



SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
9:15am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh	9:15am Holy Communion Revd Angela Wynne	11:00am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh / Elaine Simkin Hymns: 205, 215, 678, 193 / 209, 218

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: John Riley.

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Henry Hallam, Steven Horridge, Velma Jones, Barry Mansfield, John Moore, Hetty Pendlebury, John Wild.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

NEXT SUNDAY: The Second Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2. 14a & 22 - 32 / 1 Peter 1. 3 - 9 / John 20. 19 - 30

9:15am	Service of the Word at St George's	Elaine Simkin
9:15am	Service of the Word at St Thomas'	Christine Andrews
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

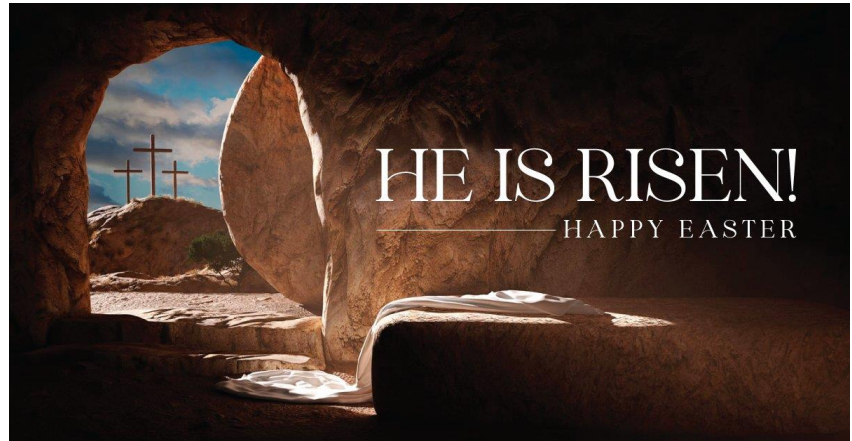
The week ahead:

Monday 6th	Bank Holiday	No groups meeting
Tues 7th 1:30pm	Thurstons	Communion Service
Wednesday 8th 10:30 – 11:30am 7:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St Bartholomew's Church	Talking tables Choir Practice
Thursday 9th 9:30am 7:00pm	St Katharine's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Continuing the Psalms Continuing the Psalms [Ps 42 / 43]



Many thanks to all who have contributed to our worship, services and events over Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

On behalf of the Blackrod, Daisy Hill, Westhoughton and Wingates Team, we wish everyone a happy, joyful and blessed Easter



**St Bartholomew, St George, St Thomas,
St James, St John, St Katharine**

Readings for Sunday 5th April 2026

Collect:

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 31. 1 - 6

"At that time," declares the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people."

²This is what the LORD says:

"The people who survive the sword
will find favour in the wilderness;
I will come to give rest to Israel."

³The LORD appeared to us in the past,^[a] saying:

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing
kindness.

⁴I will build you up again,
and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.
Again you will take up your timbrels
and go out to dance with the joyful.

⁵Again you will plant vineyards
on the hills of Samaria;
the farmers will plant them
and enjoy their fruit.

⁶There will be a day when watchmen cry out
on the hills of Ephraim,
'Come, let us go up to Zion,
to the LORD our God.'"

New Testament Reading: Acts 10. 34 - 43

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism

that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel Reading John 20. 1 - 18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.
¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'
¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which

means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Post-Communion Prayer:

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Prayers: Easter Day

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...]
with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good
news of Easter ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian
love ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack
food, work or shelter ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may
cease through all the world ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his
presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the
resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit
upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his
resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of
darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your
Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to
life,
so his continual presence in us may raise
us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

This is the final one in this series, so I hope people have learnt a little more about how the Church of England works and does things. Ed.

So, what on earth is a Synod?

Basically it's a Church word for a meeting from the Greek word for an assembly or meeting. But things are never that simple!

Originally from the 2nd century, Synods were meetings of Bishops only and the word still has that meaning in Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches today.

Often important decisions were made at these Synod meetings. The Synod of Whitby in 664 for example, decided to set the date of Easter and the style of monks' tonsures [haircuts] following the tradition of the church in Rome rather than the Celtic tradition from Iona.

