

March 2026

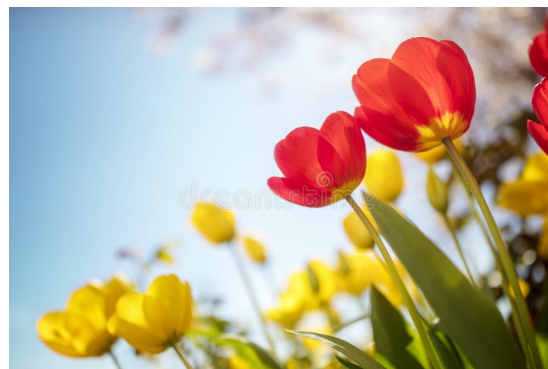
St. Bartholomew's News

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

Issue no. 101

Hello everyone. I hope you are all well.

The nights are getting a little lighter and we can see some daffodils, crocuses and tulips. How encouraging after such a wet and dreary winter. It is officially Spring so let's hope it will be a little warmer too.



At the time of compiling this, the path is 90% completed. So, care still needs to be taken whilst the work is being done. Other improvements are work in progress too, but with better weather this should make things easier for the builders. It will all be worth it in the end to secure a safe, dry and comfortable church for us and future generations.

Our APCM (annual church meeting) will be taking place during the 9.30am service on Sunday 8th March.

Please attend if you can to hear what has been done over the past 12 months, and what our future holds. Church representatives will be elected on the day, and it will also be your opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Our Easter services are shown later in this newsletter. Canon Ben's last service with us will be on Easter Sunday April 5th. We will have temporary cover for the Sunday services until our new vicar, Rev Canon Dr Taiwo starts on Sunday 26th April. We welcome him and very much look forward to his first service with us.

We would all like to thank Canon Ben for a whirlwind 15 months with us. So many changes in church during his time here, (and full details will be discussed during our APCM meeting). The reports will be pinned on the board at the back of church for anyone to look at.

Thank you, Ben, for all your time, dedication, enthusiasm, energy (it's hard to keep up with you!), dynamism, support, ideas, solutions and compassion. I shall repeat this praise for our April newsletter too!

*Rev Taiwo Olumuyiwa who will be licensed here on **Saturday 25th April 2026 at 1pm.** We have invited many in the community and those who will be connected to services in this church, local politicians, hall users, representatives from the Diocese of Lichfield, many others, and of course, our congregation! All welcome.*

Don't forget Mothering Sunday on the 15th March!

Take care everyone, exciting new times ahead.

Alison

CRAFT CLUB.

The next meeting will be on **7th March 2026, 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm, in Wednesbury Library.**
Bring the craft you are working on, all welcome.
Please contact Wendy or Lynn if you are interested or require more information.

Our APCM meeting will be on **8th March 2026** (during the 9.30am service). This is our annual church meeting where we discuss the past year, where we are currently, and elect official church members. If you are **not** on our electoral roll, please complete a form (they will be at the rear of church), or see Alison. It is your opportunity to vote in the meeting and ask any questions regarding St. Bartholomew's.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

Peaceful Reflection
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Finding God in Quiet Moments
Embrace His Peace Today

JOIN US FOR QUIET MEDITATION AND REFLECTION
(QUIET MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED)

EVERY TUESDAY 5 pm to 7 pm

St Bartholomew's Church

BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS | 5.30-6.00 pm

St Bartholomew's Church, Church Hill
Wednesbury, WS10 9DG

Alpha Course

An opportunity to explore life's big questions and Christian beliefs. Discuss the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed, open, and friendly environment.

Tuesday 6-7 pm until Easter

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Starts on 20th January

Coffee, tea and cake afternoon

Monday 2 pm to 4 pm

St Bartholomew's Hall
Church Hill, Wednesbury, WS10 9DF

St Bartholomew's Hall
Church Hill, Wednesbury, WS10 9DF

St Bartholomew's Church



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO RING THE CHURCH BELLS?

