



SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
9:15am Café Church Lay Led 30 th anniversary special	9:15am Holy Communion Revd Simon Cook	11:00am Holy Communion Revd Carol Pharaoh / Elaine Simkin Hymns: 221, Gloria:4, 800, 453, Choir, 576

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Carole Bullough, 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

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 7. 55 - 60 / 1 Peter 2. 2 - 10 / John 14. 1 - 14

9:15am	Service of the Word at St George's	Elaine Simkin
9:15am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'	Revd Kenneth Newport
11:00am	Service of the Word at St Bartholomew's	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



SUNDAY 3RD MAY 2026

THE FIFTH 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 Elaine Simkin	9:15am Holy Communion Revd Kenneth Newport	11:00am Service of the Word Elaine Simkin Hymns: as in the service sheet

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Carole Bullough, 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

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

NEXT SUNDAY: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

The start of Christian Aid Week



Readings: Acts 17. 22 – 31 / 1 Peter 3.13 - 22 / John 14. 15 - 21

9:15am Holy Communion at St George's Bishop Matthew, Bishop of Bolton
 9:15am Service of the Word at St Thomas' Christine Andrews
 11:00am Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's Revd Malcolm Wearing / Elaine Simkin
 Mayoral Sunday

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh 01942 859251

carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

Team Vicar: on sabbatical

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PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

The fortnight ahead:

Monday 27th 9:30 – 11:00am 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship AGM followed by cheese and wine
Tuesday 28th		
Wednesday 29th 10:30 – 11:30am 6:45pm 7:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Talking tables Baptism Preparation meeting Choir Practice
Thursday 30th 7:00 – 8:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church	Continuing the Psalms – psalm 145
Friday 1st May	St Philip and St James	
Saturday 2nd 10:00am – noon 10:30am - noon	St James' Church Daisy Hill St John's Church Wingates	Open Church with Refreshments Open Church with Refreshments
Sunday 3rd 9:15am 9:15am 11:00am	The Fifth Sunday of Easter St George's Church St Thomas' Church St Bartholomew's Church	Service of the Word Holy Communion Service of the Word
Monday 4th	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	No groups meeting
Tuesday 5th 1:30pm	Thurstons	Holy Communion
Wednesday 6th 10:00am 10:30 – 11:30am 3:45pm – 4:30pm 7:30pm	St Bartholomew's Church St John's Church Wingates St Bartholomew's Church St Bartholomew's Church	Year 1 schools service - Moses Talking tables Café Church - Moses Choir Practice
Thursday 9th	St Bartholomew's Church	IN USE ALL DAY – Polling Station
Friday 8th		
Saturday 9th		
Sunday 10th 9:15am 9:15am 11:00am	MAYORAL SUNDAY START OF CHRISTIAN AID WEEK St George's Church St Thomas' Church St Bartholomew's Church	Holy Communion Service of the Word Holy Communion

And on their anniversaries this fortnight we remember: Marjorie Barrett, Samuel Bithell, Margaret Bond, Curwen Briscoe, Ellis Crompton, Roger Crompton, James Cunliffe, Georgina Dodds, Harry Dolphin, Jack Fairclough, Minnie Flitcroft, Bessie Harrison, Eric Holt, Annie Howarth, Wilfred Jones, Horace Mather, Susan Meredith, Amelia Myers, Phyllis Norman, Derek Valentine, Christopher Walls, John Williams.

During Communion today [26th April], the choir will be singing “Walking in a garden”

The author Fr Hilary Greenwood [26 February 1929 – 10 September 2003 *whom I did meet once*] reflects on three of the gardens talked about in the Bible: the Garden of Eden, the Garden of Gethsemane and the garden around Easter’s empty tomb. The hymn was written for Greenwood's nephews and originally meant to be set to the tune of "Puff, the Magic Dragon." It is often set to the tune "Au Clair de la Lune" as well; we’re singing it to a more appropriate tune with some scrunchy harmonies.

We’re following that with “Now the green blade riseth.”

