

# ST BART' NEWS – DOUBLE ISSUE

## SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AND 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and Sunday after Christmas

#### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) <b>No 10am service today</b>
	4.00pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (preceded by carols at 11.10pm)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December		<b>No 10am service today</b>
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.00am	Holy Communion

#### DIARY DATES

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
	8.00pm	Advent Course 4 – on Zoom (details below)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm	Wedding of Gareth Hunt and Catriona Leigh
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	7.45pm	Bell Practice
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00pm	Choir Practice

## NOTICEBOARD

#### SERVICES IN CHURCH

Our **10.00am Sunday service** continues to be livestreamed as well as being in person. Access it via our YouTube channel [StBarts Otford](#) or [church website](#).

#### \*\*\*SERVICE CHANGE\*\*\*

Please note there will be **no 10am service on Christmas Eve**. There will still be three other services: 8am Holy Communion, 4.00pm Crib Service and 11.30pm Midnight Communion. Please join us for any of these.

#### HOLY COMMUNION

At our **Communion services** we offer bread and wine. At our main services, the priest will either drop a wafer into your hand and you move on to an assistant who will offer the chalice OR you can receive a wafer dipped in the wine. Please make it clear which you would prefer. We offer intinction for health reasons so please do not dip a wafer into a chalice yourself.

#### THANKS

Our welcome and huge thank you to Revd Adie McCall for covering all our Christmas communion services.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please make sure you check the pigeonholes at the back of church for any Christmas cards left for you.

#### OFFICE OPENING

The office will be closed from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and open again Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Email and answerphone messages will be periodically checked during the Christmas closure.

#### VACANCY UPDATE

You may see a notice on your way into church stating the Living in Otford has now been suspended. Attached to this notice sheet (and at the back of church) is a document explaining what this means.

### PARISH PRAYERS

In our **cycle of prayer**, on **24<sup>th</sup> December** we pray for the residents of Hight Street; and for the work of Christian Aid. On **31<sup>st</sup> December** we pray for the residents of Hillydeal Road; and the work of Arocha. We pray for those who are unwell, including Rosemary Hull, Sylvia Grafton and Gareth Tucker. We remember the recently departed and pray for those who mourn her passing. We also remember those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time.

### SUNDAY CLUB

Following the success of the nativity play last Sunday, for which we thank all involved, we think that everyone deserves a week off. Therefore, there will be no Sunday Club provision on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

If you have a Children's Society collection box, could you please return it to the church office. The contents will be counted, and the box returned to you in due course. Thank you to all who support the Children's Society in this way.

### PRAYER BREAKFAST

Our monthly prayer breakfast is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month, 8.45am in the Church Centre. There will not be a prayer breakfast in December so the next one will be on **28<sup>th</sup> January**.

### TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS

Attached to these notices is a 'Tell Us Your Thoughts' document (also available in church) which aims to help us plan our Parish Profile. The document looks at five areas of our church life and asks you to consider what we might Change, Start or Grow. We ask that these be returned to the church office, church warden or to the box in church by the end of the year, please. We realize the comment boxes are small so please feel free to write your observations on a separate sheet, email them to the church office [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net) or speak to someone on the PCC. Everyone's views are welcomed and valued.

### BURNS' NIGHT SUPPER

We will be holding our ever-popular Burns' Night supper on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 6.30 for 7pm in the Church Centre. Please put the date in your diary and look out for the sign-up sheet in the new year

### CHRISTINGLE CANDLES

We will be holding our Christingle service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 10am (Candlemas). Please take a Christingle Candle collecting box to fill, and then return it at this service. All monies collected will go to work of The Children's Society

### FROM THE CARD STALL

If you missed the chance to buy cards and gift tags at the Christmas Market there are still some available in the Church Centre. They are all priced. Please leave your money in the box provided. Thank you.

### ST BART'S ADVENT STUDY COURSE – for four Thursdays beginning on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm on Zoom

In the nativity story, there are four sudden, Spirit-filled songs from the heart, and they're all still used in the rhythm of liturgy: Zechariah's song (the Benedictus) Mary's song (Magnificat) the song of the angels (Gloria in Excelsis) and Simeon's song (Nunc Dimittis).

With the help of the book 'They Sang' by Amy Scott Robinson we will use our four Thursday studies to guide us in exploring these ancient poems of praise and prophecy. You may even discover your own song along the way.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83182997275?pwd=iZR41m1tRLacaf4oWtwbyaifwSSwqV.1>

Meeting ID: 83182997275

Passcode: 125823

### LOAVES AND FISHES

Here is a list of items the foodbank is requesting at the moment:

tuna and other fish, stewed steak, chicken casserole, ham/spam, corned beef, macaroni cheese, potatoes, rice sauces, instant soup, instant noodles, instant pasta, biscuits, cooking oil, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite, honey, tin openers, men's grooming products, women's hygiene products, shower gel.

