

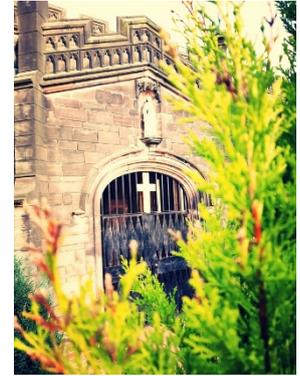
September 2020

# St. Bartholomew's News

Issue no. 35

Church Hill, Wednesbury. WS10 9DG.

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



## **ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH IS CURRENTLY CLOSED, However.....**

Services are currently being held in the church hall at 9.00am and 10.00am. Please see note from Father Mark below. I've also included a photograph taken during one of the church hall services so you can see what it looks like. At the 10am service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, Father Mark discussed the fact that when we return to services in church, it would be a good idea to encourage others who would not normally attend, to come to church as they may find help and solace. Many people have struggled during Covid, (and still are struggling). It has been a lonely, anxious, distressing and difficult time for many. Perhaps our church fellowship may help them to feel encouraged and be strengthened. Consider who you think may be helped by our Christian family.

Alternatively, would you like to share a positive story about Covid/lockdown? I could keep it anonymous if you wanted privacy – please let me know and I can include it in one of the newsletters. It can be about kindness, humour, faith, motivation, hope, anything that may raise a smile and encourage us.

Wendy and Father Mark are still working hard with their updates on the church website and Facebook, thank you both.

### **UPDATE ABOUT SERVICES FROM FR MARK**

Dear All,

I hope that this finds you and your loved ones all well.

Please find attached file of a folded leaflet which you can download and print (*you can download the leaflet from the home page of the website [www.stbartwednesbury.com](http://www.stbartwednesbury.com)*), that I hope clarifies how services will be held until further notice.

As I have noted, almost every aspect of our lives has changed over the last few months and church is no different. To help with keeping us safe for the moment, the first big change is that **we shall gather in the church hall**. The layout of the hall with separate entrance and exit points along with the ease of cleaning it, make this the best place for us to begin whilst we meet government health requirements.

In order to maintain social distancing, however, it is only possible to have 12 in attendance at each service.

Therefore, **it is vital that you pre-book your seat**. Please do not attend if you have not done this as standing in the hall will not be allowed. If we are not able to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend on a Sunday then please let me know if you would prefer to attend a midweek evening service and if this is necessary I shall conduct a service on a Wednesday evening.

Everything that has been done and will be done is for the health and safety of everyone who gathers for worship and although this is not the worship that we have grown accustomed to, what is important is the receiving of the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Through following guidelines and recommendations, we shall be able to do this once again, both reverently and safely. Following recent guidance, please wear a face mask or visor when you enter the church hall.

Finally, can I ask you to please email me ([markjdanks@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:markjdanks@yahoo.co.uk)) regarding which service you wish to attend each week, ie the 9am or 10am service. As stated above, **please ensure that you have pre-booked your seat prior to arriving.**



With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Mark.

Cont.....

Life is a little easier, but we all still need to be vigilant. Let us pray for children, teachers and school staff returning to school this week. Children can be very resilient, but it's been a long time for the majority of children to have been away from their friends, and the routine of school life. Let's hope all goes well for them and they can soon adapt to school life, albeit a restrained one. At the time of compiling this, there were discussions about universities and their concerns about students starting their studying. After the many disappointments, anxieties and concerns over the exam results, I hope the more mature students can find some compromise and calm.

The 24<sup>th</sup> August was **St. Bartholomew's Day**. The Church of England and other Anglican churches honour our patron saint, St. Bartholomew, on this day.

*Information from Wendy* - Bartholomew ('God has given') was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. He has been identified as Nathanael or Nathaniel who appears in the Gospel of John when introduced to Jesus by Philip (who also became an apostle). Saint Bartholomew was a missionary who lived in the first century AD. He is credited with many miracles related to the weight of objects.

When told about Jesus of Nazareth, Nathanael was quoted as responding "What good can come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46) Since there are no throw-away phrases in the Gospels, especially in John's Gospel, what could this mean? Was it just that Nazareth was a rural, backwater sort of place? He looked down on Nazareth, but he was shocked that a saviour could come out of such a place. There was no deceit in him and he followed his God, doing the best he could for his Lord.

We meet prejudices all the time. Wendy saw a quote recently that said "Those people who have told you to your face that nothing good can come out of you, or family and friends who have looked down on you, will be amazed by what God will do in your life. Focus on improving your life, cut out negative people from your life and don't lose hope in God." Such a powerful message to us all. Don't be put down by people who mock you because of your Christian faith or because of your ethnicity, accent, shape, sexuality or your choice of career, music, books etc.

One tradition has it that Apostle Bartholomew was executed in Albanopolis in Armenia. According to popular hagiography (biography or anthology), the apostle was flayed alive (skinned alive) and beheaded. He is said to have been martyred for having converted Polymius, the king of Armenia, to Christianity.

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The answers to last month's quiz are at the end of this newsletter, and the next challenge also follows. I hope they have been of interest.

Here are some sites we have been mentioning in our previous newsletters just in case you would like to look at any of them:

We advise you to follow the 'Pray as you Go' website daily, for each day's short service. <https://pray-as-you-go.org>. Please advise us if any names need to be removed/added to our prayer list.

Most days during lockdown Fr Mark has sent a reflection for Wendy to post on Facebook. No news yet regarding the Craft Club or Open table. We will advise when we have any more updates.

**POSTS ON FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE.** Each week Wendy posts the daily and weekly Prayers, Bible passages and Notices on Facebook and the relevant website pages. Contact : **Tel:0121 556 0378**.  
<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsWednesbury/> 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 IN THE FUTURE.**

## Quiz 43 – level 2.

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
1. What kind of animals did Jacob look after for his uncle Laban?	Sheep 
2. Who went to live in the land of Nod?	Cain
3. How did God test Abraham's faith?	He asked him to sacrifice his son.
4. Who said "It is my son's robe, a wild beast has devoured him"?	Jacob, father of Joseph
5. What happened to the manna when the people tried to keep it for more than one day?	It became foul
6. Jael killed Sisera by hammering a tent peg into his forehead – true or false?	True
7. What did the Philistines do to Samson when they captured him?	Gouges out his eyes
8. What did Jesus do at the wedding in Cana?	Turn water into wine
 9. What is a synagogue?	A Jewish place of worship
10. When did Jesus say "Do this in remembrance of me?"	The Last Supper

## Quiz 44 – level 2.

Questions	Answers
1. How many books make up the part of the Bible called the Pentateuch?	
2. Who said “Here comes the dreamer. Let us now kill him”?	
3. Which king went to see a witch?	
4. Who was the fastest chariot driver in the Bible?	
5. Where did Jonah go instead of following God’s instructions to go to Ninevah?	
6. What did the Jews do beside the rivers of Babylon?	
7. What is celebrated at the Feast of Pentecost?	
8. When did the Holy Spirit come to the disciples in the form of tongues of fire?	
9. What did Dorcas do to help people?	
10. What type of animal came out of the fire and bit Paul?	