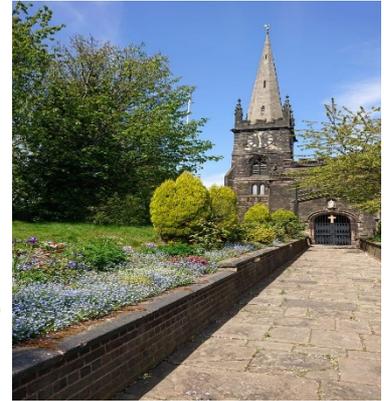


May 2020

St. Bartholomew's News

Issue no. 31

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH IS CURRENTLY CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Welcome to May's edition of our newsletter. We hope and pray this finds you and your loved ones well. We hope you had a peaceful Easter, albeit a different one. We pray for those who are ill, anxious, and those who care for us. We pray for God's help in supporting those who work tirelessly towards an end to this virus. As difficult as all this is, it's for a very good reason staying at home is the best thing we can all do right now. A lot of amazing people, from doctors and nurses of the NHS, delivery drivers, to supermarket staff, are working incredibly hard keeping the country running. This newsletter was compiled at the end of April, and was accurate when completed, but as you are all aware, things change quickly, and daily.

Sadly, at the time of compiling this, the country is still in lockdown. Consequently, as our church is closed to "usual" services, this newsletter will be rather limited. There will be no Craft Club or Open Table for the foreseeable future. We will try to give you advance notification when these groups recommence. The Food Bank has been working and helping those in need at such difficult times – thank you to all concerned with keeping that service going.

Father Mark and Wendy have been doing a wonderful job of providing regular prayers, services, guidance and information via Facebook and the church website. Wendy has been posting information from Father Mark daily. For those who can access this information, go to the Daily Readings page each day. Also, Father Mark is sending daily prayers and you can find those on the Prayers page. Thank you for all your hard work and time.

However I am aware that not everyone has access to some technology so this newsletter will be adapted to just let you know that we are all thinking and praying for our congregation, your family and loved ones, and you have not been forgotten. Please remember to maintain contact with those who may be lonely, struggling, and need help. There is no better time than now to be neighbourly, kind and thinking of others, within health guidelines of course. I hope this newsletter enlightens you a little in the fact that I have tried to include positive items and snippets. All we can do is try to keep our spirits up and those of people around us until we get through this.

Everyone has been following Captain Thomas Moore and we all admire his wonderful achievement walking 100 lengths at his care home. The amount raised, (last count 29 million pounds) for the NHS is the perfect example of his stoicism, British determination, the kindness and generosity of people, and his sheer hard work.

There have been many other acts of kindness, from all people, races, ages and backgrounds. As awful as this situation is, there is hope and compassion in so many places. Those with faith have prayed, and no doubt that has helped give hope and peace of mind.

Whilst not a local story, Bocketts Farm in Leatherhead, Surrey showed their appreciation for the NHS on Thursday by changing the spray paint markings on sheep and newborn lambs to rainbows. This made me smile!

Please turn over....





The Express and Star newspaper has been running an art competition.

Have your little ones been creating rainbows? Send your pictures to digital@expressandstar.co.uk - and let them know the children's names and details. If you are interested, just double check as I'm not sure when the competition closes.

We are pleased to hear that Glyn Costigan, (who is married to local Councillor Elaine Costigan), has recovered from Corona. He was kept in our prayers and how wonderful to

hear he is on the road to recovery. Other success stories of patients surviving Corona are so enlightening and encouraging.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Only providing everything has been approved, the health of the Nation has recovered and all is good, please make a note in your diary for **Saturday 4th July** when we may be entertained by one of the finest brass bands in the Midlands. Tickets will be available from Rob Yardley. We hope you will be able to join us providing all is okay.



WHEN RESUMED, OUR REGULAR SERVICES WILL BE:

Sunday 8.00am – Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 10.30am – Parish Eucharist (including hymns).

Tuesday 10.00am – Communion – short service.

First Sunday of each month at 10.30am – All Age Service, all age family service including uniformed organisations. Open The Book Team also perform.

First Friday each month – 6.00pm Quiet Hour, reflective prayer and meditation.

Memorial Services – Sundays 6.00pm - 3 times a year, announced few weeks before each service. Please contact Father Mark or a church warden if you have any queries regarding our services.

POSTS ON FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE. Each week Wendy posts the Weekly Prayers and Weekly Notices on Facebook and the relevant website pages. Please let Father Mark know if you wish to add or remove a name from that list.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/StBartsWednesbury/posts/?ref=page_internal or <https://www.stbartswednesbury.com>



MAY YOU ALL STAY SAFE, TAKE CARE, BE KIND, AND PRAY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING UP AGAIN IN CHURCH.

