Church imitate Your example that we may live lives that demonstrate the compassion and character of Jesus, that the world may recognize You. Be the strength of all, in our community, who are Christ to the world: health workers bringing healing, care workers bringing dignity and neighbours bringing help and friendship.

These prayers we bring in the name of the Risen Lord who meets us on the road of life. **Amen.**

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
CHURCH, WESTHOUGHTON**



Sunday 19th April

**The Third Sunday of
Easter**

11:00am

Service of the Word



**The Road
to
Emmaus**



All Welcome

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 St George's this Sunday. We're not meeting at either next week.

Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship

We're running on Mondays 20th and 27th April from 9:30am – 11:00am but not on 4th May as it's the May Day Bank Holiday.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



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](#)

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

	April
Sunday 19th	<p style="text-align: center;">The Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>9:15am St George's Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Service of the Word</p>
Monday 20th	<p>9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Church – PCC meeting</p>
Tuesday 21st	<p>10:30am St John's Church Continuing with the Psalms course</p>
Wednesday 22nd	<p>10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 11:00am NOT St Bartholomew's Midweek Communion / Luncheon Club 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – Noah 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice</p>
Thursday 23rd	<p>St George, martyr, patron saint of England St George's Church & School 30th Anniversary of Opening 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Continuing with the Psalms course [Ps.90]</p>
Friday 24th	
Saturday 25th	<p>St Mark the Evangelist 10:30am – noon St John's Church Ignite Youth – Community Connections Café</p>

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Sunday 26th	The Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:15am St George's Café Church – St George's 30 th anniversary 9:15am St Thomas Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion
Monday 27th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Parish AGM
Tuesday 28th	
Wednesday 29th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 6:45pm St Bartholomew's Baptism Preparation 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 30th	7:00pm St Bartholomew's Continuing with the Psalms course [Ps. 145]

Midweek Communion & Luncheon Club

Although set for this week [22nd April] on the rota, was actually held last week. The organisers apologise for not communicating this more widely.

Ignite Youth - Community Connections Cafe

We are holding a cafe for people in our communities who want somewhere to meet up and they can play games or just chat. And of course, tea and cake will be served!

Come and join us on **Saturday 25th April between 10.30am and Noon at St John's Wingates Church**, Chorley Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3PL.

Please see the posters in our churches and if you wish to attend, please sign up on the sheets in church.

Thank you.

The next Ignite Youth meeting is at St John's church, Wingates on Saturday 16th May 7:00 – 8:30pm.

Ignite Youth Presents

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CAFE



cup of cream



We met over 4 weeks in January with Olga McAreavey, Youth Ministry Pioneer from the Places Project. We explored how God can help us identify and use our gifts to help serve others. Today we are launching our event!

Saturday
25th

APRIL!

2026

10:30-12

We are hosting a social event for the people in our local church community who can connect with others. Come along to our community event and join us in playing board and card games. Or you might just want to have a chat!

St. John's Wingates Church,
Charless Road Westhoughton, BL5 3PL

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CAFE

Café Church

Returns fortnightly in term time at St Bartholomew's church on
Wednesdays 3:45 – 4:30pm

The timetable for the summer term is below

We are looking for anyone who can help out with refreshments once or twice during the term. Please see any of the leaders.

Date	Topic	Leader	Refreshments
	OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS		
22-Apr	Noah (Genesis 6: 9- 8:19)	Joan	Jean / Fran
06-May	Moses (Exodus 2: 1-10)	Elaine	
20-May	Joseph (Genesis 37:1-11)	Christine	
27-May	HALF TERM		
	MIRACLES OF JESUS		
3-June	Jesus heals the lame man (Mark 2: 1-12)	Carol	
17-June	Jesus turns water into wine (John 2: 1-12)	Elaine	
01-July	Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14: 22-33)	Christine	
08-July	<i>School Production</i>		
15-July	Jesus feeds 5000 people (John 6: 1-14)	Joan	
	AUTUMN TERM Next Café Church 09 th September 2026		

Café Church

It meets every other Wednesday in term
time at St Bartholomew's church
3:45 – 4:30pm

Old Testament People NOAH



Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Genesis 6.9 – 8.19

NB: Next meeting will be 6th May

Team Confirmation Service

The Team Confirmation Service 2026 will be at St James' Daisy Hill on Sunday 7th June at 3pm.



