

# February 2019

## St. Bartholomew's News

### Issue no. 17

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

We are so pleased to hear that Mark will soon be returning to church. We were told on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January that he is better and will see us in March. A warm welcome back Mark, we look forward to seeing you and supporting you, and will keep you in our prayers.

On behalf of the congregation, may I thank all who have stood in and taken our services, and for all who have done any admin and "work in the background". Thank you to all concerned, we all appreciate it.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we were very happy to welcome Trevor Stokes and Marilyn Norton as elected Churchwardens until April when they will be able to be re-elected at the AGM, should they wish. We pray they will be able to continue the work done during Father Mark's absence, with the support of the congregation.



We raised just under £600 with our Children's Society boxes. What a fantastic amount! Thank you everyone.

This month's Open Table will be serving lunch on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm. Please see Joyce or Linda if you can help.

### **LOVINGLY CRAFTED** *(news from Wendy)* **(1) Charity Focus**

The Food Bank in Wednesbury received a donation recently of mini knitted hats. (See the photo showing some of them.) We have decided to donate these to the '*innocent smoothies Big Knit project*'.



The Big Knit started back in 2003 with an idea. They asked people to knit little woolly hats, then they put them on their smoothies. For each smoothie with a hat sold, they gave 25p to Age UK. Since then, 7.5 million hats have been knit and donated. Nearly £2.5 million has been raised for Age UK so far (that figure includes other donations).

What a fabulous idea!

If you want more information (and knitting patterns) please look at their website. If you are able to knit a few hats for us to donate to this cause, can you pass them on to somebody who is a member of the Craft Club or who goes to St Bartholomew's Church please, otherwise pop them into Wednesbury's Food Bank and they will pass them on to us. Alternatively, you can donate them individually yourself. Thank you.

We are having this as our charity focus this year and will have a stall at the Craft Fayre to raise awareness and, hopefully, be able to donate many more hats to the cause.

<http://www.thebigknit.co.uk>

*Please turn over....*

## **(2) Craft Fayre dates for 2019**

Please make a note in your diaries of the craft fayres this year:

Summer Fayre - Saturday 15th June (even though officially, summer starts on 21st June)

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 2nd November (this is only a provisional date for a possible craft fayre at the moment - a final decision will be made later in the year).

## **OPEN THE BOOK and SUNDAY CLUB**

(1) Our Open the Book team continue to take dramatised Bible stories into some local primary schools. Currently they visit St John's Church of England Primary Academy and Old Park Primary School. We were pleased to welcome Holyhead Primary Academy to Church for their Christmas service in December, too.

(2) As a group we would like to support a charity that has children as its focus. It is a non-profit charity that tries to help children around the world by removing one of the hurdles on their way to an education - the cost of a pen. We thought this might be a good charity for us to support because no money is being requested; only old/new unwanted stationery. Have a look at their website (copy and paste the address below:

<http://www.pensforkids.co.uk>

Also, they have a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/PensForKidsUK/>

Working for children's ministry in our church, wouldn't it be nice if our Sunday Club and Open the Book teams might be able to send pens, pencils and colouring pencils to this charity? Can you possibly donate any unwanted stationery you have that is sitting in drawers and cupboards at home and not being used, please? Alternatively, if you wish to donate new stationery that is great. Any donations will be very welcome and will help a lot of children who are not so fortunate as us. You can donate these in a number of ways:

- 1) Bring them to Church (speak to Wendy Bird, Marg Wood, Lynn Castillo, Linda Russell, Alison O'Neill or Claire Yardley);
- 2) Pass them on to somebody you know who goes to our Church or is a member of the Craft Club;
- 3) Send a message via the Church's Facebook page (details at the foot of this newsletter) and Wendy will get back to you and arrange collection.

*Thank you to those who have supplied details this month.*

Do you have any news you would like to share with everyone via this letter? Please contact me (Alison) in church.

Church telephone number– **0121 556 0378 (answer machine)**

Church website – <https://www.stbartswednesbury.com> (*select Services and Activities for details of our church services, etc*)

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury/>

*(There is an Event section on the church Facebook page detailing all the dates for 12 months and events will be added as appropriate.)*