

January 2021

# St. Bartholomew's News

## Issue no. 39

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

*Welcome to our first church newsletter for 2021. We hope that you, your family, and loved ones are well and had a lovely Christmas. HAPPY NEW YEAR !!*



Below lists what was on display in December, (for those who could not visit church). Lots of beautiful photos of each station are on our website.



### **CHRISTMAS NATIVITY TRAIL**

Those people who attended the Nativity Trail on 13th and 20th December and on Christmas Eve enjoyed it. Thank you for supporting us.

**THANK YOU ALSO TO:**

The Children's Ministry co-ordinators and Fr Mark who have kindly helped decorate the church and created the displays for each Station on the trail. The Co-op for kindly donating a Christmas Tree and decorations. Some of the children at St John's C of E Primary Academy for creating some artwork and baubles for the final station called HOPE. (Thank you to the staff for arranging this.)



### **NATIVITY TRAIL SLIDESHOW**

1) The trail started with a welcome from our reindeer.

2) This was followed by 'Light': Light is a recurring theme in the bible. It is mentioned many times. Light is something that keeps us safe. Just a few examples are car headlights, streetlights, a lighthouse!

Light makes us feel safe and keeps us safe. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world!" He also said, "Let your light shine before others." How are you a 'light' to others?

There is an explanation of the meaning of the Christingle.

3) The next station was about music - God created us to be instruments with the ability to sing and make music. Music is an important part of worship and praise to God, so it seems only fitting that bible verses about music can be found throughout scripture. Rejoice in the sound.

4) 'Hometown' - Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. So on our trail there was a display about our town.

5) 'Caring' - like the shepherds who cared for their sheep, our key workers have been caring for us during the pandemic. A display of photos and quotes from a variety of key workers along with knitted and crocheted key worker dolls made by people in the community.

6) At this station, people could light a candle and say a prayer. 'Take a moment to quieten your mind and remove all distractions from around you. Reflect on where you are in life, what you would like to pray for and the promise God has made to you. Ask God to comfort you and speak to you.'

7) Star of Bethlehem (made by Mario Castillo).

8) Crib and trees.

9) Lady Chapel - Mary cared for her son. At this station people could remember their loved ones by writing a message on a star and hang it on the memory tree.

10) 'Hope' - artwork and baubles done by children from St John's C of E Primary Academy.

11) A final message of hope from Councillor Elaine Costigan.

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(The Trail allowed a 'pilgrimage' to be taken around the church. Various stations provided readings, reflections and prayers; candles could be lit at one of the Stations for loved ones you have lost and miss, especially at this time of year. At another Station the name of a loved one who cares/cared for you, like Mary cared for Jesus, have been hung upon a memory tree in the Lady Chapel. There was a music station, too, with music from CDs (no singing can take place inside church). The final station looked at Hope for 2021.)

So we are sadly at the moment, in tier 4. This will present many more problems of isolation, anxiety and no doubt some loneliness. We can only pray and hope the vaccine will soon start to take effect and prove to be our saving grace. Let's continue to be kind to one another, never forgetting **hands, face, space**. It's hard to feel positive under the current regulations and serious increase in Covid cases across the UK, but we can only try to be as careful as possible and pray for a quick solution. We will never take our "normal" lives for granted again.



You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for a communal service so we will continue to have our 9 am and 10 am services each Sunday. Please see Fr Mark's message on the website about services, PPE and reserving your seat. One of the rules under Tier 4 is that people must not mix outside socially apart from one other person, socially distanced, so we advise you go home immediately following the service.

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.

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 on the next page, and the next challenge also follows. I hope they have been of interest.

Whatever your circumstances, I wish you and your family a happy, safe and healthy New Year Let's pray there will be an end to all our Covid problems very soon.



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## Quiz 47 – level 2.

Questions	Answers
1. How long did Jacob work for Laban so that he could marry his daughter Rachel?	Seven years
2. What was the name of Rachel's sister?	Leah
3. What was made of bulrushes daubed with pitch?	The basket Moses was placed in
4. What were the trumpets which the Israelites blew at Jericho made of?	Rams' horns
5. How long was Moses up the mountain getting the 10 commandments?	40 days and 40 nights
	
6. Which book of the bible has the shortest name?	Job
7. Who did Ruth marry?	Boaz
8. Who lived on locusts and wild honey?	John the Baptist
	
9. Who said "What I have written, I have written"?	Pontius Pilate
10. What was the profession of Saul of Tarsus?	A tentmaker

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## Quiz 48 – level 2.

Questions	Answers
1. What did Laban trick Jacob into doing?	
2. What did David do after he had killed Goliath?	
3. What was the name of Moses' wife?	
4. Which day did God command should be kept as a holy day?	
5. Who annointed Solomon to be king? 	
6. Who said "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened?"	
7. What is the shortest verse in the bible?	
 8. What did Jesus say happens if you put new wine into old wineskins?	
9. Who was Simon the Zealot?	
10. What happened to the man on the road between Jerusalem to Jericho?	