Confirmation Courses will begin in May for Young People in Year 6 or above and any adults wishing to be confirmed.

For those who don't know, Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. Bishop Matthew will lay his hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life. Once you are confirmed, you will be able to receive the bread and wine at a service of Holy Communion, if you haven't previously been admitted to receive Holy Communion as a child.

Forms are available to register at all our churches. **Please return by Sunday 26th April.** If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the clergy or a Church Warden. Thank you.

Children who are thinking about confirmation are strongly encouraged to attend Ignite Youth. Meetings are held at St John's Wingates on one Saturday per month 7:00 – 8:30pm, next meetings are:

18th April

16th May

20th June

11th July

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 27th April 2026 7:30pm

St Bartholomew's Church

The AGM is coming up on Monday 27th April when we receive our annual reports and accounts for 2025 and elect our church officers and committees for the year ahead. It's followed by Cheese and Wine.

Electoral Roll:

The electoral roll revision is now complete.

We can make any amendments / corrections to the revised roll but cannot add any names until after the AGM.

Annual Reports:

The submission date has now closed. Many thanks to all who have sent in their reports.

PCC meeting:

We're planning a short PCC meeting this Monday [details previously in this pewsheet plus] at which we review our annual reports and accounts for 2025 for recommendation to the annual meeting.

Following the AGM, there will be a very brief PCC meeting to elect the parish officers and accept the nominations for sidespeople.

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]

Questions:

we're happy to take questions on our annual reports and accounts at the AGM.

Please note that some matters may be better answered or dealt with by individual church committees, if relevant to a particular church only, rather than the AGM.

We're happy to receive questions in advance [either to Revd Carol as chair and/or Ed as secretary westhoughtonparish@outlook.com]. This will help us answer any questions on the night, especially if we need to check PCC or committee meeting minutes and other documents to give a complete answer.

Archdeacon's Visitations:

For admitting wardens, assistant wardens, PCC members and sidespeople into office will be in June. We'll print the dates in the AGM reports and in this pewsheet in due course.

AGM reports and accounts:

In line with our eco-church policies and to save on printing costs, there will **not** be printed copies available of these reports at the AGM. If you wish to have a copy, these can be e-mailed in advance [following PCC approval of them] or we can pass you a printed copy if requested in advance.

Please see Ed or e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Thank you.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of **St. Bartholomew, Westhoughton**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in **St. Bartholomew's Church** on **Monday 27th April 2026 at 7:30pm**

For election of parochial representatives of the laity

To the Parochial Church Council

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

For the consideration of:

(a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting

(b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;

(c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;

(d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;

(e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and

(f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest relevant to an Annual Meeting.

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

Notes

1 Every lay person whose name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and no other person) is entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.

2 A person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if –

(a) his or her name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish and, unless he or is under 18, has been entered there for at least the preceding six months;

(b) he or she is an actual communicant (which means that he has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election);

(c) he or she is at least 16; and

(d) he or she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.

3 (1) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).

(2) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

(3) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

(4) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.

(5) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

43 A scheme is in operation in this parish which provides that any person entitled to vote in the elections of parochial representatives of the laity to the parochial church council or to the deanery synod or to both may apply on the appropriate form to the Minister of the parish (or other person signing below) for a postal vote. The completed form must be received before the commencement of the annual parochial church meeting.

Notes

1 To be included in a year in which parochial representatives of the laity are to be elected to the Deanery Synod.

2 To be included in a year when a new Church Electoral Roll is prepared. Delete as applicable.

3 This paragraph should be deleted if no scheme for postal voting is in operation in the parish.

4 Or vice-chair of the parochial church council as the case may be (see rule M19(2) of the Church Representation Rules).

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:

Many thanks to all who have been collecting over Lent and returned jars already.