1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

The words are by John Macleod Campbell Crum who was born on October 12th 1872 at Mere Old Hall, Cheshire and died on December 19th 1958 at Farnham, Surrey.

A pupil at Eton and graduate of New College, Oxford, Crum was ordained as a deacon in 1897, and priest in 1900. He was assistant curate at St. John the Evangelist, Darlington (1897-1901); domestic chaplain to Francis Paget, Bishop of Oxford (1901-10); assistant curate, Windsor (1907-10); Vicar of Mentmore with Ledburn (1910-12); Rector of Farnham (1913-28); and Canon of Canterbury (1928-43).

Crum married Edith Frideswide Paget in 1908. She died in 1910 at age 21, perhaps related to the birth of their only son, William Frances. Her father was Bishop Francis Paget for whom Crum served as Chaplain at Oxford. Crum later married Emily C. Bale in 1913 and had five additional children by his second wife.

While serving the church, Crum worked in a variety of theological areas and wrote on biblical and architectural topics, as well as studying historical works, and writing children's books.

Crum's hymn output ranged from translation of Latin hymns by the fourth-century poet Aurelius Clemens Prudentius to children's hymns. He published *Songs of Praise for Boys and Girls* (1929). Other children's works include a play, *The Play of St. George* (1911), and a pageant, *Children's Missionary Pageant* (1910, 1913) with musical score.

This hymn text first appeared in the 1928 edition of the *Oxford Book of Carols*. Interestingly, though the current text has been changed to incorporate more inclusive language, archaic language was maintained.

The vivid imagery of the hymn is biblically based: John 12:23-24: "And Jesus answered them, saying, the hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (KJV) In addition, I Corinthians 15:37-38 connects the image with the resurrection: "And that which sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body." (KJV)

The connection of the Easter event - the rising of Jesus - is unmistakable. The simple phrase "Now the green blade riseth" reminds us that Jesus is risen today just as he rose on that first Easter morning. In the third line, we find "Love" being used as a metaphor for Jesus. We are now reminded why Jesus came to the earth in the first place: "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). After speaking directly about Jesus' death and resurrection, Crum turns to our lifetime struggles. In the fourth stanza, Crum emphasizes that no matter what we are going through, "Jesus' touch can call us back to life again."

The tune to which we sing it "Noel Nouvelet" originates in the 15th century as a French Christmas Carol [Christmas come anew; O let us all sing "Noel!"] and has nothing to do with Easter. The composer is unknown but in its many arrangements, the tune still carries much of its medieval folk music spirit.

But just to show that inspiration could desert him, Crum did produce arguably one of the worst hymns ever, the centenary of which we can celebrate this year:

*O once in a while we obey with a smile
And are ever so modest and prudent,
But it's not very long before something is wrong
And somebody's done what he shouldn't.*

*In meadow and wood the cattle are good
And the rabbits are thinking no evil;
The anemones white are refined and polite
And all the primroses are civil.*

*O Saviour, look down when we sulk or we frown
And smooth into kindness our quarrels;
Till our heart is as light as a little bird's flight
And our life is as free as a squirrel's! [1926]*

Readings for Sunday 26th April 2026*Collect:*

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 2. 42 - 47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2. 19 - 25

¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his

body on the cross,²⁴ so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Reading John 10. 1 - 10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Post-Communion Prayer:

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers:

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lord, we thank you for sending us the Great Shepherd, your Son, to lay down his life for his sheep and to set us the supreme example to be followed. Help us to live together as one body in Christ, one flock with one shepherd.



Help us to see this as our part as you work out your purpose for all people. And teach us, through the voice of your Holy Spirit, to be shepherds in our turn as we feed and care for the flock in your name.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us.

Lord, you have taught us that no one is an island, entire of itself; we are all a piece of the whole world in which we live.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us.

Lord, you promise a world where those who now weep shall laugh; those who are hungry shall feast; those who are now poor or excluded shall claim your kingdom for their own. Help us to build such a world in the here and now, and let it begin with each one of us. Let us learn to live together in harmony, and let it begin right now. And, Lord, give us the perseverance, courage and hope to work towards this as a reality.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us.

