

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026 THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Welcome to Worship today

Sunday Services

St George's Church	St Thomas' Church	St Bartholomew's Church
9:15am Café Church Lay Led	9:15am Café Church Revd Angela Wynne	11:00am Holy Communion Elaine Simkin / Revd Mandy Rhodes Hymns: 690, Gloria: 9, 732, 453, 727 / 693, 489

This week we pray for:

Those who are ill: Carole Bullough, Kier Barry, Brian Cato, Denise Gilliland, Nigel Ginniff, Valerie Haddock, Paul Hibbert, Joan James, Christine Parsons, Michael Partington, Barbara Penistan, Graham Spencer.

Those who have died: David Chadwick [Funeral service at St Bartholomew's Friday 9th October 11:00am].

And on their anniversaries this week we remember: Melvyn Ashton, Sylvia Coop, Allan Fairhurst, Mary Jennings, Dorothy Martin, Annie Moss, Margaret Roberts, Elizabeth Shannon, Ellen Williams.

NEXT SUNDAY: The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Readings: Isaiah 5. 1 - 7 / Philippians 3. 4b - 14 / Matthew 21. 33 - 46

9:15am	Holy Communion at St George's	Revd Mandy Rhodes
9:15am	Holy Communion at St Thomas'	Revd Angela Wynne
11:00am	Service of the Word at St Bartholomew's	Elaine Simkin / Revd Sue Aveyard

Team Rector until 30th Sept: 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 28th 9:30am – 11:00am	St Bartholomew's Church	Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship
Tuesday 29th	St Michael and all Angels	
Wednesday 30th 10:30am 7:30pm	St John's Church Wingates St Bartholomew's Church	Talking tables Choir Practice
Friday 2nd 11:15am	St Bartholomew's Church	Funeral
Saturday 3rd Oct 10:00am - noon 10:30am - noon	St James' Church, Daisy Hill St John's Church Wingates	Open Church with refreshments Open Church with refreshments

CONTACT US:

Team Rector: Revd Carol Pharaoh
[until 30th September]

01942 859251 carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

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

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westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Website

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

Office Hours:

Saturday mornings by appointment please e-mail

westhoughtonparish@outlook.com

Readings for Sunday 27th September 2026 Trinity 17

Collect:

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18. 1 - 4, 25 - end

²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?

³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Second Reading: Philippians 2. 1 - 13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel Matthew 21. 23 - 32

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" ²⁶But if we say, "Of human origin," we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I have everything I need.

² He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

³ He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.

⁴ Even if I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, LORD,
for you are with me.

Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

⁵ You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me;
you welcome me as an honoured guest
and fill my cup to the brim.

⁶ I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life;
and your house will be my home as long as I live.

Gospel Luke 15. 1 - 7

¹ One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, ² the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" ³ So Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. ⁵ When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders ⁶ and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' ⁷ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.

Prayers: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Let us pray for all the world, and also for ourselves, knowing that what we ask in your name you will hear in your mercy. We pray for faith, even as small as a mustard-seed, and for the love to nourish and nurture it that it may grow and flourish.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord, we thank you for all the help and encouragement we are given from the Church – from its worship, teaching and fellowship; from its faithfulness in prayer.

Bless and further all loving ministry in word and sacrament throughout the world Church; inspire us all to want your will and to do it.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord, we pray for the world, where the misery and tragedy of wrong choices grieves your heart of love. Let there be wisdom and compassion in all negotiations and decisions; let there be humility in leadership and responsibility for right action shared by all.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord, we bring to you the joys and worries, the frustrations and accomplishments of this week in the lives we have met and shared. As we pray, let your light shine into all these lives for fresh directing and lasting good.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord, we bring to you those we know who are ill or suffering in any way. Give them healing, restore them in body, mind and spirit, and provide them with your indwelling.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them, and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. May we comfort one another through your love.

Lord of faithfulness and constant love, increase our faith;
your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life;
grant us never to stray from you for you are the way;
never to distrust you, for you are the truth;
and never to rest in anything except you for you are the life.

Teach us what to believe, what to do and where we should take our rest;
and this we ask for your love's sake. **Amen.**

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

**THE PARISH OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
WESTHOUGHTON**



Sunday 27th September

11:00am

**The
Seventeenth
Sunday after
Trinity**



“Who’s in charge?”

