

Our **Daily Bread**: these Bible study booklets for the next few months are now available. Please call the Parish Office on 01793 853272 if you would like a copy delivered.

Prayers for the Church in Sudan and South Sudan: pray for The Sudanese Government, for health officials and medical staff as Covid 19 cases rise and there are reports of shortage of oxygen and other medical supplies. Pray for sufferers who are not able to access treatment, through poverty or distance from medical facilities.

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

Monday: Psalms 145; Deuteronomy 16:1-20; 1 Peter 1:1-12

Tuesday: Psalm 19; Deuteronomy 17:8-end; 1 Peter 1:13-end

Wednesday: Psalm 30; Deuteronomy 18:9-end; 1 Peter 2:1-10

Thursday: Psalm 57; Deuteronomy 19; 1 Peter 2:11-end

Friday: Psalm 138; Deuteronomy 21:22 – 22:8; 1 Peter 3:1-12

Saturday: Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 24:5-end; 1 Peter 3:13-end

Sunday: Psalm 104:26-32; Ezekiel 47:1-12; John 21:1-19

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>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-173253054>

Instagram: @st_barts_rwb

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 **2nd May 2021**



Is God calling you to support our children and young people ...

Is God calling you to support the children and young people of this parish? As a church community the answer is of course 'Yes!' but I want you to consider whether this is something you might also directly and personally support.

St. Bartholomew & All Saints Church is embarking on an exciting project alongside the diocese to create a Community Hub. This will be an intentional partnership with local schools and other organisations and groups to facilitate the spiritual development, wellbeing and mental health, and the flourishing of young people in our community.

Please pray about this project and for the young people of our town, and if you feel that God is calling you to be involved in some way, or if you have any questions, then please do speak to myself (Ollie) or Jane. Thank you.

Exploring our faith – continuing the conversation ...

Following on from our uplifting twelve weeks of Zoom-based meetings discussing some of the big issues in Christianity, we have been reflecting on how this might go forward. If people want to continue with these get-togethers, then there are a few alternatives. We could carry on in the existing format and deal with new issues that we have not discussed so far. We could be a bit more formal and have one person introduce an issue (maybe even an outside speaker) and then discuss what has been shared. We could occasionally try and arrange (maybe alongside other churches) a more well-known Christian speaker to address us. Or people might prefer this time round a more-straightforward Bible study? We could do a combination of things or do something quite different - any ideas are welcome. It might be best to think initially about fortnightly meetings and, when we are one day permitted, it could be in person rather than by Zoom. Anyway, before making any decisions about how to go forward, it would be very helpful to hear your views and feelings about this. What do you think would be best? And if you could let Jane the Vicar know your thoughts that would be great – thank you!

Sunday 2nd May 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

COLLECT

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 8.26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4.7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

GOSPEL READING: John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'