Lord, you are a very present help in time of trouble to all those who suffer pain in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those whose pain is acute, and in this very moment. We pray for those whose pain is a dread for the future or an ache of longing for the past. We pray for those whose pain will be short in duration, and we pray for those who will have to live with their sorrow for some time to come. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us.

Lord, you brought your Son through the valley of death to reign with you for all eternity. Comfort us with your protecting presence, and your angels of goodness and love, that we too may come home and dwell in your house for ever.

Lord, your rod and your staff they comfort us.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

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

Alleluia
Christ is risen!



Sunday 26th April

**The Fourth Sunday of
Easter**

11:00am

Holy Communion



**Jesus,
the Good
Shepherd**



All Welcome

Readings for Sunday 3rd May 2026

Collect:

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 7. 55 - 60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2. 2 - 10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones, let yourselves be built^[a] into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner',

⁸ and

'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you

may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Reading

John 14. 1 - 14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know^l my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me^[e] for anything, I will do it.'

Post-Communion Prayer:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

Prayers: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way as gives us breath:

Such a Truth as ends all strife:

Such a Life as killeth death.

George Herbert

Come, Lord Jesus, as we pray for your Church throughout the world
Help us all not to stray from you who are the Way,
nor to distrust you who are the Truth,
nor to rest in any other thing than in you, who are the Life.

Teach us by your Holy Spirit what to believe,
what to do and wherein to take our rest.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your church within the world,
especially for the work of Christian Aid.

May the nations learn by the Truth of your word
that, in bearing one another's burdens we can fulfil your law of love
and so bring comfort, hope and help to those
whose needs are so much greater than our own.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for everyone who is distressed in any way.

Those on our minds now, those we love and those whom we see no more,
all loved by you, Lord, and recalled on our pilgrimage through life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Finally, we pray for ourselves

Support us, O Lord,

All the days of this troublous life,

Until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,

The busy world is hushed and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,

a holy rest and peace at the last. Amen.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

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

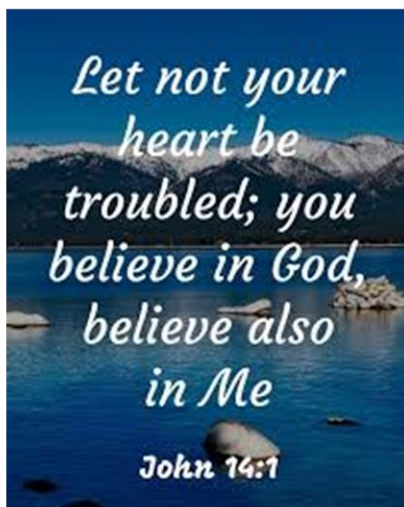


Sunday 3rd May

**The Fifth Sunday of
Easter**

11:00am

Service of the Word



Jesus says **“I am the way, the truth and the life”**

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 not meeting at either St Bartholomew's or St George's this Sunday. We're back at St Bartholomew's on Sunday 3rd May.

Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship

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

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

We've moved to 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 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]

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

May

Friday 1st	St Philip and St James
Saturday 2nd	10:00 Open Church St James' Daisy Hill 10:30am Bric n Brac n Brew St John's Church, Wingates
Sunday 3rd	The Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:15am St George's - Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's – Service of the Word
Monday 4th	May Day Bank Holiday No groups meeting
Tuesday 5th	1:30pm Holy Communion at Thurstons
Wednesday 6th	10:00am St Bartholomew's Year 1 schools service - Moses 10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – Moses 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 7th	St Bartholomew's church in use as a polling station all day
Friday 8th	
Saturday 9th	
Sunday 10th	The Sixth Sunday of Easter Mayoral Sunday The start of Christian Aid Week 9:15am St George's - Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas - Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's – Holy Communion / Mayoral Service
Monday 11th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 12th	
Wednesday 13th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 14th	Ascension Day Start of "Thy Kingdom Come" week of prayer 10:30am Service at St John's Wingates Evening Service at Rivington Parish Church / Deane & Lostock Team
Friday 15th	St Matthias the Apostle [Transferred from 14 th May] Team retreat weekend
Saturday 16th	Team retreat weekend 10:00am – noon Coffee Morning at St Bartholomew's

