

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

News from Sudan tells of continuing protests against the military coup, of military violence in confronting groups of protestors, and many casualties, including journalists. Pray for an end to violence and for victims and their families of whatever faith. Please check reliable news sources for up to date information and pray that the recent re-instatement of Prime Minister Hamdok is a real move towards resolving the situation.

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

- Monday: Psalm 44; Isaiah 30.1-18; Matthew 14.1-12
- Tuesday: Psalm 56; Isaiah 30.19-end; Matthew 14.13-end
- Wednesday: Psalm 62; Isaiah 31; Matthew 15.1-20
- Thursday: Psalm 54; Isaiah 32; Matthew 15.21-28
- Friday: Psalm 86; Isaiah 33.1-22; Matthew 15.29-end
- Saturday: Psalm 145; Isaiah 35; Matthew 16.1-12
- Sunday: Psalm 12; Isaiah 25.1-9; I Corinthians 4.1-5

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

5th December 2021



Services of Holy Communion
Wednesdays at 10:30 am & Sundays at 10:00 am
Sunday 5th December at 8:00 am

Carols by Candlelight & Christingles: We are very pleased to be holding these services, but due to current restrictions, **attendance will be by booking only.**

Please book by calling the Parish Office at the following times:

- Tuesday 14th Dec: 3-6pm
- Wednesday 15th Dec: 10am-1pm
- Thursday 16th Dec: 3-6pm
- Saturday 18th Dec: 10am-1pm

We do hope you understand the need for this arrangement, as we do our best to keep everyone safe.

Carols by Candlelight - Sunday 19th December at 6pm



Christingle Services

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th December at 3pm & 5pm on both days.

Brighter Futures Winter Shoebox Appeal for Great Western Hospital – Janet Gilder (01793 852861) would be delighted to receive your filled and decorated shoeboxes for those staying in hospital over Christmas. Items suggested are Christmas card, chocolates and sweets, fluffy socks, hats/gloves and scarves, toiletries, pens and writing pad, puzzle books and small games. More information can be found here – and thank you!
<https://www.brighterfuturesgwh.nhs.uk/events/winter-shoebox-appeal/>

Calling all those new to St Bart's – do please come and join Jane the vicar for a cup of coffee/tea in the Croft after our 10am service on **Sunday 19th December**, if your Christmas preparations allow! We're planning to re-introduce our post-service refreshments in the New Year. Until then, and as long as no new COVID restrictions are introduced, it would be great to say a proper hello and welcome you to St Bart's.

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Sunday 5th December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for
ever.

FIRST READING: *Malachi 3.1-4*

Thus says the Lord God: I See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING: *Philippians 1.3-11*

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 3.1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."