

February 2021

St. Bartholomew's News

Issue no. 40

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Welcome to our church newsletter for February. We hope that you, your family, and loved ones are well.



The snow we have had in January has been beautiful, however, I always say it is beautiful when you don't have to go to work in it, and it's been very slippery driving on some days. The pavements are always a risk when walking, so the advice of not going out unless absolutely necessary is also relevant when we have had the snow and icy weather. At least the children could have some fun building snowmen and playing in it. Spring bulbs have survived the winter, and it encourages me that spring is not far away, giving us hope of warmer weather and better things to come. Our gardens (or even window boxes), will have some colour and life again, and this always makes me smile.

So yet another month of lockdown, and no church services for the moment. We have hope in the vaccine, but still maintain the utmost attention to hands, face and space to prevent the further spread of this dreadful virus.

Months of lessons have been lost and schools will remain shut until 8th March at the earliest, (although many school are currently open but with limited key workers pupils, the majority of children are at home with parents and family members doing their best to educate them). Hospitals are doing the best they can under tremendous strain and difficulties, and we thank them for their wonderful job they are doing. Businesses have struggled, people have lost their jobs, and furlough puts a strain on many families. Everyone's mental well-being has been affected by Covid and the lockdown.



But not all is lost. We have come this far and need to continue being strong, physically, mentally and in our faith. Lockdown is absolutely necessary. Care and compassion has kept us together. Thinking of others and helping when we can gets us through. At the time of writing this, the plan is that 30 million will be vaccinated by the end of March, let's hope that will be the case. One day, we won't hear the word Covid or Corona on the news, we can meet our friends for a coffee in a café, worship in church as normal, go to work as usual, we can go on holiday, visit friends in their homes, and shop without a mask. We took those small things so much for granted prior to Covid, but won't it be wonderful when we return to all that? Let's pray it will be soon.

Sadly we have had the news that Captain Tom has passed away. He not only raised the nation's hopes, but raised over 32 million pounds for the NHS. Rest in peace Captain Tom, and we are grateful for all your efforts and contribution for all of us.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS

On 26th January the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited everyone in our nation - whether they have a faith or not - to pause, pray and remember over 100,000 people who have sadly passed away for Covid, 'known to God and cherished by God'. In addition, they invited all of us to join in pausing and praying each day at **6 pm from 1st February**. You can read more by clicking on the [link](#) on the web page and you will be able to read their letter to the nation. The page concludes with the prayer on the next page.

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Gracious God,
 as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
 surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.
 Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair,
 and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in
 Jesus Christ our risen Lord.



Amen.

Don't forget the Food Bank if you wish to donate any tinned/packet foods to help those who really need them. You can bring in to church or take to the Food Bank in Wednesbury. Their opening times are **Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm** and **Friday 1 pm to 7 pm**. Joyce is our contact if you require more information.

As church is currently not open, I've not been able to drop off my items in the Food Bank box at church. I shop at Asda and they have a shopping trolley near the exit which is labelled Tipton Food Bank. I've been putting items in there. I realise this will not be going to the Wednesbury Food Bank via church, but I feel I'm contributing to those that are in need, wherever they live.

Have you a positive story about Covid/lockdown to share? Please let me know if you have. Wendy and Father Mark are still working hard with their updates on the church website and Facebook, thank you both.*(If you don't know Fr Mark's email address, please complete the Contact Us form on the website and it will go to him).

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

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

The answers to last month's quiz are below, and the next challenge also follows.

Quiz 48 – level 2.

Questions	Answers
1. What did Laban trick Jacob into doing?	Into marrying the wrong sister
2. What did David do after he had killed Goliath?	Cut off his head
3. What was the name of Moses' wife?	Zipporah
4. Which day did God command should be kept as a holy day?	The Sabbath Day
5. Who annointed Solomon to be king? 	Zadok the Priest
6. Who said "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened?"	The shepherds
7. What is the shortest verse in the bible?	Jesus wept. (John ch. 11 v.35)
 8. What did Jesus say happens if you put new wine into old wineskins?	They burst
9. Who was Simon the Zealot?	One of Jesus's disciples
10. What happened to the man on the road between Jerusalem to Jericho?	He was attacked by robbers

Quiz 48 – level 2.

Questions	Answers
1. What was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 300 cubits high?	
2. Which of the tribes of Israel did Moses belong to?	
3. What do we call the seventh day of the week?	
4. What kind of trees did Amos look after?	
5. What did Balaam do to his donkey when it refused to go any further?	
6. Why did Jesus weep?	
7. What did Joseph of Arimathea ask Pilate for?	
8. Who restored Paul's sight after he was struck with blindness?	
9. Did Lydia sell red or purple cloth?	
10. Who wrote "Love is patient, love and kind: love is not jealous or boastful".	

Take care of yourselves, and others.

