

December 2023

St. Bartholomew's News

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Issue no. 74

Hello, and I hope this finds you well.

So Christmas is almost here! There are events in church this month and it would be lovely if you could attend as many as possible to support us and this church. Details to follow in this newsletter. Family and friends are all welcome to any of our events and to any of our services.

It is also particularly sad to inform you that Father Mark will be shortly leaving St. Bartholomew's. His last service will be on December 10th. In the 6 years he has been with us, we are grateful for everything he has done for this church, including the new kitchen in the church hall. We will miss you Father Mark, but we all wish you well for the future and every happiness. God bless.

Let us think of and pray for those who may be alone and lonely, struggling with costs and anxiety, health issues or loss. Many of us are thankful as other parts of the world are living without shelter, food, water, and in fear of their lives during war and aggression. May God bring them some peace and comfort.

In the true spirit of Christmas, it will be lovely to welcome new faces into our Christian family and let us pray to support one another for the new year and the challenges it will bring whilst we are in the process of interregnum. I wish you, your family and friends a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Take care until next month – 2024!! Alison

We will be decorating church for Christmas on Saturday 2nd December at 10am. If anyone can help, please come along! And a **big thank** you in advance for those who are coming to help.



SERVICES/EVENTS DURING DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd December
9 am and 10 am normal services

Monday 4th December 7 pm
Carols and Cake

Sunday 10th December
9 am and 10 am normal services

Sunday 10th December 4 pm
Christingle

Sunday 17th December
9 am and 10 am normal services

Sunday 24th December
9 am normal service
10 am Christmas Communion and Crib Service

Monday 25th December
To be advised





Christingle The Children's Society

Let's come together to celebrate Christingle

Christingle is a great way for communities everywhere to get together this Christmas to catch up, make some special memories, and have fun.

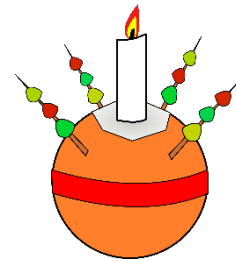
Come and join us!

Location:	ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH CHURCH HILL, WEDNESBURY, WS10 9DG
Date:	10 th DECEMBER
Time:	4 PM
To find out more, contact:	
Use the Message facility on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury	

christingle.org

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Scan the QR code to find out more.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We are having a Christingle this year (on Sunday 10th December), a lovely family service.

If you are not able to attend the Christingle event itself, which is on Sunday 10th December at 4 pm, you can donate money to The Children's Society charity.

Thanks to those who participate in this service doing readings, prayers, singing, musical arrangements. Please contact Wendy if you feel you would like to participate in our services by doing one of the readings or saying the intercessional prayers. Please check the church website for weekday services amendments.

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting will be on Saturday 2nd December (2-4pm)

Come along and bring the craft you are working on. See Wendy if you require more information.

OPEN TABLE.

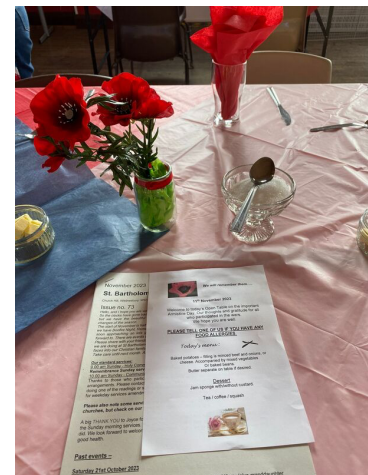
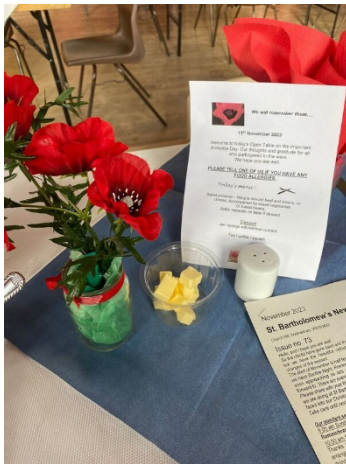
The Christmas meal will be on Saturday 9th December at 1pm and we look forward to seeing you. Please let Joyce know if you will be attending.

Last month's meal had a remembrance theme and consisted of baked potatoes with minced beef and onions with mixed vegetables, or cheese with beans. Dessert was home-made jam sponge with/without custard.

Tea/coffee/squash.

Photographs below.





Our Contact details : **Tel: 0121 556 0378.**

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

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.

Christmas events in Sandwell Valley

Breakfast with Santa 2nd and 3rd December 2023 (including a festive train ride)

Breakfast with Santa 9th and 10th December 2023 (and enjoy the valley by twilight)

Check Sandwell Valley website for more information.

Quiz 81 – level 3

Questions	Answers
1. What did God say the serpent would have to eat for the rest of its life?	Dust
2. What are Moriah, Carmel and Sinai?	Mountains
3. What healthy diet did Daniel and his friends allow?	Vegetables and water
4. Who hired 50 men to run ahead of his chariot?	Absolom
5. What animal did Solomon ride when he went to be crowned king?	A mule
6. Who wrote over one thousand songs?	Solomon
7. When did Jesus say to his parents “Why do you seek me?”	When he was lost and they found him
8. When was it dark “from the sixth to the ninth hour?”	When Jesus was crucified
9. What three things did Timothy take to Paul in prison?	His cloak, books, and parchments
10. Who tied up his own hands and feet to show Paul what would happen to him?	Agabus

Some interesting comments about Christmas from SAGA –

You haven’t put your decorations up but you are already planning for

Xmas – our festive survey revealed

Do you always watch a film on Christmas Day? Or perhaps you prefer a festive walk? See how you compare to other Saga customers in our latest survey.

