

**December 2019**

# St. Bartholomew's News

**Issue no. 26**

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.



Welcome to December's edition of our newsletter. We wish you a wonderful peaceful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year. God's blessings to you all.

## ***Our services and events throughout a busy December :***

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am** – All Age Worship.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 6.00pm** – Concert by Voices Entwined. They are a community choir with members from Walsall and Birmingham. They are reportedly performing at the Commonwealth Games in 2020 and we are honoured to have them sing in our beautiful church, with its wonderful acoustics in such a large building. Tickets are £5 which includes refreshments during the interval. Please come and support our church on what should be a wonderful evening. The choir will be performing free of charge and we thank them for this generous offer to help us raise funds.

Our Quiet Hour service continues on the **first Friday of each month** at 6.00pm. Prayers and reflection. We also have Holy Communion (BCP) on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am.

**Wednesday**

**11<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm** – Co-Op Funeral Directors Memorial Service.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm** – Carol Service.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 am** – Service for St. Johns School

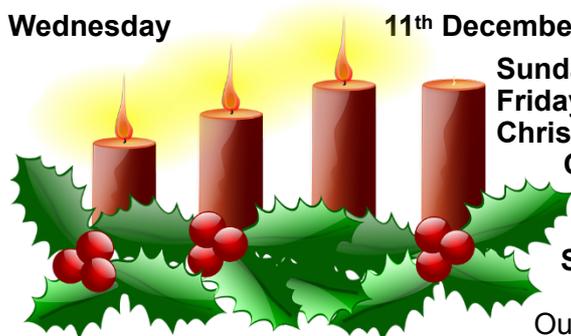
**Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup>) 4.00pm** - Crib 'n' Christingle (family service).

**Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup>) 11.30pm** - Midnight Mass.

**Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup>) 8.00am** – Holy Communion (BCP)

**Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup>) 9.30am** – Said Mass

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December** 8.00am - Holy Communion }  
10.30am – Parish Eucharist }



Our regular Sunday worship services are at 8.00am (Holy Communion) and 10.30am Parish Eucharist. We also offer Home Communion to the housebound. Please contact Father Mark or Linda for further information.

## ***Previous events...***

Our memorial service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November was well attended and thanks to everyone who came to remember their special loved ones, and to all who helped with the service and refreshments.

The weather was kind to us on Remembrance Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> November). It was cold, but it wasn't raining. After a communion service in church, people walked to the cenotaph and continued with a short service and a wreath was laid representing our church.

This image of Lynn Castillo, Wendy Bird, Joyce Turner and Lin Walford was taken on Remembrance Sunday after the service by Iowa Media Group. What a lovely photo of them all.



## **OPEN THE BOOK**

Our Open the Book team has been busy over the last month.

They visited St John's C of E Primary Academy twice during the second half term telling the stories of 'A Tale of 2 Houses' (showing how Jesus used his stories to teach people important things) and 'Not so ordinary Mary' (about 'Thankfulness' taken from the Christian Values book). The team also took a story into Old Park Primary school when they performed 'Jesus and the children' looking at how, sometimes, grown-ups can seem so busy that they don't have time for their children. This isn't much help when they want to learn something (like the children in the story). Jesus wasn't too busy to listen to them. St John's school will have their Christmas end of term service in church on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December around 9.30-10.00 am. We hope some of you will be able to join us for that service.

The team performed the story of 'Walking on Water' at the November All Age service. It was typical of Peter to want to walk on water, like Jesus did. He was always the one to take risks but that day he learnt a very important lesson about trusting Jesus. The Bible says we can trust God to help us too. On 1<sup>st</sup> December the story is 'With love from God to You'; a fresh retelling of the nativity story focusing on God's heart for all he has made. The narration in the story is Planet Earth and looks firstly at the story of Adam and Eve and how they and future generations spoil everything and God promised to send his own son as a tiny baby.

*Please turn over...*

The Open the Book 2019 charity focus for Open the Book has been 'Pens for Kids'. In November, we were able to post 4 parcels to parts of Africa - Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Malawi. Thank you to everybody who donated the stationery. Your generosity enabled us to help children by removing one of the hurdles on their way to an education - the cost of a pen. We sent pens, pencils, crayons, felt tip pens, etc. **Thank you.** The 2020 charity focus will be Barnardos, a children's charity that protects and supports the UK's most vulnerable children and young people. We will be doing some fundraising activities in the New Year. We hope to invite a project manager to visit church and explain what the charity is doing.

### **CRAFT CLUB**

The next craft club meeting is on Saturday 7th December in the Church Hall 2 pm until 4 pm and we hope you will be able to join us. If the church hall is not available we will post information about it on Facebook and on the website. Please check these. Bring whatever you're working on and enjoy a couple of hours of craft and chat with a drink and festive cakes. If you want help with anything, we have people in the group who might be able to help you. The crafts that people do are varied - knitting, crochet, sewing, painting, jewellery making, paper craft, etc. We look forward to seeing you and it would be great if you could bring along a friend, too. There is a page on the website with lots of photos. We haven't yet booked dates in the church hall calendar for 2020 but we will post details of the New Year meetings on Facebook and the website as soon as possible.

<https://www.stbartswednesbury.com/lovingly-crafted.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lovinglycrafted.stbarts/>

~~~~~

### ***Did you know.....***

We can do a floral arrangement in church with a suitable message if you wish to remember a loved one, or celebrate a happy event. Small arrangements/bouquets cost around £5, with larger arrangements a little more expensive, depending upon your choice of flowers. Please see Joyce or a flower arrangement team member who can advise you.

There will be a lot going on in December so please make a note in your diaries (refer also to the poster). These events and services can also be found on Facebook and the website <https://www.facebook.com/pg/StBartsWednesbury/>  
[www.stbartswednesbury.com](http://www.stbartswednesbury.com)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL.**

