

Supporting St Bartholomew's – do please ask for our yellow Gift Aid envelopes if you would like to make a financial donation to St Bart's and can Gift Aid your gift. Otherwise a donations plate is by the door at every service. If you would like to find out how to support St Bartholomew's on a regular basis, then please go to our website here [Support \(stbartholomews-wb.com\)](http://Support(stbartholomews-wb.com)) for more information, or phone the Parish Office on 01793 853272. And thank you!

Please Pray for the Church in Sudan and South Sudan

Pray for Christians throughout Sudan as they approach Christmas in such difficult circumstances. Pray that we and they may still hear in our many languages the words of the angel, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The readings and psalms set for **Morning Prayer this week** – for those who would like to join with us at home:

Monday: Psalm 46; Malachi 1.1, 6-end; Matthew 19.1-12

Tuesday: Psalm 121; Malachi 2.1-16; Matthew 19.13-15

Wednesday: Psalm 124; Malachi 2.17-3.12; Matthew 19.16-end

Thursday: Psalm 130; Malachi 3.13-end of 4; Matthew 23.1-12

Friday: Psalm 45; Nahum 1; Matthew 23.13-28

Saturday: Psalm 110; Isaiah 62.1-5; Matthew 1.18-25

Sunday: Psalm 13; Jeremiah 26.12-15; Acts 6

Find out what we are up to at:

Website: www.stbartholomews-wb.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StBartholomewsChurchRWB

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2mwesD4RZxknsWth-Qb0vg>

Keep in touch, or let us know if any help is needed at:

Telephone: 01793 853272

Email: churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com

Join our email list for updates and information:

Email: churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com

We seek to grow through prayer and share Christ's love through engagement with all.

Weekly News

19th December 2021



Christmas Week Services of Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve at 11:30 pm

Christmas Day at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Sunday 26th at 10:00 am

The following services are fully booked

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday 19th December at 6pm

Christingles on 23rd and 24th December at 3pm & 5pm

Apologies that we had to restrict attendance, however

Carols by Candlelight & Christingle at 3pm on the 24th

will be livestreamed and then available via our You Tube channel

Christmas 2021 Toy & Gift Collection - a very big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to this year's collection. Bags and bags of gifts, plus gift vouchers and over £370 were gratefully received by the Children's Centre here in RWB - wonderful!

RWB Local Youth Network run a uniform initiative which provides free pre-loved uniform for all schools within Royal Wootton Bassett. Once again offers of help to mend, wash and iron donated uniform items are being sought. If you can help, and are happy for your name and contact details to be passed on to the organisers please contact the Vicar – and thank you.

Saturday 4 December - The Advent Encounter - Bible Society Follow the link to see our local *Open the Book* team perform **Just Hoping**, part of the Bible Society's Advent Encounter 2021. And should you wish to subscribe to this you will receive a themed email every day for the remainder of Advent containing a video, challenges to make and do, a prayer, some suggested Bible verses to read and questions to consider. Enjoy!

At the heart of Christmas: the national church has produced a series of 12 stories and meditations for Christmas, starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily until the Epiphany on 6th January. If you haven't been able to pick up a copy of the booklet from church, and would like one, please contact the Parish Office. Or you can find more information about how to access these digitally at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/advent-and-christmas-2021-resources-heart-christmas>

Sunday 19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING: *Micah 5.2-5a*

The LORD says to his people:
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING: *Hebrews 10.5-10*

When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 1.39-45-55*

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'