

March 2019

St. Bartholomew's News

Issue no. 18

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

The past couple of weeks have been warm and spring-like. The flowers in the church grounds have poked through and the warmer weather has encouraged them to bloom. What a marvelous sight, and it gives us encouragement that nicer days are to come.

SPECIAL PEAL OF BELLS - 23rd February 2019

A peal was rung at our Church by 10 ringers from the St Martin's Guild in 3 hours 2 minutes on Saturday 23rd February. They rang 5040 changes of Cambridge Surprise Royal in loving memory of Andy Carr, who had been tower captain of Northfield and it was rung on Henry Johnson Dinner Day. You can see further details on the Ringing World BellBoard website.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1273037>



We held a memorial service on Sunday 24th February (see candles and pulpit above). We hold 3 memorials a year, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to attend to remember a loved one who has passed away. We light candles or add flowers to a cross in their memory. Many find comfort from this service. The service consists of verse, readings and hymns. Light refreshments are served after the service giving the opportunity to chat to others in a similar situation. Please see Linda if you would like more information. Our next memorial service will be in the Summer – date to be announced nearer the time.

This month's Open Table will be serving their delicious lunch on Saturday 9th March at 1pm. Please see Joyce or Linda if you can help.

Lent

We are pleased to tell you that there will be a Lent course again, starting in the first week of Lent. The course will take place on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 am in Church (starting on Tuesday 12th March but we will confirm this date over the next few weeks). The cost is £2.99 to cover the cost of the book, called 40 Reflections on the Lord's Prayer. Linda Stockall is willing to do a Thursday evening course at her home if you are not able to attend on Tuesday mornings. Please add your name to the list in church or message us on our Facebook page and Wendy will pass on your name to Linda. (Pancake Day is Tuesday 5th March).

A few words from Wendy....

LOVINGLY CRAFTED

Our next 2 craft club meetings are on 2nd March and 6th April. We meet in the Church Hall at 2 pm until 4 pm. We hope you will join us; bring whatever you're working on and enjoy a couple of hours
Please turn over....

craft and chat. If you want help with anything we have people in the group who might be able to help you. We are hoping to assemble the Church banner soon. We look forward to seeing you. Reminder: our charity focus this year is 'innocent smoothies The Big Knit' and for each smoothie with a hat sold, they will donate 25p to Age UK. Please pass on knitted hats to Lynn, Joyce, Marg or Wendy in Church or at craft club. If you want more information have a look at the website:

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

Remember that our Summer Fayre will be on Saturday 15th June - please put this date in your diary.

OPEN THE BOOK and THE SUNDAY CLUB

Since the last newsletter our Open the Book team has continued to take dramatised stories into St John's Church of England Primary Academy and will also visit Old Park Primary school on 21st March. We hope to have another Sunday Club session some time over the next couple of months. Once Father Mark has returned to Church we will advise you of the next date.

Reminder: our charity focus is 'Pens for Kids', to help children around the world by removing one of the hurdles on their way to an education - the cost of a pen. Please donate any old or new pens, pencils

or crayons. Thank you to those who have already donated items. Please pass on to Wendy Bird, Marg Wood, Lynn Castillo, Linda Russell, Alison O'Neill or Claire Yardley. If you want more information please have a look at their Facebook page or website:

Facebook page: search Pens for Kids UK

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



Photographs of Rt Reverend Clive Gregory Area Bishop of Wolverhampton, and Sue Weller, Archdeacon of Walsall, who conducted recent Sunday services. Thank you to all who helped us over the past few weeks.



Don't forget our box in the coffee area for any non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Toiletries are also needed. All items appreciated. Please see Linda or Joyce if you want suggestions of what you could bring. Thank you.

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 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.)