In the Church of England, everything happens in threes [or "tricameral" to show off], so there's a

- General Synod of Bishops, Clergy and Laity
- A Diocesan Synod in each diocese under the Bishop of the diocese consisting of elected clergy & lay members
- A Deanery Synod in each deanery called by the Area Dean [or Rural Dean which is the same role] consisting of all licensed clergy and elected lay members.

The process of self-government in the Church of England began in the 1850's and with usual rapidity, the Church Assembly was formed in 1919 which ran until the Synodical structure was approved in 1970. The Church Assembly was formed from the two convocations [*another word for meetings*] of the northern province of York and the southern province of Canterbury. It gave the C of E powers to draw up legislation governing it which, if approved by both Houses of Parliament [Commons and Lords], became law with the same effect as an Act of Parliament. Importantly, Parliament could only accept or reject the measures but not amend them which remained the role of the Church Assembly.

By 1970, the Church Assembly renamed itself as the General Synod of the Church of England and assumed all its powers and responsibilities.

General Synod:

This meets twice each year once in York at the University and once in Church House, Westminster in London.



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

As mentioned, it is tricameral so consists of three houses, Bishops, Clergy and Laity. Whatever you do don't think of the sketch from "The Frost Report" – *"I look up to him because he is a Bishop but I look down on him because he is a lay person"* as I'm sure it's nothing like that at all.

Who? - There are about 470 members with about twice as many from the Province of Canterbury than the province of York. After that the formula for working out who gets to be on it would tax even Stephen Hawking.

There's all the Diocesan Bishops plus the Bishop of Dover and 7 elected Suffragan [=local] Bishops.

In addition to elected clergy and laity, there are representatives from Universities & Theological Colleges, 6 elected cathedral deans, 1 Channel Island rep, Armed Service Chaplains, Chaplain-General of Prisons and 2 reps from religious communities. In addition, there are the Chairs of the Boards of finance and pensions [money], 3 church estate commissioners [buildings], 3 members from the C of E Youth council [keeping a balance between young and old] and the bizarrely named "Dean of the Arches" [just in case you haven't come across this, it's a judge who presides at church courts].

What it does:

- Pass measures dealing with government of the Church
- Pass canons [= church rules] determining doctrine and services
- Approving liturgy / services
- Mediate relations with other churches
- Approve or reject the annual budget

Canons must be passed by a majority of members in all three houses; most other business can be passed by a majority of synod members. But changes to doctrine, rites & ceremonies, or admission of the sacraments can only be accepted in the wording agreed by the house of Bishops. Also no changes to Baptism or Communion services or union with other churches can be agreed unless a majority of the Diocesan Synods have first accepted them. Finally to confuse everything, little of this applies to the Isle of Man which goes its own merry way.

Diocesan Synod:

Each diocese has its own Synod governed by the Diocesan Bishop [i.e. Bishop of Manchester] with reps from the clergy and laity of the Diocese. The number of members and meetings is set by local practice, so every diocese can be different; the number of clergy / laity is usually about equal. It deals with local issues including budgeting.

Deanery Synod:

Each deanery also has a synod convened by the Area Dean with a lay Chair, all clergy licensed to a benefice and elected lay members. It acts as an intermediate body between each parish and the Diocesan synod. In Manchester, though, we have merged all the Deaneries into 7 big Deaneries and then split these down again into mission communities.

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 not meeting at St Bartholomew's or St George's churches during the Easter break.

Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship

We're on our Easter break and will be back in April.



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

We're on our Easter Holidays and we plan to be back on Wednesday 22nd April.

St Bartholomew's Easter Flowers

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the display of Easter lilies at St Bartholomew's and to our team of flower arrangers for their displays both today and throughout the year.



If you wish to make a contribution, please see Jean Tonge. Thank you.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

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

	April
Sunday 5th	<p>Easter Day</p> <p>9:15am St George's - Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion</p>
Monday 6th	EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 7th	1:30pm Holy Communion at Thurstons
Wednesday 8th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 9th	9:30am St Katharine's Continuing with the Psalms course 7:00pm St Bartholomew's Continuing with the Psalms course [Ps.42/43]
Friday 10th	
Saturday 11th	
Sunday 12th	<p>The Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>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>2:00pm St Bartholomew's - Baptism</p>
Monday 13th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship
Tuesday 14th	10:30am St John's Church Continuing with the Psalms course
Wednesday 15th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 16th	
Friday 17th	
Saturday 18th	7:00 – 8:30pm St John's Church Ignite Youth meeting
Sunday 19th	<p>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	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship
Tuesday 21st	10:30am St John's Church Continuing with the Psalms course

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Wednesday 22nd	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 11:00am St Bartholomew's Midweek Communion / Luncheon Club 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 23rd	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]
Friday 24th	
Saturday 25th	St Mark the Evangelist
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]

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 10.30 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 18th April 7:00 – 8:30pm.