Author

Rachel Carlyle

Published: **21 November 2023** Updated: **21 November 2023**

Our insight team conducted an in-depth poll of Saga customers to find out what the feelings were about Christmas.

As a child, you probably thought ‘I wish it could be Christmas every day’, to steal the words of Wizzard’s 1973 song.

However, our survey of 1,850 Saga customers, showed there’s less excitement among the over-50s: 61% said they had become less enthusiastic about the festive season as they’d aged.

There’s little bah humbug about it though: 50% still say it’s one of their top times of year (only 18% disagree).

When do you start planning?

It will surprise few to learn that women generally begin planning for Christmas before men: 26% start in October and 40% in November. Almost half of men (46%) leave it until December.

Perhaps, thankfully, the decorations do wait until December (apart from the eager 2% who put them up in November).

The most popular time to decorate is mid-December, although the younger you are the earlier they go up: 37% in their 50s choose early December, while 26% of over-80s wait until Christmas week.

How many gifts do you give?

When it comes to giving gifts you are a generous bunch:

- The average number given is seven to ten.
- A fifth of you give four to six presents.
- Another fifth of you hand out 11-15 gifts.
- When it comes to choosing gifts 53% of you like to give surprises, while 48% ask people what they'd like.
- When it comes to cash for presents, 32% of you choose to gift money and that rises with age.

Home for Christmas

Spending time at home is how the majority of people mark Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; very few go out for meals or host parties.

Just 25% of you still sit down to watch a Christmas film on the big day.

Few of you venture out to a religious service either, with just 13% going to church on Christmas Day. Slightly more go on Christmas Eve (20%), but on both days, it's the older groups who are mainly attending, with around a third in their 80s taking their place in the pews.

Numbers fall with each decade, and only 5% of 50-59-year-olds worship on Christmas Day and 10% on Christmas Eve.

Creating your own festive traditions

Other traditions, however, are flourishing: a Christmas walk is still popular, with 37% embracing it (or at least tolerating it). Saga customers really value family traditions, too.

One study found that those with family rituals spent a happier Christmas (and argued less) than those who were together but had no traditions.

Women are often the guardians of these: 58% say they inherited their current traditions from their own family; only 7% say they've come from their partner's family. And 50% of women have introduced new traditions (vs 38% of men).

Whether that's something silly, like firing streamer bombs at the chandelier on Christmas Day – as one Saga customer described – or touching, like reading together, these traditions act as family 'glue'.

Time to stock up on streamers and bubble-wrap that chandelier.

You share your festive traditions -

- We buy everyone an amaryllis and plant them on the same day in November; the tallest one on Christmas Day wins a prize.
- A lottery ticket hidden in Christmas crackers.
- A pork pie for Christmas Day breakfast.
- Presents from the Christmas tree – never more than £5, wrapped and given to visitors so no one leaves with nothing.
- Opening vintage port on Christmas Day evening to remember family no longer with us.
- Our late Auntie Mary used to give such odd gifts, so now we have an Auntie Mary gift on Christmas Eve – no more than £5 and whoever gives the silliest wins a cup.
- We name our turkey. The name needs to begin with T.
- After unwrapping a present, we screw up the paper and throw it at the person we think least likely to expect it.

What do you think? Join the conversation by emailing your thoughts to us at editor@saga.co.uk

And finally some (bad) Christmas cracker jokes to make you smile !

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

What do you call a cat in the desert?

Sandy Claws!

What goes Ho, Ho, Ho, thump?

Santa laughing his head off!

What does Santa clean his sleigh with? ***Santitiser!***

Why did the turkey cross the road? ***Because it was the chicken's day off!***

Why did the turkey join the band? ***Because it had the drumsticks!***

How does a snowman get to work? ***By icicle!***

When is a boat just like snow? ***When it's adrift!***

What song do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? ***Freeze a jolly good fellow!***

Why was the snowman rummaging in the bag of carrots? ***He was picking his nose!***

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? ***They always drop their needles!***

What did the Christmas tree say to the ornament? ***Quit hanging around!***

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? ***One that's deep pan, crisp and even!***

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? ***A mince spy!***

What is the best Christmas present in the world? ***A broken drum, you just can't beat it!***

What did the stamp say to the Christmas card? ***Stick with me and we'll go places!***

What type of bug can't remember the words to carols? ***A humbug!***

What athlete is warmest in winter? ***A long jumper!***

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? ***Tinsilitis!***

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes 'ribbet ribbet'? ***A Mistle-toad!***

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? ***He got 25 days!***

Why was the Advent Calendar afraid? ***Its days were numbered!***

What's the best thing to put into a Christmas Cake? ***Your teeth!***

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk? ***Jingle Smells!***

What type of key do you need for a Nativity play? ***A don-key!***

Children: This turkey tastes like an old sofa! ***Mum: Well, you asked for something with plenty of stuffing!***

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Hannah

Hannah who?

Hannah partridge in a pear tree!

Santa went to the Doctors with a problem.

Doctor: What seems to be the problem?

Santa: I seem to have a mince pie stuck up my bottom!

Doctor: Well you're in luck because I've got just the cream for that!

Two snowmen in a field, one turned to the other and said "I don't know about you but I can smell carrots."!