

April 2024

St. Bartholomew's News

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Issue no. 78

Hello, and I hope this finds you well.

I hope you had a lovely Easter. Unfortunately our church was not open over Easter and some of our congregation attended Easter services at St. Luke's. Thank you for inviting us and welcoming us. Our normal service in St. Bartholomew's will be on the 7th April.

The clocks have now gone forward an hour and at least the mornings are lighter earlier, and it isn't getting dark as early.

So the year speeds along and we're already in April! The weather is slightly warmer, but still very, very wet. I wonder if we will have a hose pipe ban this summer after all this rain???

Let's look forward to our summer holidays.

We continue to have services in church at 11am and we have had different people taking the services and we thank all those who have visited and spent time with us. It has been explained that we may not have cover for some of our services, and it has been suggested that we join other churches who have a vicar/preacher taking a service. More information/notice should be given by the person taking our Sunday service.

Please keep all those working for our church in your prayers as we continue our interregnum.

Take care, Alison

OUR CRAFT GROUP meets once a month. The next meeting is Saturday 6th April 1.30 to 3.30 pm **at Wednesbury Library**. The one after that will be Saturday 4th May (provided the library is open on the Bank Holiday weekend). For up-to-date news about that, check the craft club page on the church website. <https://www.stbartswednesbury.com/craft-club.html>

OPEN TABLE

The hall is still temporarily closed and so still no monthly meal (Open Table) at the moment. Any updates will be printed in this newsletter and on the church website.

NEWS FROM LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

THREADS THROUGH CREATION is coming to Lichfield Cathedral **17th April to 2nd June 2024**. Our web administrator visited this exhibition when it was in Chester Cathedral and, whilst photos are great to look at, seeing the work up close is so much better. *If you wish to look at the photos taken (with captions), go to the Photo of the Week page on our church website and scroll down to Tuesday 8th February 2022.* The silk panels were inspired by the first pages of the Bible. <https://www.stbartswednesbury.com/photo-of-the-week.html>



Some information from Sandwell Council –

**SCHOOLS SCARECROW
COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL 2024**

Forge Mill Farm is excited to announce our
BUILD YOUR OWN SCARECROW COMPETITION
is coming back!

To register your schools interest please email...
learn_well@sandwell.gov.uk

Enter to be in for the chance to win a
FREE SCHOOL VISIT
to Forge Mill Farm for your class!

Upcoming Key Dates:
Register by - Friday 17 May
Drop-off by - Monday 20 May to
Thursday 23 May
Prize Giving - W/C 3 June

EMAIL TO REGISTER:
Learn_Well@sandwell.gov.uk

FORGE MILL FARM

Build your own scarecrow competition

🏆👥 Build your own scarecrow and enter our competition, to be in the chance to win some great prizes!

🎓 Schools, nurseries, community groups, and SEND groups are all welcome to enter.

♻️ Build your unique scarecrow with straw or recyclable materials. The theme is 'traditional scarecrow' but we welcome all creativity!

👥 Register your class or group for FREE by Friday 17 May.

🚗 Drop off your creations by Monday 20 - Thursday 23 May. And visit the Scarecrow Festival 2024 to see all your hard work, and vote for your favourite.

🏆 Winners get a FREE visit to Forge Mill Farm for the whole class and will be announced by the week commencing 3 June.

To register or for more info email: Learn_well@sandwell.gov.uk

**Do you look after a family member,
partner, friend or neighbour?
Does your job include supporting
informal carers?**

Have your say!

**We want to understand your experiences
to help us to shape a new Carer Support
Service in Sandwell.**

**YOU can influence decisions about the
service and help to improve carer's lives.**

Fill in our survey

**Complete our short survey and find out about more
ways to share your views by visiting:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforcarers**

**Or call Sandwell Advocacy on 0121 520 8070 to give your
views by Friday 3 May.**



Do you look after a family member, partner, friend or neighbour who could not cope without the support you offer? Does your job include supporting informal carers?

♥ If so, we want to hear from you. Share your experiences and help us to shape a new Carer Support Service in Sandwell.

