

May 2021

# St. Bartholomew's News

## Issue no. 43

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

*Welcome to our church newsletter for May. We hope that you, your family, and loved ones are well.*



Our services have been running for the past few weeks, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> April Mario sang from the chancel (a good distance away for the congregation who attended), which was lovely to hear. Thank you Mario. Although we were wearing masks, sanitising and social distancing in church, it was a little more of “back to how things were”. Now the vaccine is being circulated to so many, there is a feeling of hope and more confidence. I hope all is well in our church family.

Apart from the devastating effect Covid has had on families, losing loved ones, on-going long term health issues, furlough, loss of trade for businesses, etc, there has also been an increase in scams, most of these being on-line. Please be extra careful and wary of anything unexpected and unknown. The adage of if “it sounds too good to be true”, it **IS** too good to be true, **IT IS A SCAM**. It is despicable that fraud is being carried out at this stressful time for all. Here are the top 5 steps from Age UK to reduce the risk of being scammed:

1. **STOP**. Never do anything you don't want to or make any decisions of the spot.
2. **CHECK**. Always check their credentials.
3. **ASK**. Always ask someone you trust for a second opinion.
4. **MINE**. Do not give away personal information.
5. **SHARE**. Share your experience with others to lower their risk of being scammed.

If you have any doubt whatsoever, ask for a delay/postpone any decision and any genuine company will always wait for you to check with someone you trust before anything is final. It's good to keep an eye on anyone you know who could be vulnerable.

On a happier note, we have had a lovely few days of beautiful sunny weather, which always encourages. A nice walk in the park, mixing safely with friends and family, has been wonderful. I recently met up with a friend at Walsall Arboretum, (what a beautiful large park that is). There are so many beautiful spaces almost on our doorstep that we tend to ignore. I recommend the arboretum, it was such a pretty place, and you can even have a coffee (outside) when you take in the surroundings.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) have concluded from a recent study that gardening more frequently is linked to “improvements in wellbeing, perceived stress and physical activity”. They say that when gardening, our brains are pleasantly distracted by nature around us, reducing our stress levels. Fresh air and light, controlled exercise can produce a positive feeling of wellbeing. Whilst not everyone has a garden, tending for indoor plants can also have a similar effect. This leads me on to .....



Now the weather is warmer, do any of you have any spare time to help with a tidy up of the church garden/borders/path? I will be doing a little on my patch, but as the saying goes, “every little helps”. Any help will be much appreciated. Weeding especially is the main concern, thank you.

*Just as an update:*

We are having two services each Sunday, the first at 9 am followed by a second at 10 am. If you have previously attended either of these services, then your seat will automatically be kept for you. If you haven't attended before, then please contact Fr Mark - use the form on the Contact Us page (the vicarage telephone number is on that page also).

**PLEASE NOTE** that if you or anyone that you have been in contact with have displayed any symptoms then **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH.**

We shall maintain our Covid-safe environment for some time with sanitising, social distancing and face masks being compulsory.

### **CRAFT CLUB REQUEST :**

The craft club would be grateful for help in making any or all of the following please:

(1) FLOWERS to decorate the porch and the walls leading up to the church. **This is our first project but if you can help with the following also, we would be delighted.**

(2) POPPIES to decorate the gate and porch of the church in November.

(3) SMALL ANGELS and CHRISTMAS ITEMS (e.g. holly, mini Christmas trees, nativity figures, etc) in readiness for Christmas 2021.

Please have a look at the Craft Club [page](#) (using this link) for more information and links to websites for free patterns. If you can help, please let us know if you wish us to collect them by messaging Wendy on Messenger ([m.me/StBartsWednesbury](https://m.me/StBartsWednesbury)). Thank you.

**THANK YOU** - to Mario and Lynn Castillo for making this HOPE display for church. It's beautiful and is such a wonderful message to see as you enter church. The wording across the letters says: faith grace prayer truth forgiveness thankfulness generosity caring listening sharing harmony friendship kindness love peace.

Some weeks ago an act of kindness in the form of a message and flower was placed on the gate by the steps. Unfortunately, somebody had removed it just over a week ago. Thank you to Sarah Huburn from Random Acts of Kindness Wednesbury for placing another message with several knitted/crocheted flowers. It was lovely to see. It is now on the porch gate so that people will notice it as they enter church.



At the time of compiling this newsletter, we still do not have any news regarding **Open Table**. This sort of group meeting is still too risky to recommence, but watch this space in case we can (hopefully) resume this in the future. If there is anything to report we will advise you in this newsletter and on the church website.

### **OPEN THE BOOK:**

We hope teachers and students will remain safe during these still uncertain times and we will be thinking about them when all students return to school after the Easter holiday.

Our own Open the Book team has not been able to visit local primary schools to go into assemblies and deliver stories from the Bible, due to Covid-19 restrictions, since the start of the first lockdown in 2020. (Many schools are not having whole school assemblies or receiving visitors, anyway.) **Please pray for our team** (Margaret Wood, Linda Russell, Lynn and Mario Castillo, Claire Yardley, Amanda Horton and Wendy Bird and occasional guest appearances from Rob Yardley). They hope to be able to visit the schools later this year.

**Used stamps wanted:** Did you know the Bible Society can raise money from used stamps? Please send your used stamps to **Bible Society, Stamp Appeal, Post Room, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG.**

**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 below, and a wordsearch follows for a little change of challenge.

## **Quiz 51 – level 2.**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
1. Why did God save Noah and his family from the flood? 	Because Noah was a righteous man.
2. What did Balaam's donkey see that made it refuse to move?	An angel with a sword.
3. What kind of herbs did the Israelites use to daub the lamb's blood on their houses?	Hyssop
4. Who tore a lion apart with his bare hands?	Samson
5. How did David soothe Saul's bad moods?	He played music to him on a harp
6. What did Boaz allow Ruth to do?	Glean barley and wheat in his fields.
7. Who gave Jesus the loaves and fishes to feed the five thousand?	A young boy
8. Who said to Jesus "If you had been here my brother would not have died?"	Martha about Lazarus
9. What did Simon of Cyrene do for Jesus?	Helped him carry his cross
10. Who said "You are the Christ"? 	Pontius Pilate

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C	D	S	T	A	B	L	E	G	H	T	S	O	T	E
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ANGEL  
 BELIEF  
 BETHLEHEM  
 CARPENTER  
 CHRIST  
 DOVE  
 FAITH  
 FATHER  
 GABRIEL  
 GOD  
 JERUSALEM  
 JESUS  
 JOHN THE BAPTIST  
 JORDAN  
 JOSEPH  
 KING  
 LORD  
 LOVE  
 MARY  
 NAZARETH  
 PASSOVER  
 SAVIOUR  
 SHEPHERD  
 SPIRIT  
 STABLE  
 TEMPLE  
 TRUTH

WORDSEARCH – JESUS’S EARLY LIFE