The Parable of the two sons

Holy Communion

All Welcome

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

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



St. George's Church

Café Church

Sunday 27th September

9:15am

**Café Church Service –
worship, activities, songs and
refreshments**

All Welcome





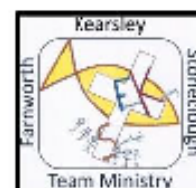
“Lord for the years ...”

**A Songs of Praise Service
of Celebration and Farewell
to Rev'd Carol & Peter**

Hymns, readings and reflections

Sunday 27th September 3:00pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Westhoughton



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 both churches next week.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Parent & Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship

We are back each Monday in September from 9:30 – 11:00am and meet each Monday during term time.

Parish Website

We've moved to the "A Church near You" website – please see

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

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

Committee Meetings

Dates of Committee Meetings: *all at St Bartholomew's church*

Monday 2nd November 7:30pm St George's Committee

Monday 9th November 6:30pm St Bartholomew's Committee
7:30pm PCC meeting

Secondary School Admissions forms

If any parent has a Secondary School admission supplementary form to be completed for schools, please hand them to a member of the clergy or a Church Warden in September.

Please provide details of which churches in the team you have attended and don't forget to also give a contact phone number. If you have a stamped attendance card, please enclose those with the forms.

The forms will be completed and handed back in plenty of time for the deadlines in late October/November.

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

September 2026 Diary ... what's coming up

	September
Sunday 27th	Trinity 17 9:15am St George's - Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas - Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Holy Communion 3:00pm St Bartholomew's - Revd Carol's farewell service
Monday 28th	9:30am - 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 29th	St Michael and All Angels
Wednesday 30th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates - Talking Tables 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice

Open Church with Refreshments

Every First Saturday at 10:30am - 12:00noon

St John's Wingates

Please do come and join us for coffee and refreshments.

We are collecting food donations for Westhoughton Assist.

Refreshments available and books and bric-a-brac stalls in aid of church funds.



Open Doors

St. James Church, Daisy Hill

**10 am -12 noon the first
Saturday of the month**

Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat, coffee, tea and toast - even crumpets if you like!



PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

October 2026 Diary ... what's coming up

	October
Thursday 1st	
Friday 2nd	11:15am St Bartholomew's - funeral service
Saturday 3rd	10:00am Open Church St James' Daisy Hill 10:30am Open Church St John's Church, Wingates
Sunday 4th	Trinity 18 9:15am St George's - Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's - Service of the Word
Monday 5th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 6th	2:00pm Holy Communion at Thurstons
Wednesday 7th	10:00am St Bartholomew's Year 5 School service – creation 10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – <i>Fruits of the Spirit</i> 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 8th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Tom Heavyside “ <i>St John's Stained Glass Windows – their subjects, donors and makers</i> ”
Friday 9th	11:00am St Bartholomew's - funeral service <i>David Chadwick</i>
Saturday 10th	
Sunday 11th	Trinity 19 / HARVEST SERVICES 9:15am St George's - Café Church 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's – Holy Communion 1:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptisms 2:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptism 3:00pm St Bartholomew's – Baptism
Monday 12th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 13th	
Wednesday 14th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 15th	
Friday 16th	St Bartholomew's – Setting up for Autumn Fair [all day]

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Saturday 17th	10:00am – 1:00pm St Bartholomew's – Autumn Fair St James' Daisy Hill – Day Trip to Liverpool 7:00pm – 8:30pm St John's Wingates – Ignite Youth
Sunday 18th	St Luke the Evangelist 9:15am St George's - Holy Communion 9:15am St Thomas - Service of the Word 11:00am St Bartholomew's – Holy Communion
Monday 19th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Tuesday 20th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship at St Bartholomew's
Wednesday 21st	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 – <i>Saying thank you</i> 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 22nd	
Friday 23rd	
Saturday 24th	
Sunday 25th	Last after Trinity / Bible Sunday CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR 9:15am St George's - Service of the Word 9:15am St Thomas - Holy Communion 11:00am St Bartholomew's – Holy Communion
Monday 26th	9:30am – 11:00am Toddler Group with Wiggle Worship CANCELLED – HALF TERM
Tuesday 27th	
Wednesday 28th	10:30am St John's Church Wingates – Talking Tables 3:45pm St Bartholomew's Café Church – CANCELLED 6:45pm St Bartholomew's Baptism Preparation Meeting [Ed] 7:30pm St Bartholomew's Choir Practice
Thursday 29th	
Friday 30th	
Saturday 31st	

Harvest Services

We're holding our Harvest Services
across our parish on

Sunday 11th October.