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Sunday 17th	<p>The Sunday after Ascension Day The end of Christian Aid Week</p> <p>9:15am St George's - Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion</p> <p>Team retreat weekend</p>
Monday 18th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 19th	
Wednesday 20th	<p>10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – Joseph 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice</p>
Thursday 21st	
Friday 22nd	
Saturday 23rd	
Sunday 24th	<p>Pentecost End of "Thy Kingdom Come" week of prayer</p> <p>9:15am St George's - Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas - Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion</p> <p>1:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptism 2:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptism 3:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptism</p>
Monday 25th	<p>Spring Bank Holiday No groups meeting</p>
Tuesday 26th	<p>May Day Bank Holiday No groups meeting</p>
Wednesday 27th	<p>10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 6:45pm St Bartholomew's Baptism preparation meeting 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice</p>
Thursday 28th	7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Friday 29th	
Saturday 30th	
Sunday 31st	<p>Trinity Sunday</p> <p>9:15am St George's - Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion</p>

St Bartholomew's Smartie Tube Collection

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the Smartie Tube collection over Lent and returned their tubes. We've raised £339.70 for church funds.

Ascension Day – Thursday 14th May

We're running services across our Mission Community as part of the "Thy Kingdom Come" Prayer week.

There will be a Service at St John's Wingates at 10.30am and evening services at Rivington Parish church and one at one of the Deane / Lostock churches - more details to follow.



Ignite Youth

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

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		
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

MOSES



Wednesday 6th May 2026

Exodus 2. 1 - 10

NB: Next meeting will be 20th 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:

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.

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.

We'll add it up and let everyone know a total soon. 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.

St George's 30th Anniversary

St George's Church: The First 30 Years

**“A church at the heart of the community
with the community at its heart”**

Last Thursday marked the 30th anniversary of the opening and dedication of St George's Church and School

The school was officially opened on 23rd April, St. George's Day, in 1996 by the Bishop of Bolton, Right Revd David Bonser. The church was dedicated later the same day by the Bishop of Manchester, Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield, the Methodist Chairman of the Bolton & Rochdale District and the Moderator of the North-West province of the URC. The first service took place on Sunday 28th April with a congregation of 76.



Staffing issues are the main determinant of the St George's service plan. We are currently running a service pattern with Communion services on the first and third Sundays and Services of the Word on the other Sundays. We have welcomed Revd Angela Wynne to lead some of the communion services and James Young to lead some Services of the Word in addition to our Revd Carol Pharaoh and Elaine Simkin.

Attendances at St George's are increasing, especially since September 2025 and it is good that we are able to welcome new families into the church.



Over the year we have been developing our termly Café Church Services which we run in house and prove very popular. We ran a very successful Café Church style Nativity Service and Crib service and one at Harvest. There is a lot of work in preparation, setting up, clearing away and providing refreshments but it is a ministry that we are looking to develop and continue.



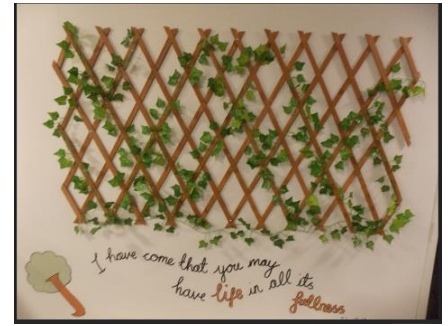
PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