There is a comprehensive list of events in Wednesbury Library on our website. Thank you for sharing this information, Wendy. If you cannot access our website and are interested in what the library has to offer, ask me and I will print the details for you.



Fridays 7.30 pm

Contact Gordon
07811 943036



Services for Holy Week

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey as the crowd welcomed him with "Hosanna!"

Palm Sunday 29th March	St Bartholomew's	8:30am
	St Bartholomew's	9:30am
	St Luke's	11:00am

Jesus had Passover with the disciples and gave new meaning to the meal.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April	St Luke's	7:30pm
	<i>Joint Service</i>	

Jesus carried his cross to the Place of the Skull, was crucified and laid in a tomb.

Good Friday 3rd April	St Bartholomew's	7:30pm
	<i>Joint Service</i>	

The rock at the tomb's entrance was rolled back. An angel told the women **Jesus was alive!**

Easter Sunday 5th April	St Bartholomew's	8:30am
	St Bartholomew's	9:30am
	St Luke's	11:00am

COME & JOIN US!

WHEN:
 SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 10AM - 2PM
 SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 10 AM - 2PM

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
 CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
 WITH BOSTIN' ARTS

ARTISAN BROWNIES,
 HOMEMADE CAKES AND BAKES,
 AND CRAFTS FOR SALE

LIVE MUSIC BY HEAD
 RUSH BRASS BAND

WHERE: MARKET
 PLACE
 WEDNESBURY
 (MARKET STALLS
 BY THE CLOCK
 TOWER)

ALL WELCOME!

West Midlands Combined Authority Sandwell

Don't forget the Food Bank box at the rear of church. Food is needed by many who struggle whatever time of the year it is. Dried or packet goods, tinned products, shower gel, soap, deodorant, feminine care. Please see Joyce if you require more information, and there is also a list in the box. Thank you.

FREE Easter Half term fun at IKEA Wednesbury

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Monday 30th March

Bunny Plates (10-12pm)
Meet the Easter Bunny (Slots between 2-3:45pm)

Tuesday 31st March

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)*
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)

Wednesday 1st April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)*
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)
Egg-stra Cute Facepainting (11-4pm)

Thursday 2nd April

Paper Easter Baskets (10-12pm & 1-3pm)
Brain Teaser Quiz Night (7-9pm)*

Friday 3rd April

Bunny Plates (10-12pm)
Meet the Easter Bunny (Slots between 2-3:45pm)

Monday 6th April

Little Bloomers Garden (10-12pm)
Tote-ally Spring Bags (2-4pm)*

Tuesday 7th April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)*
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)

Wednesday 8th April

Easter Bunny Breakfast (9:30-11:30am)*
Easter Biscuit Bonanza (11-3pm)
Egg-stra Cute Facepainting (11-4pm)

Thursday 9th April

Pot It Like It's Spring (10-12pm & 1-3pm)*
BILLY & BINGO 7-9pm*

Friday 10th April

Tote-ally Spring Bags 2-4pm*
Little Bloomers Garden 10-12pm



Scan your **IKEA Family** card when you pay and collect points on today's purchase.

Sandwell Council Information –

(Requests for survey responses or more details, will require access to PC/iPad/online tech)



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at Sandwell Valley with Live Music 🍰

📅 **Sunday 15 March 2026**

Join us at the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre on Sunday 15 March, for a delightful Mother's Day Afternoon Tea featuring live music by Judy D. Treat your mother or a loved one to a special afternoon tea with a complimentary glass of prosecco OR elderflower.

Our selection includes a variety of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, a trio of cakes, and more.

❤️ [Book your tickets on line for a special afternoon](#)

The new arrivals just keep on coming at Forge Mill Farm! 🐑

Don't forget to join us this Lambing Season with more chances than ever before to:

- Meet the lambs and expectant mums
- Have a go at the lambing simulator
- Spot the signs of lambing
- Maybe even see a live birth plus all the usual fun on the farm and our indoor natural play barn!