If all goes to plan, you should have collected a total of £8.20 so please return your jars to church during Easter. It all goes to help keep St George's running.

Many thanks

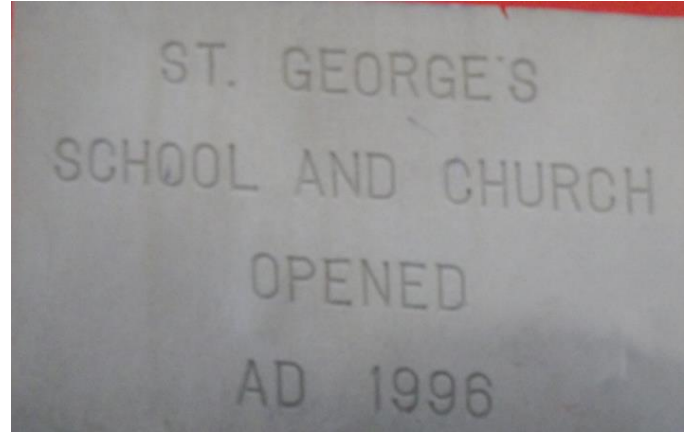
We're 30! Happy Birthday to us.

St George's Church and School opened on St George's Day 23rd April 1996. To mark our 30th birthday we're having a special Café Church Service on Sunday 26th April at 9:15am so please come along and celebrate with us.

Ignite Youth Community Connections Café

Please see the notice earlier in this pewsheet about this event.

St George's History - earlier days



- 2009 Stewardship photo
- 2011 service
- 2012 outdoor service
- 2016 Nativity service



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

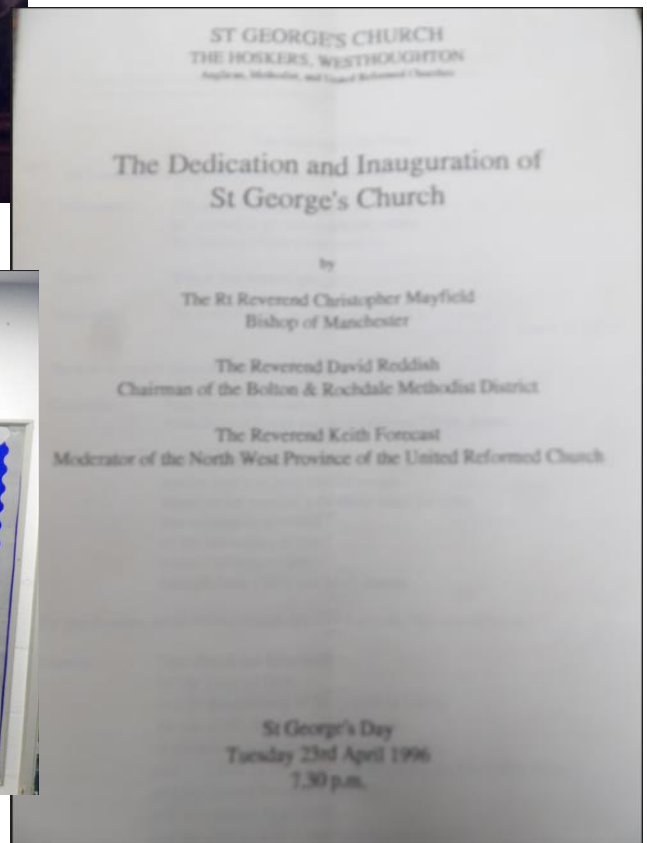
St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



The windows and war memorial behind the altar were taken from Hart Common church to St George's school. The bell from Hart Common now in the entrance [look upwards] came too but was stored under the altar at St Thomas' until it could be put in place.



If anyone has other pictures or stories they'd like including do send them to me.

The Dedication and Inauguration of St George's church took place on St George's Day, 23rd April 1996 at 7:30pm.