We're having the usual collection of tins / packets in aid of Urban Outreach that we support with our green grub tubs throughout the year.

There's a list below of suggested items. Many thanks, in advance, for all who donate and support this work.

Ignite Youth

Takes place on Saturday evenings once per month at St John's church, Wingates.

The sessions are for Year 6 & up and will include activities, food and games.

We welcome any new Year 6s and any other young people who want to join us.

RSVP or any questions to: igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com

Next Ignite Youths (back to 7pm):

Saturday 21 November

12 December



Please use this list as a guide to what we need to help make up our food parcels.

Items highlighted with * are what we need the most.

For food safety / quality reasons, please don't donate any bakery products or items that require refrigeration or freezing.

Donated food can be dropped off at Unit 4 (former Staples / Office Outlet) on Trinity Retail Park, off Bradford Street, Bolton BL2 1HY. Just drive down past Burger King and Arnold Clark Car Sales.

The Hub is open **Monday to Friday** between **10am - 12noon and 1.00pm – 3.00pm.**

Ambient / Long-Life Items

Tinned Soups (Any)
 *Tinned Minced Beef
 *Tinned Corned Beef
 *Tinned Stewing Steak
 *Tinned Meat Stews
 *Tinned Chicken Stews
 *Tinned meat or chicken curry
 Tinned Veg Curry
 *Tinned Ham
 *Tinned Meat Pies
 Tinned Fish (any)

Tinned Carrots
 *Tinned Mushy Peas
 *Tinned Garden Peas
 *Tinned Processed Peas
 *Tinned Mixed Vegetables
 *Tinned Tomatoes
 *Tinned Potatoes
 *Instant Mash
 Dried Rice
 Microwave Rice
 Dried Pasta
 Cuppa Soup

Small cooking oils (max 200ml)
 Cooking Sauces (jars)
 Gravy granules and cubes
 Herbs & Spices (any)
 Salt & Pepper
 Tomato Puree
 Pickled beetroot, onions or cabbage
 Salad Cream
 Tomato Sauce
 Brown Sauce

Coffee Powder
 Instant Hot Chocolate
 Long Life Fruit Juice (1 ltr or similar)
 *Cordial
 *Long Life Milk

Tinned Sweet Pie Fillings
 Tinned Sponge Puddings
 *Tinned Fruit (any)
 * Instant Custard Powder
 Tinned Custard
 Rice Pudding
 Sugar
 Biscuits
 Baking Products
 Flour (Plain & Self Raising)
 Angel Delight
 Evaporated Milk
 Trifle Mixes
 Jellies

Cleaning Equipment

*Large food bags
 Antibacterial Spray
 Dish Cloths
 Bleach
 Toilet cleaner

Toiletries

Shampoo and Conditioner
 Toothpaste
 Toothbrushes
 Toilet Rolls
 Baby Wipes
 *Nappies (all sizes but especially size 4 upwards)

Fresh Fruit and Veg

Apples and Oranges
 Carrots, greens and potatoes
 Salad items (not containing 'use by' dates)

Thank you for your help and support

URBAN
OUTREACH (BOLTON)

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Café Church

Returns fortnightly in term time at St Bartholomew's church on

Wednesdays 3:45 – 4:30pm

We're meeting next on September 23rd – the rota is printed below.