📍 **Forge Mill Farm, Forge Lane, B71 3SZ**

🕒 **Open 10am to 4.30pm, last entry 3.30pm [Lambing Season at Forge Mill Farm](#) – Every day until 8 March**

Get your tickets on the door or [book them online](#).

Don't forget, the farm trail is resting for the winter, all the animals are still on the farm, just keeping dry inside of the barns.

Britannia Park Open Day 🎉

📅 **Sunday 8 March** | 🕒 **11am to 3pm** | 🎟 **Free family fun!**

We're inviting the community to explore Britannia Park's fantastic new upgrades. This celebration is the perfect chance to bring along your family, friends and neighbours and discover everything that has been transformed, supported by UK Government funding as part of the Rowley Regis Towns Fund Programme.

On the day, we will have a guided walking tour from 2pm to 2.45pm, where you'll get a closer look at the park's refreshed features, including brand-new changing rooms, an expanded car park and the beautifully refurbished Sons of Rest Community Centre.

As you make your way around the park, you'll find even more exciting improvements such as refurbished tennis courts, a revamped multi-use games area, a completely reconstructed skate park and brand-new play equipment and fitness equipment for all ages. There are even 15 new allotment plots, including raised beds, ready for the community to grow and garden together.

This open day will feature a range of free activities and entertainment. Families can enjoy a small children's fair, get active on the climbing wall, jump aboard the Youth Bus, or take part in tennis coaching sessions led by friendly instructors. You'll also find a variety of Sandwell service teams on hand, sharing information, advice and activities throughout the day.

Inside the refurbished Sons of Rest Community Centre, you can take a break with refreshments and browse a craft showcase.

🎊 With so much to see, do and enjoy, this is the perfect moment to rediscover Britannia Park and celebrate a vibrant new chapter for this much-loved local space.

Help your child be body positive and to eat healthily 🍎

We're sharing advice and guidance for parents and carers on how to help their children build self-esteem and embrace a positive body image.

Every body is great. Let's teach our children that differences are beautiful and every body is uniquely perfect just the way it is.

The best way to talk about bodies is to discuss what they can do rather than what they look like – including our senses, how our body works and how it allows us to do lots of brilliant things that we enjoy.

Doing this early and often can help to develop children's self-worth beyond their appearance and reduce the risk of them developing body image concerns as they grow up. Start the conversation early.

 [Information, advice and support are available from Healthy Sandwell.](#)



Choices
Making family memories!
For families in Sandwell with children aged 5 - 12.

Physical Activity

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Food and Nutrition

Growing Your Own

Quality fun family time together whilst discovering new activities.

Bring your family together and book onto one of our activities using the website or QR code:

Choices_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk
www.bookwhen.com/choices
0121 569 5100

 Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

 HEALTH SANDWELL
We find the support you need

St. Bartholomew's Contact details:

Our regular services are each Sunday, at 8.30am a short reflective service and at 9.30am a modern family Eucharist with hymns and music followed by tea and coffee.

<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury/> (use the message facility) or

<https://www.stbartswednesbury.com> (go to the Contact us page) If you do not have access to the internet, please call in to church on one of the Sunday services.

Weddings and baptisms – if you wish to arrange one of these, or have a general enquiry, please call in to church (or hall whilst work on path is not finished) on a Thursday evening 5.30-6.30pm.

If you would like to go on to the reading or prayers rota, or help serve tea and coffee after the 9.30am service, please contact Wendy or Alison. Thank you.

In our current troubled times of war and violence, I thought this was an appropriate prayer –

Prayer for Peace

Compassionate Creator,
We lift our voices for those caught in the storms of war.
Wrap the frightened in Your shelter, guide the weary toward safe ground,
and breathe courage into hearts weighed down by fear.
Soften the hands that wield weapons, open the eyes of leaders to the cost of conflict,
and plant seeds of mercy where hatred has taken root.
Let peace rise like the dawn—
steady, unstoppable, and full of light—
until swords are laid down and every soul can rest without fear.
Amen.