The church started as an ecumenical partnership between the Church of England, Methodists and United Reform Church. The very long and formal opening service was led by Rt Reverend Christopher Mayfield [Bishop of Manchester], Revd David Reddish [Chairman of the Bolton & Rochdale Methodist District] and Revd Keith Forecast [Moderator of the NW Province of the URC].

After opening prayers, the churchwardens handed over keys to the clergy and the first hymn sung was "Pray that Jerusalem may have" – a version of psalm 122 from the Scottish Psalter of 1650 [*ask me if you want it played Ed!*] In a celebration of baptism the font was blessed and the Easter candle lit. We moved to the lectern where the bible readings were

1 Kings 19. 1 – 18 – the story of Elijah

Ephesians 3. 14 -21 – Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus.

The sermon was preached by Revd Simon Oxley, Secretary of Greater Manchester Churches together followed by a time of prayer. At this point the church was dedicated, the altar blessed and the candles lit. After final prayers and sharing the peace, we reached the final blessing.

Other hymns sung at the service were:

O thou, who camest from above

The day of resurrection

Father, hear the prayer we offer

The church's one foundation

Angel Voices ever singing.

The first Sunday service was on 28th April at 11:15am [we started late in those days].

Just to show how times have changed, the service sheet had contact details for the clergy – no e-mails or websites, just address, 'phone number and their fax number. Younger readers may have to ask what a fax was!

**ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH,
THE HOSKERS**



St. George's Church and School

30th Anniversary

Sunday 26th April

9:15am

**Café Church Service celebrating the 30th
anniversary of the opening of the church
and school**



All Welcome





BLACKROD, DAISY HILL,
WESTHOUGHTON & WINGATES TEAM

Continuing with the Psalms



Thursday 9th April

9.30 am St Katharine's Church, BL6 5EN

Tuesdays 14th & 21st April 2026

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

Thursdays 9th, 23rd & 30th April 2026

7 pm St Bart's Church, BL5 2BG

**The Psalms help us explore themes of
praise, faith and hope.**

Come and explore them with others.

All welcome, whether you attended the 2026 Lent course or not.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



THE PARISH OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW
WESTHOUGHTON

Coffee Morning

St Bartholomew's Church

Saturday 16th May

10:00am - noon

Stalls, tombola, raffle,
refreshments

FREE ENTRY

In aid of St Bartholomew's church

[Bolton Symphony Orchestra at the Victoria Hall, Bolton](#)

BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sponsored by
FRIENDS OF BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Wild Earth

Saturday 9th May 2026 7.30pm
Victoria Hall Bolton

Novák In der Tatra
Elgar Sea Pictures
Grofé Grand Canyon Suite

Conductor Paul Witkiewicz
Leader Anita Naughton
Alto Molly Barker-Knowles

Tickets: £13 (no concessions), Under 19s free
Tickets available via telephone: 01204 522569
Tickets available online:
www.boltonsymphony.org.uk

making music
bats

The Victoria Hall Bolton are delighted to be presenting a concert entitled 'Wild Earth' on Saturday 9th May. It's a really exciting and original programme: Novak's In The Tatras, Elgar's Sea Pictures with alto soloist Molly Barker-Knowles, and Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite. All conducted by Paul Witkiewicz and led by @anitanaughton_violin.

Under 19s can attend all of our concerts for free, and it's £13 for everyone else. Please join us for this super concert!

Tickets available by calling 01204 522569 or via www.boltonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk

[Organstoppers plays ABBA at Holy Trinity Parish Church](#)

Saturday 18th April 7.00pm

Organstoppers

Plays



Sing along to all the classics

Dress in 70s fashions: optional!

Alan Beedie, organ

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Church Street,
Horwich BL6 6AA

Adults £5, children free

Wine and soft drinks available from 6.30pm!

All proceeds to the Tower Appeal

News from our Diocese of Manchester

The **Prayer Diary** for April 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

CONTACT US:

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01942 859251 carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Team Vicar: on sabbatical

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