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]

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

If all goes to plan, you should have collected a total of £8.20 so please return your jars to church on Easter Day or 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. We plan to show a short film about this Ignite Youth project featuring young people from St George's at our service next week [12th April].



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

Urban Outreach call for Volunteer Sandwich Makers

This Easter, Urban Outreach will be supporting Bolton Council's HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) projects by providing sandwiches for children attending activities across the borough.

To help make this happen, they're putting out a call for sandwich makers. They're looking for volunteers who would be willing to give around half an hour in the morning to help prepare sandwiches.

 Dates: Tuesday 7th April – Friday 17th April

 Time: Starting at 7:00am each morning

You're very welcome to volunteer for just one morning, a few mornings, or even every day if you'd like. The early start makes it ideal for early risers or anyone who would like to volunteer on their way to work.

Mornings can be busy, so please be assured that this is simply half an hour helping with sandwich making – there won't be any other tasks to do, meaning you can come along, help out, and then head off to start your day.

Your help will ensure that children and young people taking part in the HAF activities receive a good, fresh lunch each day.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with the Urban Outreach team to let them know which mornings you might be available.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Urban Outreach and the families we serve across Bolton.

With gratitude, Urban Outreach Team

**Admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk 01204 385848 Office: Urban Outreach
(Bolton) 232-236 St Georges Road, Bolton, BL1 2PH**

**Food Hub: Unit 4 (former Office Outlet Store), Trinity Retail Park, Springfield,
BL2 1HY (Open Mon, Wed and Fri 10am-12pm and 2-4pm)**

www.urbanoutreach.co.uk

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

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

Bishop David's Easter Message

As we continue through Holy Week, Bishop David invites us to reflect on what it means to stand alongside fellow Christians around the world - especially those who face hardship, danger, and uncertainty. Bishop David shares this Easter message about presence, courage, and the enduring hope of the resurrection. His reflections remind us that, even amid global conflict and suffering, the joy of Easter continues to break through:

A decade or so back, I spent Holy Week and Easter not here in Manchester, but in Pakistan, visiting our link diocese of Lahore.

The trip had been long planned as a physical way of indicating our support for a church that is very much a minority in its land and often a persecuted one.

My visit was made even more significant by the fact that I arrived just ten days or so after a suicide bomber had killed and injured several people in an attack on an act of worship in one of the diocese's churches.

Standing alongside our sisters and brothers, sharing with them on the journey to the cross and resurrection, in a time when they were facing great danger, felt like the right thing to be doing. The kind of support that the presence of a brother bishop from a link diocese can properly provide.

Being physically present is, in my thinking, a form of incarnation: that Jesus came to live, die and rise physically, so we echo that willingness to be with God's people in person.

For that same reason, this year, Sue and I made plans to spend Holy Week in Jerusalem as guests of the Archbishop, travelling to Gethsemane, Golgotha and beyond with him and his people, at a time when they're caught up in the conflicts presently ravaging the Middle East.

At the time I'm recording this message, as the conflict with Iran continues, it feels unlikely we will travel. We have not yet entirely given up hope, not least because I remember vividly how joyfully the people of Lahore celebrated this holy season, even in the immediate aftermath of an atrocity against them.

Whether or not I can be with them in person, I'm confident that same joy will be present in Jerusalem this year.

My prayer is that we in Manchester, who do not face such harrowing circumstances, will be equally full of the joy of the risen Lord.

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FACEBOOK – locate us by searching Westhoughton parish

Follow us on twitter [@Wparishchurch](https://twitter.com/Wparishchurch)
[@Westhoughtontowerbellringers](https://twitter.com/Westhoughtontowerbellringers)

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

Website

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

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Saturday mornings by appointment please e-mail
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