Date	Topic	Leader
	CREATION / Looking after our planet / Eco Church / Thanksgiving	
7 Oct	Fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5. 22-23)	Joan
21 Oct	Saying thank you (Luke 17.11-19)	Christine
28-Oct	HALF TERM	
	KINGDOM & ADVENT	
04 Nov	All the Saints (Matthew 5. 1-12)	Angela
18 Nov	Advent Candle themes - The patriarchs / Abraham (Genesis 12.1-3)	Elaine
2 Dec	Advent Candle themes - The prophets / Isaiah (Isaiah 9. 2-7) or John the Baptist (Matthew 3. 1-6)	Joan
16 Dec	Advent Candle themes – Mary (Luke 1. 26-38)	Christine
	SPRING TERM Next Café Church 6 th January 2027 tba	

OCTOBER – INCOME SURVEY: starts next Sunday

It's almost that time of year again when we have to do our income survey. If you are 16 years old or older and attend church 12 times or more each year, you'll be given a form and just asked to tick which box best reflects your income.

Even if you have a low or no income or receive a student loan / benefits, we need you to complete a form. Once completed, place the form in the box provided.

The form is anonymous [your name will not appear on it] and no-one from our churches will ever see it.

PLEASE complete one form each [not one per family], but ONLY one even if you attend every week, and do it at the church you attend most often [if you attend different churches within the team].

Our diocese use the information to determine our annual parish share so we need the information to be complete and accurate.

Please complete by COLOURING IN THE BOX – DON'T just tick it, put a cross, circle it etc.

Many thanks for your help with this.

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 pewsheets plus.



Autumn Fair

at St Bartholomew's church

Saturday 17th October 10:00am – 1:00pm

St George's will be running their usual bookstall at this event. If you have any books to donate, please bring them along to church over the next few weeks.

Many thanks.

Café Church

at St George's church

Sunday 27th September 9:15am

We're running Café Church at St George's on Sunday 27th September with the usual worship, activities and followed with refreshments.

Hymn Words:

Well, I don't know if anyone got any of these but the answers should be as below. I've added the hymn book numbers in case anyone wants to check.

1. **Come down, O Love divine [238]** – in the last line of verse 3, the heart “o’er its own shortcomings weeps with **loathing**.”

2. **Forty days and forty nights [121]** - in the first line of verse 2, we sing about Jesus’ time in the wilderness with “**Sunbeams** scorching all the day.” In the singular, some people may remember the children’s hymn “Jesus wants me for a sunbeam.”

3. **To God be the Glory [818]** - in the third line of verse 2 we have “The **vilest** offender who truly believes.”

4. **O Come, all ye faithful [78]** – every Christmas we all enjoy singing in verse 2, “Lo! He **abhors** not the virgin’s womb” in a very literal translation from the Latin.

5. **O Thou who camest from above [258]** – it’s one of the few times we get to sing a six syllable word in a hymn at the start of verse 2 where Charles Wesley writes of the Holy Spirit “There let it for thy glory burn with **inextinguishable** flame.”

6. **What a friend we have in Jesus [not in our hymnbook]** – we can be encumbered and unencumbered but at the start of verse 2 “Are we weak and heavy laden, **cumbered** with a load of care”.

7. **Come, ye thankful people, come [282]** – in a literal Biblical paraphrase we sing in verse 3 “From his field shall **purge** away all that doth offend that day.”

8. **Alleluia, Sing to Jesus [422]** – in the heavenly imagery we sing in the final verse of “earth thy **footstool**, heaven thy throne.”

9. **O come, O come Emmanuel [45]** – is a paraphrase of the seven great O antiphons sung in the last week of Advent as we await with longing the coming of Christ, using some of his Old Testament titles. Sadly our hymnbook only includes the top five [seven is too many verses to sing] so misses out the **Adonai** verse, though it is in the English Hymnal.

10. Silent Night [84] – in the second verse, “Shepherds **quail** at the sight.” In the plural “Who made whales and quails and snails” appears in “Who put the colours in the rainbow.

11. The church’s one foundation [506] – in verse 4, the church “waits the consummation of peace for evermore.”

12. To be a pilgrim [Who would true valour see: 506] – John Bunyan’s original as in our hymnbook starts verse 3 with “**Hobgoblin** nor foul fiend shall daunt his spirit.”

13. & 14. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind [621] – we ask to “forgive our **foolish** ways” in verse one and in the final verse, echoing the story of Elijah, God’s still small voice speaks through the “**earthquake**, wind and fire.”