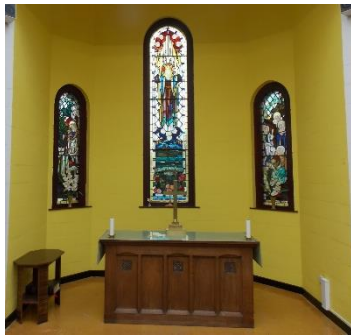
St Thomas

St George

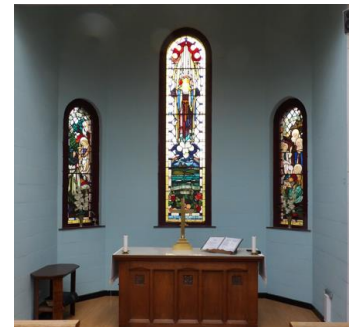
Sunday School continues and meets on the first and third Sundays during the first part of the Communion Service and is flourishing. We have a good number of leaders including some very keen and able young leaders. The Sunday school have been meeting in the school room recently and routinely take part in a "Show and Tell" where we can all see what they have been doing. They are also excellent Bible readers at our services.



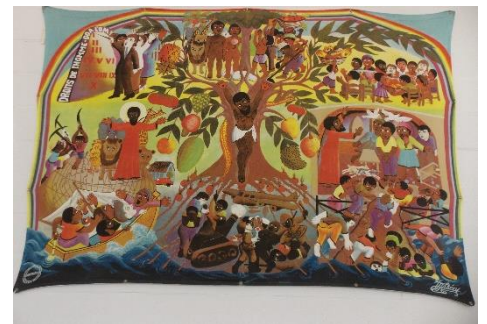
Further building work had been completed in school during the year including the



replacement of the school hall floor and the installation of new boilers – there have been mentions that it is even too warm of a Sunday! The hall and sanctuary area have been redecorated to replace a very vivid yellow with a calmer blue. I think I'm in a minority of one in preferring the fluorescent "Hi Viz" yellow.

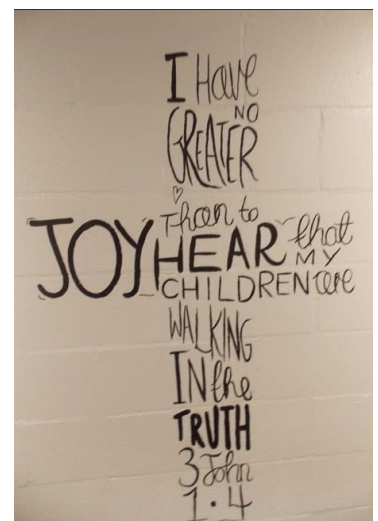


The dance group hiring the hall on Saturday afternoons continue to set out the church and this is generally working well.



During the last 12 months:

- we celebrated the anniversary of opening on St George's day. We welcomed some members of the school who led us in our and Harvest service.
- we ran stalls at the St Bartholomew's autumn fair, raising approximately £200 for St George's with second hand books and a wine raffle that sold out on the day [a first, thanks to Geoff Madeley].
- we welcome young people took communion for the first time following the Belonging to God course and to the Confirmation Courses.
- we have been able to provide refreshments after the service on special occasions
- John Thompson has been looking at the St George's Eco Church proposals, recognising that as a church meeting in a school, our options are limited



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

- we ran our stewardship campaign again in October with the tagline **5** in **2026** showing that we need to raise income by 5% to stand still. The response to this has been very positive.

