

April 2026

# St. Bartholomew's News

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Issue no. 102

***Hello everyone. I hope you are all well.***

*Now that the clocks have gone forward, at least our nights are lighter and we can look forward to that. The weather has been quite unpredictable hasn't it? One day sunny, then strong winds, colder temperatures and on some odd days, rain and hail! It's certainly varied in this country.*

*Canon Ben's last service with us will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am. I'm sure I'm representing you all when I say how grateful we are for all his hard work over the past 15 months for St. Bartholomew's. Thank you, Ben, for all your time, dedication, enthusiasm, energy (it's hard to keep up with you!), dynamism, support, ideas, solutions and compassion. I said I'd repeat this praise for our April newsletter! We wish him well in his next project.*

*We will have relief incumbents until our new vicars' first service with us on 26<sup>th</sup> April. We will welcome Taiwo at his licensing on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 1pm. We have invited many of the Wednesbury community, local churches, schools, hall groups, councillors, etc to welcome Taiwo in church on the Saturday, and there will be light refreshments. We look forward to exciting times for St. Bartholomew's and St. Luke's with Taiwo.*

*Take care everyone, and I wish you a happy and peaceful Easter.*

*Alison*

## **CRAFT CLUB.**

The Craft Group will not be meeting in April due to the Easter holidays and the library will be closed. The next meeting will be on the **second Saturday of the month – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1.30 -3.30pm** in Wednesbury library. Bring the craft you are working on, all welcome. Please contact Wendy or Lynn if you are interested or require more information.

There is a comprehensive list of events in Wednesbury Library on our website. Thank you for sharing this information, Wendy. If you cannot access our website and are interested in what the library has to offer, ask me and I will print the details for you.



The poster is titled "Services for Holy Week" and features an illustration of the Holy Week events: Jesus on a donkey, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. It lists services for Palm Sunday (29th March), Maundy Thursday (2nd April), Good Friday (3rd April), and Easter Sunday (5th April) at St. Bartholomew's, St. Luke's, and a joint service.

Service	Date	Time	Location
Palm Sunday	29th March	8:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am	St Bartholomew's, St Bartholomew's, St Luke's
Maundy Thursday	2nd April	7:30pm	St Luke's (Joint Service)
Good Friday	3rd April	7:30pm	St Bartholomew's (Joint Service)
Easter Sunday	5th April	8:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am	St Bartholomew's, St Bartholomew's, St Luke's

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S**

PLEASE NOTE – THE NEXT BIBLE STUDY WILL BE ON **WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL,**  
OTHER BIBLE STUDIES WILL BE ON THE USUAL DAY OF TUESDAY.

*Peaceful Reflection*  
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Finding God in Quiet Moments  
**Embrace His Peace Today**




JOIN US FOR QUIET MEDITATION AND REFLECTION  
(QUIET MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED)

EVERY TUESDAY 5 pm to 7 pm

St Bartholomew's Church

**BIBLE STUDY**



TUESDAYS | 5.30-6.00 pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Hill  
Wednesbury, WS10 9DG

*St Bartholomew's Church*



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO RING THE CHURCH BELLS?



**Fridays 7.30 pm**

Contact Gordon  
07811 943036



Coffee, tea and cake afternoon

**Monday 2 pm to 4 pm**

St Bartholomew's Hall  
Church Hill, Wednesbury, WS10 9DF



**TREASURE BENEATH OUR FEET**

by local historian  
**Ian Bott (Author and Metal Detectorist)**



**St Bartholomew's Church, WS10 9DG**

Mario will entertain us during the interval

Contact Rob Yardley on 07854 369523



(Image by freepik)

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7 pm**  
Doors open at 6.30 pm



**Ticket (£5) includes a drink of wine or non-alcoholic drink and cake**

Ian Bott, our local historian and church archivist, is doing a talk “**Treasure beneath our Feet**” on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in church.**

Ian is always so interesting to listen to, and so knowledgeable and the £5 fundraising ticket will include a drink and cake.

Please come along and support us. Everyone welcome for a lovely social community event.

**EASTER EVENTS.**

There are lots of events going on over the Easter holiday for families. If you are able, look on the Sandwell council website. I have printed only a small selection below.

**Spring is here at Forge Mill Farm! 🐣**

Come to celebrate all the new life at the farm this Easter holidays!

- Meet our lambs, kids and chicks
- Keep an eye out for a live birth!
- Take part in our Easter Farm ‘Hole Punch’ Egg Hunt
- NEW indoor natural play area (£3 add on per session)

Plus all the usual fun on the farm!

📍 **Forge Mill Farm, Forge Lane B71 3ZS**

🅑 Parking at Forge Mill Farm or Swan Pool

🕒 10am to 4:30pm (last entry 3pm)

[Tickets can be booked online](#) or on the door.

We can’t wait for you to meet our newest arrivals!

**Don’t miss upcoming events in Sandwell!**

**Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre**

[Line Dancing – Saturday 18 April](#)

See all upcoming events by their location below:

- 📍 [Sandwell Museums](#)
- 📍 [Forge Mill Farm](#)
- 📍 [Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre](#)
- 📍 [Sandwell Libraries](#)

📅 Or head over to [Visit Sandwell](#) for all events across the borough!