15. Squirrel [*very obscure but my top candidate for the worst hymn words of all time*]

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. He wrote the brilliant “Now the green blade riseth” as an Easter hymn, but when the muse deserted him, it really did. We should sing it this year to mark the centenary of its composition.

*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]

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George



**THE PARISH OF
ST.BARTHOLOMEW
WESTHOUGHTON**



AUTUMN FAIR

St Bartholomew's Church
Saturday 17th October
10:00am – 1:00pm

**Crafts, stalls, gifts, tombola, bottles, books,
toys, pick and mix, cakes & bakes, raffles**

FREE ENTRY

**Refreshments
and lunches served**

**Stalls available – contact Elaine by text
07732 749 871**

Raising funds for St Bartholomew's church

October Coach Trip

Liverpool Day
Trip

SATURDAY 17TH
OCTOBER 2026

PICK UP

8am

St James Church, Daisy Hill



**£15 Per
Person**

COLLECTION

5PM

Liverpool City Centre
(advised on day)



Inclusive
Church

St James Church
presents

CONTACT : VERA 07870 848 843

News from our Diocese of Manchester

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

Service to Welcome Archdeacon Simon Cook

September 28 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

A special service of Choral Evensong to welcome the Ven Simon Cook to his new role as Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton will take place at Manchester Cathedral on Monday, 28th September at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The service will be livestreamed [Manchester Cathedral – YouTube](#)





NEWS

Area Deans Appointed to Bolton and Oldham & Ashton

Earlier this week we were pleased to announce the appointment of two new Area Deans. The Revd Anne Gilbert will become Area Dean of Oldham & Ashton and the Revd Rob Jackson will become Area Dean of Bolton.

Both bring a wealth of experience to these roles and will play an important part in supporting the parishes, schools and communities of their respective deaneries.

Looking ahead, Anne said:

“I have greatly valued my time serving in Rochdale Deanery, and I am deeply grateful for all that I have experienced and the people I have had the privilege of serving alongside.

After a period of prayer and discernment, however, I came to feel that God was calling me to serve in Oldham and Ashton Deanery. It has not been an easy journey, but I am delighted to be returning to a deanery that holds a very special place in my heart, the place where I taught for 25 years and where my own vocation was nurtured. I look forward with gratitude and hope to this next chapter of ministry, trusting in God’s continued guidance and grace.”

PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW WESTHOUGHTON

St Bartholomew

St Thomas

St George

Ed's note: *As you may remember Revd Anne Gilbert is the daughter of Revd Fred Gilbert who was both a curate in Westhoughton and returned as rector of Westhoughton in the 1980's. Revd Anne joined us to preach at a service at this time last year as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations of the new building.*

Speaking about his appointment, Rob said:

"I am humbled and excited that I am to become the next Area Dean of Bolton. I am a proud Boltonian, so the opportunity to serve across the churches of my hometown will be a great honour.

As I prepare for this new chapter of ministry, I would be grateful for your prayers, particularly for the parishes of Irlam and Cadishead during this time of change, and for all that lies ahead."

We give thanks for Anne's and Rob's response to God's call to serve in these roles and hold them, their deaneries and their parishes in our prayers as they prepare to begin this next chapter of ministry.

Ed's note: *Not quite so far back, people may remember Revd Rob Jackson from his time in our team, mainly at St John's church in Wingates.*

[**Read More**](#)



Parish Renewal



God of grace,
we hold before you the people and places
entrusted to our care.
By your Holy Spirit, renew our parishes in mission.
Give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
May we grow daily in love for you and for one another,
that the whole world might know your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Appointing the next Bishop of Manchester

Pray With Us

As we begin this journey together, please pray for all involved in the process, for wisdom and discernment, and for the person whom God is calling to serve as the next Bishop of Manchester.

A Prayer for the Manchester Vacancy in See

O God, in whom all Wisdom dwells,
lead us in Jesus Christ your Son
as we seek a new shepherd for the flock.
Grant us hope and trust,
faithfulness and joy,
and obedience to your ways
of justice, mercy, and peace;
where the Spirit leads
may we follow, and as we
attend to you, O God,
may our work and our lives
be led with gentleness, grace, and love,
through your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ.

Amen