

OFFICE OPENING

The office will be open Monday, Wednesday and **Thursday** this week.

EPIC

Don't forget that Epic is on Saturday 14th December, 6pm, in the Church Centre. School years 5-8. Last one before Christmas!

CHURCH EMAILS

At the end of this year the otford.net email addresses will no longer operate. Please update your contact details as follows as these can be used from now on:

Vicar: Vicar@stbartholomews.co.uk (this will go to the church office until we have new incumbent)

Church Office : office@stbartholomews.co.uk

The Treasurer : treasurer@stbartholomews.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer : Safeguarding@stbartholomews.co.uk

Events: Events@stbartholomews.co.uk

PARISH PRAYERS

In our **cycle of prayer**, we pray for the residents of the Knighton Road; and the work of Loaves and Fishes. We pray for those who are unwell, including, Rosemary Hull, Madelyn Roets, Mary Quenby, Keith Howe, Chris Bourne and Linda, We remember the recently departed, and for those who mourn their passing. We also remember those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments are served in the Church Centre after our 10am service to which all are welcome. If you could help with serving coffee, please sign up on the new rota next to the serving hatch in the Church Centre, there are spaces to fill 😊

PRAYER BREAKFAST.

This is on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8.45am, between our 8am and 10am services. Stay on after one service or come early for the other. Join us in thanksgiving for all God has given us, for all that he will do through us, and also to pray for the filling of our vacancy.

HELP PLEASE

Could you spare a little time to clean one of our chandeliers ready for the Christmas season? If so, please get in touch with Susan Reid (01959 523234) who will be delighted to hear from you.

ADVENT COURSE

For our Advent course this year we will be using the book by Paula Gooder 'Journey to the Manger' to guide our thoughts. The meetings will be weekly on a Thursday at 8pm on Zoom and will be led by Dawn and Mags. The details for the zoom meeting are as follows:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86738004107?pwd=NFFmMmAA2hGLEeR4wRlRYGfouFwfl1Bz.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3800 4107

Passcode: 912352

CAROLS AND CAKE

Do you like eating cake? Do you like singing carols? Come and join us for Carols and Cake on 7th Dec at 3pm in the Church Centre. No need to sign up just turn up! Looking forward to seeing you all. Joan Beacom

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are sorry that this year there will not be a Christmas concert by our choir. We do encourage you to come to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm.

TREE OF LIGHT

This will take place on Friday 13th December on The Green at 7pm. Labels on which you may write your message remembering a loved one are available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get to the office during opening hours (daily 8am-12.30pm) then please phone (01959 524808) and leave your message and a label will be written for you. Cheques for your donation should be made payable to Hospice in the Weald. The Tree of Light will remain up until the new year.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Many thanks to all those who were involved in any way with the Christmas Market last Saturday. Despite the efforts of the weather, it was a very successful event raising over **£4100** in total. Without the help of so many of the congregation it would not have been the happy and successful event it was.

The Cards and Wrapping Stall - Thank you to everyone who donated their unused cards, tags and paper to the card stall for the Christmas market. If you missed the chance to buy cards and gift tags at the Christmas market, some are still available in the Church Centre. They are all priced. Please leave your money in the box provided. Thank you.

POLICY IN RELATION TO DOGS IN CHURCH

After much discussion and review at various PCC meetings we now confirm that 'Fully Trained Assistance Dogs' are always welcome in Church. Well trained dogs are welcome to visit the Church with their owners up to 30 minutes before a service starts and 30 minutes after a service finishes.

SALES TABLE

Don't miss out on the **card and mini gifts stall** in the church centre. If you have any used cards or new mini gifts you are willing to part with, we are sure we can make use of them. Many grateful thanks.

LOAVES AND FISHES

In particular at the moment the food bank is appealing for tins of tuna, chicken casserole, macaroni cheese, hot dogs, chilli con carne, beef curry, chicken curry, peas, sweet corn. Also, breakfast cereals (not cornflakes), rice, pasta sauce, UHT milk, biscuits, instant coffee, hot chocolate, vegetable oil, chocolate spread, marmite, shampoo, shower gel

If you wish to find out more about Loaves and Fishes or contact them please do so at www.sevenoaksfoodbank.co.uk or at sevenoaksfoodbank@gmail.com

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 incumbent, 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

READINGS *(numbers show page in pew Bibles of readings being used)*

Sunday Morning: Malachi 3:1-4 (pg.961); Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6 (pg.1029) *(used at 8.00am/10.00am)*

Evensong: No Service

BCP Communion: Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-33 *(used on Wednesday morning)*

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MORNING

1. Hark the glad sound (BBC 38) 2. On Jordan's bank (BBC 36); 3. Come thou long expected Jesus (BBC 30); 4. Hills of the north rejoice (BBC 33)

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY EVENING

No Service

COLLECT

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESOURCES

OUR SERVICES ONLINE

You can watch last week's service and catch up with other recent services here: <https://www.youtube.com/@stbartsotford1735/streams>

CHURCH DONATION

You can make a **one-off donation** to the work of our church by visiting this site: <https://account.stewardship.org.uk/donation/oneoff/20293172>

CONTACT LIST

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

Church Office: St. Bartholomew's Church Centre

The Green Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PD;
tel: 01959 523185

e-mail: Office@stbartholomews.co.uk

Website: www.stbartholomews.co.uk

Facebook: [StBartsOtford](#)

Instagram: [otford st barts](#)

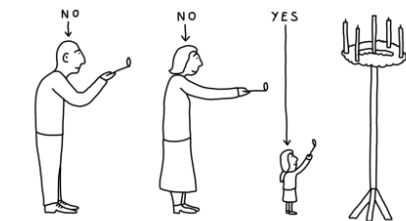
YouTube: [StBarts Otford](#)

A Church Near You: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/

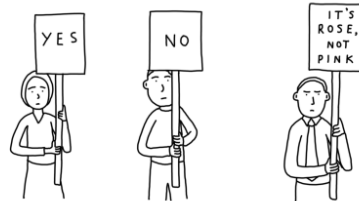
Please send any notices for inclusion to office@stbartholomews.co.uk by **TUESDAY EVENING** at the latest

And here is a Dave Walker cartoon:

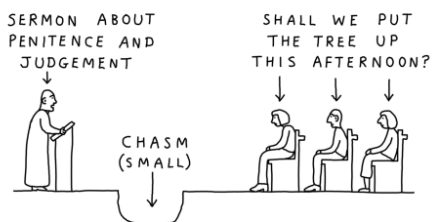
ADVENT CONTROVERSIES



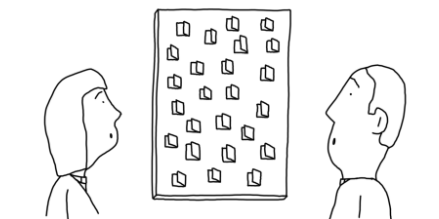
WHO WILL LIGHT THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH?



SHOULD THE WREATH HAVE ONE PINK CANDLE?



WHETHER TO PREACH ON CHALLENGING ADVENT THEMES



WHO COULD HAVE EATEN THE VESTRY ADVENT CALENDAR CHOCOLATES?

CartoonChurch.com

With every blessing,

The Wardens and Ministry Team