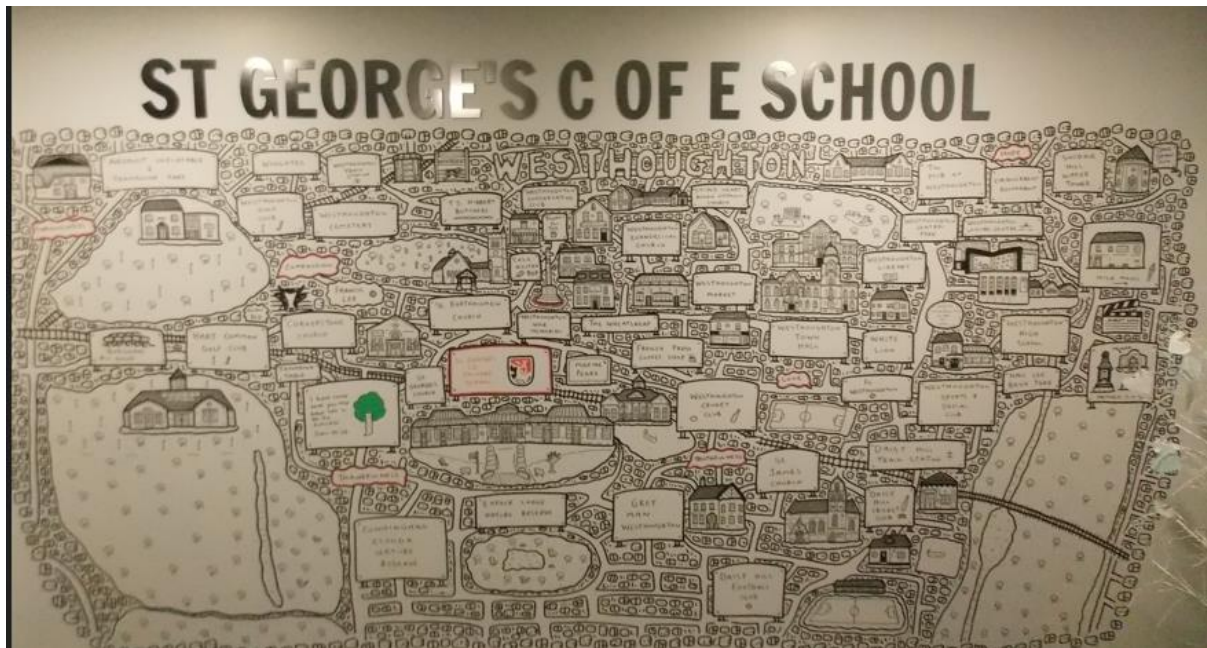


We are grateful to all at St George's for their generous giving meaning that we have paid our portion of the Parish Share in 2025 especially the majority of people who give to the church by direct debit / envelopes.

We have also done the usual fund-raising during the year including both an Advent and Lent challenge as well as the smarties tube challenge. Many thanks also to the committee for their tireless work each week especially John & Helen Thompson [for the powerpoints, financial stewardship and music], Samuel Greenall & Oliver Walsh [for running powerpoint services], Pat James and Hilary Moore who undertake the

wardens' duties and represent us on the parish committees and to all who serve on the St George's committee.

In 2025 we were pleased that James Young was appointed as Head teacher and that Pat James was appointed to the School Governing Body and this has really helped in building links between the church and school.



In 2026 we're looking forward to developing these links further, continuing as we mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the church and school on St George's Day.

Ed McHale

St George's Committee Chair / Secretary / Churchwarden etc.

**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



ENCOUNTER

**A new midweek
service and time
for fellowship
running through
May & June 2026**

**FROM THURSDAY MAY 7TH
GATHER FOR TEA & COFFEE
FROM 10.30AM
SERVICE 11.30AM-12PM**

Note – this is being planned by Joan Johnson who led our service at St George's church last Sunday.

News from our Diocese of Manchester

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



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which runs from Ascension to Pentecost each year, inviting Christians everywhere to join together in prayer.

This year, the focus is on encountering the presence of God through His Spirit. Across the 11 days, participants are invited to journey through a series of Bible stories, from Ruth and Gideon, to Elijah and the early church waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. Each story reveals something of God's transforming presence, power, and love at work in everyday lives and situations.

You can get involved individually, with others in a group setting, or as a church. As we commit to praying, we do so in hope and trust that those we pray for will encounter God's life-changing love and be drawn closer to Him.

[Explore the Resources](#)



Who was St George and why do we celebrate him today?

Resources for St George's Day

23rd April is St George's Day, and the Church of England has created the short film above to help explain who St George was and why we celebrate him.

Find out more about St George and explore a range of resources to help you mark the day on the [Church of England website](#).

CONTACT US:

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

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