

January 2020

# St. Bartholomew's News

Issue no 27

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG



Welcome to our first edition of 2020. We hope you have all had wonderful Christmas, and our very best wishes to you all for the New Year. God's blessings to you all.

We had a very busy time throughout December. The church has been decorated with lovely Christmas trees, beautiful Christmas floral arrangements, and illuminations. Thank you to all involved in making our church look even more beautiful, and that includes the cleaning too! We hope you attended some or all of our services as it is lovely to see and welcome new (and "old!") visitors. We list below what has happened over the



past few weeks.

Our church has looked beautiful during December with 2 Christmas trees by the altar, the Nativity scene in the Memorial area and a Prayer tree on which people can hang prayers in memory of loved ones they no longer see.



We enjoyed a concert in church on 1st December when 'Voices Entwined' visited us. This is a wonderful community choir led by Louise Blackburn. We were treated to some traditional Christmas music and some not so well known but sung beautifully.

There was a Co-op Memorial Service in church on 11th December which was very well attended.



The Carol Service was well attended on 15th December and it was a lovely service. Thank you to all who attended. Mario sang a solo and it was beautiful.

We were really pleased to be able to host a 'meet and greet' visit to our church on Thursday 19th December, of 5 ladies from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association, Baitul Muqet Mosque, Walsall. Thank you to Lynn Castillo, Mandy Horton, Linda Russell, Linda Stockall, Sue Stokes, Joyce Turner, Claire Yardley, Lynn Yardley and Wendy Bird for representing our church. It was a great opportunity for us to show the ladies from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association our beautiful church. We enjoyed showing them around the church and then shared refreshments and chatted.

*The ladies' community stands for education, integration and inter faith peace. They are also committed to helping others, engaging local communities and working for the common good. The principle to which they adhere is that they have kindness at heart for the whole of mankind. Islam teaches them to always be mindful towards God, who is their Creator and to always keep His memory fresh in their hearts and to deal with His creation with love, affection, harmony and tolerance; something in which we believe, also.*



Please turn over...

A number of us visited Bartholomew Care Home and Parklands during December to sing carols and read passages from the Bible to tell the Christmas story.

During the All Age service in December the Open the Book team put on an early 'alternative' type of Nativity story called 'With love from God to you'. The story started in the beginning with the the first humans, Adam and Eve; then looked ahead to when God sent his son, Jesus. The story was told by 'Planet Earth' (read by Linda) and it was a different way of telling the Christmas story on the first Sunday in Advent. Father Mark was the voice of God (typecasting at its best!).



Christmas Eve afternoon we held a Crib and Christingle service, always a family friendly service, where children participated in the service and held lit Christingles. We all sang in a circle. More details on Facebook and the church website. Christmas mass followed at midnight with services on Christmas Day.

### OPEN THE BOOK

We enjoyed visiting Old Park Primary and St John's C of E Primary Academy over the last term. On Friday 20th December St John's brought the children to church for their Christmas service. The children decorated 2 card trees that they had painted with prayer stars. It was a lovely service.



**CRAFT CLUB** - please note there will **not** be a meeting in January. The first meeting of 2020 will be on 1st February, 2 m to 4 pm, and on the first Saturday each month thereafter.



Mario has made a beautiful lantern which is hanging on the pulpit.

At the time of writing this, no news regarding **Open Table**. Work is continuing, and as soon as this has been completed we will inform you via the Facebook page, this newsletter, and in our church services. We are sure it will be worth the wait! Thank you.

A very big thank you on 24th December to Ian Cadwallader and Richard Pearce for the generous and kind donation of a Christmas lunch package. They also included a Christmas card and some sweets for the children. The package was delivered this afternoon to the family and the mum was overwhelmed by this kindness. Having let Ian know that the family are very grateful, he replied: "We are just so very glad it has gone to someone who deserves it. I hope they are, at least, able to have some sort of normal Christmas after all they have been through." As well as this package, Ian said they had donated food to the Food Bank, also. What a wonderful gesture. Thank you. We hope you both (and the family you have helped) had a very happy Christmas and New Year.



There will not be a Tuesday morning service on Tuesday 31st December.

There will be no Quiet Service in January, It will resume on the first Friday of each month, starting in February.

*My happiness is your smile.  
My sadness is your tears.  
My heart is you. Let's be  
together on this new year.*



Church telephone number– **0121 556 0378**

Church website –<https://www.stbartswednesbury.com> (select Services and Activities for details of 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).