### REFRESHMENTS

**Refreshments** are served in the Church Centre after our 10am service. Please sign up on the new rota next to the serving hatch in the Church Centre if you can help, there are spaces to fill 😊

## **SALES TABLE**

We are pleased to have Sylvia's **card and mini gifts stall** back in the church centre. If you have any used cards (not Christmas) or mini gifts you are willing to part with, we are sure Sylvia will be delighted to receive them. Many grateful thanks.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE READINGS AND CAROLS** *(numbers show page in pew Bibles of readings being used)*

**8am Service:** Romans 16:25-end (Pg.1143) ; Luke 1:26-38 (pg.1026) *(used at 8.00am)*

**Midnight Communion:** Isaiah 62:6-end (pg. ; Luke 2:1-7 (Pg. 1027)

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing (35); 2. Once in royal David's city (36); 3. Silent night (42); 4. O come all ye faithful (31)

## **CHRISTMAS DAY READINGS AND CAROLS**

**9.00am Service:** Isaiah 52:7-10 (pg.739); John 1: 1-14 (pg. 1063)

**10.30am Service:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (pg.693); Luke 2:1-14 (Pg.1028)

1. Hark the herald (18); 2. It was on a starry night (23); 3. Good Christians all rejoice (16); 4. Joy to the world (24)

## **READINGS AND CAROLS FOR 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**10.00am Service:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (pg.748); Luke 2:15-21 (pg.1027)

1. God rest you merry gentlemen (15); O little town of Bethlehem (33); 3. While shepherds watched their flocks (51); 4. Of the father's love begotten (34)

## **READINGS FOR WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY**

**BCP Communion:** Galatians 4:1-7; Matthew 1:18-21 *(used on Wednesday morning)*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE DAY**

**COLLECT** Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT**

**COLLECT** Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**COLLECT** Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

## **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**COLLECT** Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## PRAYER FOR THE VACANCY

Lord Jesus, we know you have plans for our parish, and we trust that those plans are good. Wise Holy Spirit, guide those who are seeking the right person to be our next vicar, and those who are seeking the right next step in their ministry. Together may we discern your way for the future and be further equipped to grow. Amen

## CONTACT LIST

Please contact the [Office](#) regarding baptisms, weddings, funerals or requests for home communions

Please send any notices for inclusion to [janet@otford.net](mailto:janet@otford.net) by **TUESDAY EVENING** at the latest

### Church Office: St. Bartholomew's Church Centre

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e-mail: [st.bartholomews@otford.net](mailto:st.bartholomews@otford.net)

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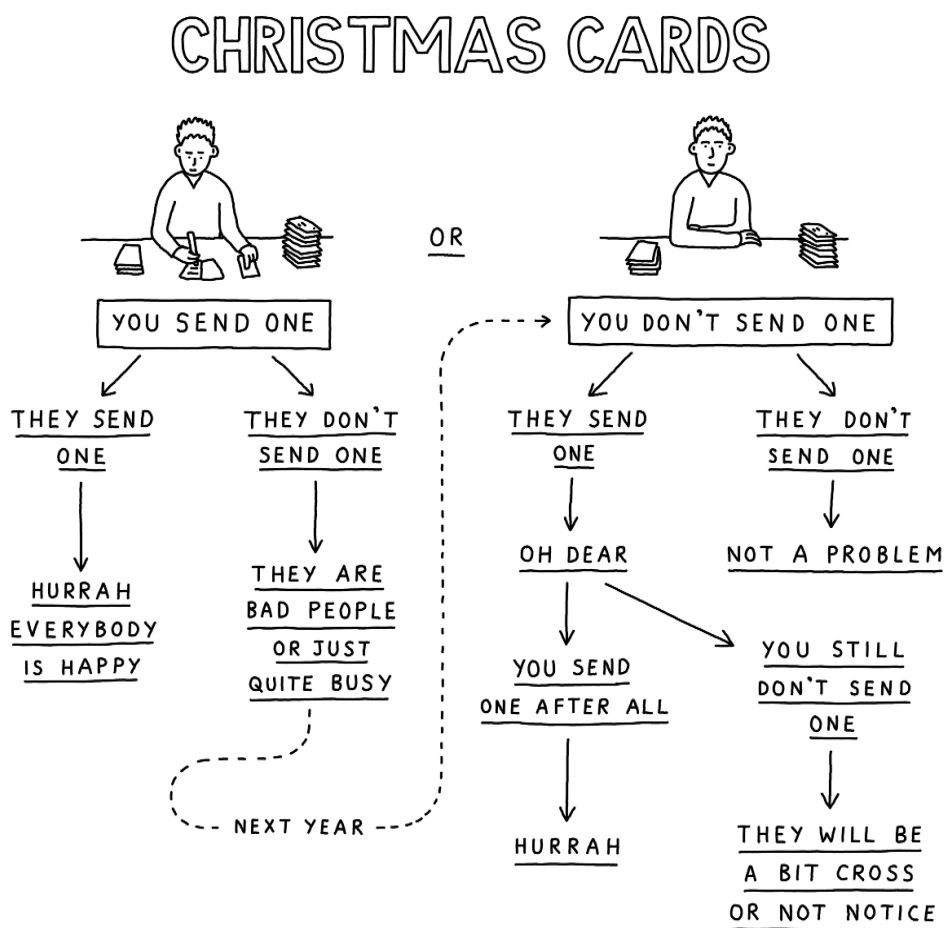
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A Church Near You: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/)

And here is a Dave Walker cartoon:



CartoonChurch.com

With every blessing,

The Wardens and Ministry Team