✓ [You can complete our short survey via the Sandwell Consultation Hub website](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforcarers), request a call back or come along to one of our informal drop-in sessions at a community venue near you.

Or [visit our support for carers webpage](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportforcarers) for more details including the drop-in sessions.



Free office space in Sandwell

Find out about the Sandwell Start-Up Hub, an innovative, free co-working workspace for new businesses.



www.sandwell.gov.uk/startuphubs

FREE office space for new businesses and entrepreneurs!

👉 There's no catch, if you are a new business, and have been trading less than two years in Sandwell, take advantage of a free working space in Oldbury for 12 months up to March 2025.

👉 Whether you are looking to network, or you're a new entrepreneur looking for resources, take advantage of this fantastic space, with desks and collaborative areas, kitchen facilities, free WiFi, meeting rooms for hire and more.

📍 It's not just office space on offer, for eligible businesses, additional expert guidance and resources will be available via our Sandwell Enterprise Programme if you need it.

Track construction and bridge works

There will be no tram services between
Wednesbury and Edgbaston Village
Saturday 23 March to Tuesday 9 April

tfwm.org.uk/tramworks



Tram disruption and bridge works

Advice to anyone planning to use the tram over the next few weeks.

There will be no tram services between Wednesbury and Edgbaston Village between Saturday 23 March to Tuesday 9 April.

Plan ahead

For more information visit the Transport for West Midlands website.



Easter Crafts – finishing 7th April !!!!

Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre (formerly Sandwell Park Farm), West Bromwich, B71 4BG

Tue 2nd April 2024 - Sun 7th April 2024. £2 per child. Drop in any time between 10am and 2pm

Get crafty at Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre during half term week with a range of spring-filled and Easter-themed natural craft activities to take part in daily from making a nature boats and bird feeders to exploding mud paintings and hapizome. Different crafts available each day.

St Georges Day Family Fun

Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre (formerly Sandwell Park Farm), West Bromwich, B71 4BG

Sun 21st April 2024 10.00am – 15.00pm

Join us as we celebrate St George's Day with family fun filled with knights and dragons.

Meet our friendly dragon - he'll try not to breathe smoke on you.

Take part in a Roman battle workshop and try on some armour.

Help us build a giant junk model fortress.

Try your hand at making roses.

Have a go at flag making.



Become a school governor and make a difference!

You could do something brilliant, volunteer to be a governor at a school in Sandwell and help ensure all children receive the education they deserve.

Anyone over the age of 18 can apply and you don't need to be a parent or education expert – you just need to be committed to the role, willing to learn and bring your perspective.

For any enquiries, please email: governance@sipseducation.co.uk

I am registered with the West Midlands Police to receive local information regarding neighbourhood watch and general policing by email. I also receive a monthly UK newsletter which provides interesting information and trends in connection with neighbourhood watch.

It is too long to include in this newsletter but I have printed The April newsletter off and pinned it onto the noticeboard at the back of church should anyone want to read it. You are welcome to do so, but please replace on the board when you have finished. Thank you.

Thanks to those who participate in this service doing readings, prayers, singing, musical arrangements, etc. Please contact Wendy if you feel you would like to take part in our services by doing one of the readings or saying the intercessional prayers.

Please keep in your prayers those suffering in the Middle East. Such atrocities, grief and desperation are hard to comprehend. Let us all pray for peace.

We also remember Ukraine and their continuing war, hatred and appalling loss.

Our prayers can be found on our website which include names of our sick and those who have died.

Please also pray for our church in this time of uncertainty and let us support one another.

Don't forget we continue to need donations for the food bank. Tinned or packet foods, personal products, there is a list at the back of church for items needed, or please see Joyce who volunteers there.

Our Contact details : **Tel: 0121 556 0378.** (leave a message)

<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury/> or

<https://www.stbartswednesbury.com>

A prayer for the wars and hatred in the world at the moment – next page.

God of peace,

Show us how to put away the weapons of war
and help us destroy the tools of destruction.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.

God of peace,

Teach us to follow the ways of justice
and walk with us the paths of truth.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.

God of peace,

Challenge the weapons of war,
and banish hatred and division,
so that all your children may sleep secure.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.

Amen

Linda Jones/CAFOD