

January 2024

St. Bartholomew's News

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Issue no. 75

Hello, and I hope this finds you well.

I hope you had a peaceful and happy and Christmas. Happy New Year! Can you believe it is 2024?

As a church we had a busy month in December, and the events are detailed below.

What a blustery, wet and windy couple of weeks we have had, but we're lucky compared to those whose homes have been flooded or, in some instances, suffered damage by a tornado.

I don't know if you have any plans for the new year, but let us all hope for good health and happiness – we can't put a price on those, can we?

We can only pray for our friends, family and ourselves and let's join together for the strength of this church as we now enter interregnum (period where we do not have a vicar). We have said goodbye to Father Mark but wish him well for the future. We are grateful to Joyce for currently leading our Sunday services at 9 am and 10 am.

Take care, Alison

Our church was beautifully decorated throughout December. Thank you for all those involved with setting everything up on Saturday 2nd December. Small selection of photos below.



Monday 4th December 2023



Thank you to everybody who attended the Carols and Cake event on the 4th and all those who helped on the night with refreshments and the raffle.

Thank you, also, to Suzie's community choir for entertaining us with excellent performances.

Sunday 10th December

Thank you to all who attended our Christingle. It was well attended, and we had a short story/explanation of the Christingle and there were several crafts for the children to try. Mario and Jackie entertained us with music during the afternoon, and accompanied us when we all sang in a circle with our lit candles. Thank you all. Small selection of photographs below.



CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting will be on **Saturday 3rd February 2024 (2-4 pm)**



This wonderful piece was made by Lynne Castillo and is on show in church.

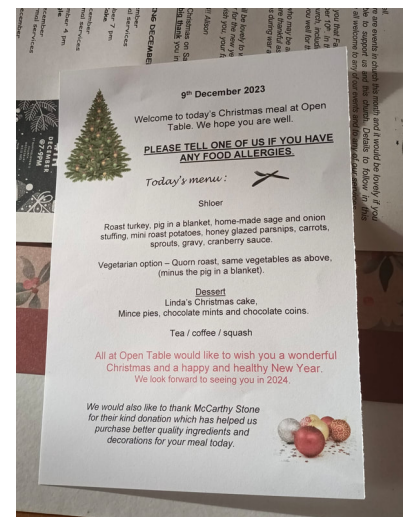
Come along and bring the craft you are working on. See Wendy if you require more information.

OPEN TABLE

The Christmas meal was on Saturday 9th December at 1pm. This was well attended and the hall was beautifully decorated. The tables looked lovely with festive decorations and crackers. We served a traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings for 40 diners and Shloer 'wine', followed by Linda's Christmas cake, warm mince pies and tea and coffee. We are grateful for a donation from McCarthy Stone which allowed us to purchase better quality turkeys and ingredients to make our day a little more special. Each diner left with a small present from Father Christmas, too! Photographs below.

Our next meal will be on **Saturday 10th February 2024 at 1pm.**

We tend to not meet in January as the weather is usually so bad and we do not want diners to risk coming out in dreadful weather, and it would have been too close to Christmas really. We look forward to seeing you in February.



Sunday 24th December 2023

We had a lovely Christmas Eve service which was in 3 parts. Firstly, the Advent section when the 4th candle was lit. This was followed by the Communion service and finally the St Bart's Storytellers performed 'The Noisy Neighbour'. It told the Nativity story about the animals who were in the stable. Marg Wood was a detective mouse with huge ears and wore cheese earrings, as well as a wedge of cheese round her neck. Wendy Bird was the narrator. Mario Castillo was the donkey, Lynn Castillo was a sheep and Linda Russell was the camel. The angel in the story was performed by Linda Stockall. The congregation had parts, too, as they had to do actions when they heard certain words during the story, as well as make the noises of a crying baby and the ee-aw noise of the donkey.



Thanks to those who participated 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.

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.

Don't forget we continue to need donations for the food bank. Tinned or packet foods, personal products, there is a list at the back of church for items needed, or please see Joyce who volunteers there.

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

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