## Train ride prices

- Adult Return - £3
- Child Return - £2
- Dog Return - £2
- Family (2+2) Return - £9
- Adult One Way - £2.50
- Child One Way - £1.50
- Dog One Way - £1.50
- Family (2+2) One Way - £7

All aboard for an egg-cellent Easter day out!



**The Land Train**  
returns this Easter weekend!  
Friday 3 to Monday 6 April 2026

Enjoy return trips between  
Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre and Dartmouth Park

Family-friendly fun  
Enjoy a beautiful spring visit  
Well-behaved dogs welcome  
Explore more of the Valley  
Easy access to our cafés  
Quick trip to our Visitor shop  
Spot the Easter Eggs on your journey

See caption for full details and prices

## The return of Sandwell Valley Dog Fair!

Sunday 19 April | 10am to 4pm | Free entry!

After the fantastic success of last year's event, we're hoping this year will be even bigger and better, with plenty for families (and furry friends!) to enjoy.

Here's what to look forward to:

- Fun Dog Show (£2 entry) – with 16 categories, including the Best in Show!
- Open field agility course – open for the public to take part.
- Three agility demonstrations throughout the day.
- Doggy Market – showcasing brilliant local businesses and charities.

Bring along your four-legged best friend and celebrate all things dog at this fun-filled community event. [Book your free entry](#)



**FREE!**  
**SANDWELL VALLEY DOG FAIR**  
SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 | 10AM TO 4PM

We're excited to welcome back our annual Dog Fair for its second year! Join us for free and get involved with...

- Dog Show – 16 categories (£2 entry)
- Public agility course
- Agility demonstrations
- Doggy market
- Local business and charities

**BOOK NOW!**

If you are interested in having a stall please email [Visitor\\_Services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Visitor_Services@sandwell.gov.uk)

## Wednesbury marks major community investment

The Hydes Road Pavilion, a valued community hub in the heart of Wednesbury, has celebrated a major milestone with an official spade-in-the-ground ceremony to mark the start of a brand-new pavilion.

The Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board is pleased to announce that the new pavilion will be named Patent Shaft Pavilion. The name was suggested by Wednesbury young people.

This new development forms part of the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Programme funded by government.

[Find out more about the development on the Sandwell website](#)

## Do you, or does a loved one, need extra assistance when visiting West Bromwich town centre?


Look no further than our Shopmobility service, which offers an easy and accessible way to navigate the town centre. This helps people regain independence and boost their confidence.

Take Karen Kelly for example. After being put on oxygen, Karen needed some extra help to get around. Her sister recommended the service and our helpful Shopmobility team provided her with a mobility scooter.

Karen was able to visit the town centre for the first time in over a year, and she now uses the service weekly.

She said: "I gave it a go, I went up and down the High Street, it was a lovely few hours. I didn't realise how many scooters and wheelchairs from Shopmobility were used, and how many lives they've changed by having this service. Keep up the good work, a lot of people would be lost without you."

If you want to hire a wheelchair or mobility scooter, our Shopmobility team have you covered. Sandwell Shopmobility is based in Unit 1A (by Next) at New Square, West Bromwich, B70 7PP. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 8.30am to 3pm.

 **Call on 0121 553 1931 in advance to book equipment, check prices, and to find out terms and conditions.**



## News from West Midlands Police -

In the **Sandwell** area—including **West Bromwich, Oldbury, Smethwick, and Rowley Regis**—local policing teams frequently use the "prying eyes" message on **WM-now** to combat opportunist theft.

When thieves "window shop" in Sandwell, they aren't just looking for TVs; they are looking for **car keys** and **small electronics** that are easy to grab and go.

### **Sandwell WM-now Message Samples: "Prying Eyes"**

- **The Dusk Alert:** "As the nights draw in, remember: if you can see them, they can see you. Close your blinds and curtains as soon as you turn the lights on to keep prying eyes at bay."
- **Vehicle Key Safety:** "Don't leave your car keys on the hallway table. If a thief can see your keys through the window or letterbox, your car is at risk. Keep them shut away and out of sight."
- **The 'Empty Box' Warning:** "Putting out a box for a new 50" TV? You're advertising to prying eyes. Fold boxes inside out or take them straight to the tip at **Oldbury** or **Smethwick**."
- **Specific Advice for Sandwell Residents**
- **West Bromwich & Smethwick:** In high-density housing areas, police recommend **vertical blinds** tilted at an angle. This allows light in but prevents someone walking past on the pavement from seeing your laptop or phone.
- **Oldbury & Tividale:** If you have a **conservatory**, these are prime targets for "prying eyes." Use internal blinds and never leave handbags or wallets on conservatory furniture overnight.
- **Rowley Regis & Wednesbury:** For homes with large front gardens, keep hedges trimmed to **one metre**. This stops thieves from having a "hiding spot" while they peer through your windows.

## Action Steps for Sandwell Safety

- **Check your 'Sightlines':** Stand on the pavement outside your house tonight. What can you see? If you see your car keys, iPad, or wallet, a thief can too.
- **Use Light Timers:** If you're working late or out for the evening, use a timer to turn a lamp on *before* it gets dark, and ensure the blinds are already closed.
- **Report Suspicious "Scouters":** If you see someone lingering or looking into properties in your street, report it via **Live Chat** on the West Midlands Police website or call **101**.
  
- In **Tipton and Great Bridge**, local **WM-now** alerts often focus on "prying eyes" because these areas have high volumes of terraced housing and street-front properties where valuables are easily visible from the pavement.
- The **Tipton Town** and **Wednesbury South** (covering Great Bridge) Neighbourhood teams frequently send out these specific reminders to residents in the **DY4** and **WS10** postcodes:
  - **WM-now Message Samples: Tipton & Great Bridge**
  - **The "Window Shopping" Warning:** "Burglars are like window shoppers; they look for what's easy to grab. Keep prying eyes at bay—close your blinds as soon as you turn your lights on. If you can see out, they can see in."
  - **Car Key Security:** "Tipton residents: Don't leave your car keys on the hook by the door or on the stairs. Thieves use the 'hook and cane' method through letterboxes or look through windows to spot high-performance car keys. Keep them shut away in a drawer or a Faraday pouch."
  - **Garage & Shed Privacy:** "In the Great Bridge area, we've seen an increase in shed break-ins. If your shed has a window, prying eyes can see your bike or tools. Use a cheap internal blind or even a piece of cardboard to block the view."
  
- **Local Safety Tips for DY4 & WS10**
- **Angle Your Blinds:** If you have slat blinds, angle them **upwards**. This lets light into your room but prevents someone walking past on the street from seeing your laptop or TV.
- **The "Empty Box" Giveaway:** After a big purchase (like a new TV or console), don't leave the box outside your house in Tipton. It tells prying eyes exactly what new tech is inside. Fold it inside out or take it to the **Shokers Green (Tipton)** or **Oldbury** recycling centres.
- **Tipton 'Safe & Local' Meetings:** The police often hold "pop-up" surgeries at places like **Tipton Library** or **Great Bridge library** to hand out free window sensor alarms and anti-theft kits.

### Reporting Suspicious Activity

If you see someone "scouting" or looking into windows along **Tipton Green** or near **Great Bridge High Street**:

- **Non-Emergency:** Use **Live Chat** on the West Midlands Police website (8 am–midnight).
- **Phone:** Call **101** to report suspicious loitering.
- **Emergency:** Always dial **999** if you see someone actively trying a door handle or looking through a window with a torch.

Thank you from your Tipton and Great Bridge team.

# FREE Easter Half term fun at IKEA Wednesbury

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

## Monday 30th March

Bunny Plates (10-12pm)  
Meet the Easter Bunny (Slots between 2-3:45pm)

## Tuesday 31st March

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)\*  
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)

## Wednesday 1st April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)\*  
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)  
Egg-stra Cute Facepainting (11-4pm)

## Thursday 2nd April

Paper Easter Baskets (10-12pm & 1-3pm)  
Brain Teaser Quiz Night (7-9pm)\*

## Friday 3rd April

Bunny Plates (10-12pm)  
Meet the Easter Bunny (Slots between 2-3:45pm)

## Monday 6th April

Little Bloomers Garden (10-12pm)  
Tote-ally Spring Bags (2-4pm)\*

## Tuesday 7th April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)\*  
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)

## Wednesday 8th April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)\*  
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)  
Egg-stra Cute Facepainting (11-4pm)

## Thursday 9th April

Pot It Like It's Spring (10-12pm & 1-3pm)\*  
BILLY & BINGO 7-9pm\*

## Friday 10th April

Tote-ally Spring Bags 2-4pm\*  
Little Bloomers Garden 10-12pm



Scan your **IKEA Family** card when you pay and collect points on today's purchase.

**Don't forget the Food Bank box at the rear of church. Food is needed by many who struggle whatever time of the year it is. Dried or packet goods, tinned products, shower gel, soap, deodorant, feminine care. Please see Joyce if you require more information, and there is also a list in the box. Thank you.**

## **St. Bartholomew's Contact details:**

Our regular services are each Sunday, at 8.30am a short reflective service and at 9.30am a modern family Eucharist with hymns and music followed by tea and coffee.

<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury/> (use the message facility) or

<https://www.stbartswednesbury.com> (go to the Contact us page) If you do not have access to the internet, please call in to church on one of the Sunday services.

**Weddings and baptisms – if you wish to arrange one of these, or have a general enquiry, please call in to church on a Thursday evening 5.30-6.30pm.**

If you would like to go on to the reading or prayers rota, or help serve tea and coffee after the 9.30am service, please contact Wendy or Alison. Thank you.

I found this prayer I'd like to share with you, (which is quite appropriate for me at the moment):

Lord, strengthen me as I face challenges this month. Help me endure difficulties with perseverance and faith. When obstacles arise, remind me that I can do all things through Christ. Give me the courage and determination to push forward, trusting that You will provide the strength I need to overcome. When I feel weak, remind me that Your strength is sufficient for me. Empower me to keep moving forward, trusting You with every step. Amen.

