

St Bart's News – Double Issue

Sunday 22nd to 29th December

4th Sunday of Advent Sunday after Christmas

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 22nd December	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Nativity Play and YPF Presentation
	6.30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 24th December	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Mid-night Communion (preceded by carols at 11.10pm)
Wednesday 25th December	9.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.30am	Family Worship for Christmas Day
Sunday 29th December	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday 5th January	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	All Together Worship
	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)

DIARY DATES

Monday 23rd December	2.00pm	CAMEO - Drink and Chat
Thursday 19th December	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
Friday 21st December	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Monday 30th December	2.00pm	CAMEO - Drink and Chat
Friday 3rd January	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice

NOTICEBOARD

SERVICES IN CHURCH

Our **10.00am Sunday service** are livestreamed. You can access them via our YouTube channel [StBarts Otford](#) or [church website](#).

In addition to our usual 10am services we will be streaming Nine Lessons and Carols, 22nd December, 6.30pm; and also our Christmas Day service at 10.30am.

THANKS

Our welcome and thanks to Revd Adie McCall for taking our Christmas communion services.

VACANCY

As our vacancy continues the churchwardens, ministry team and administrator in particular continue to have a lot of extra responsibilities and any help and support you can offer will be appreciated. Much hard work has gone into ensuring as many services as possible are covered, but please understand there is a general shortage of available clergy to take Communion and more so now than when our vacancy began. On the small number of occasions when there is no priest to take Communion a service of Morning Worship/Prayer will be offered. We will endeavour to give good notice of any changes so, keep an eye on the notices.

*** CHANGE TO SERVICES***

In light of the above notice, there will be no communion service on 29th December. There will be just one service on this day which will be Morning Worship at 10am, led by Mags Southgate

OFFICE OPENING

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

The office will be closed from lunchtime on 23rd December to Friday 3rd January. Emails and answerphone messages will be monitored over this period.

NATIVITY PLAY

Our nativity Play, The Advent Calendar Puzzle, is at our 10:00 service on the 22nd December. There will be lots of participation for the whole congregation, and all children are especially welcome to join in. Please come in a costume if you have one, Shepherd, King, Angel or sheep, or we will help you dress up on the day if you can arrive in church a bit early. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Please join us on Sunday for this beautiful and atmospheric service of Lessons and Carols, 6.30pm on 22nd December. Everyone is very welcome and there will be seasonal refreshments in the church centre following the service.

CHURCH EMAILS

At the end of this year the offord.net email addresses will no longer operate. Any emails sent to this address from the 1st of January cannot be accessed. 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
(22/12) The Old Walk; and the work of The Bible Society.
(29/12) Orchard Road; and the work of the Church Mission society

We pray for those who are unwell, including, Rosemary Hull, Madelyn Roets, Mary Quenby, Keith Howe, Hilly Steeden 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.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If anyone would like to donate towards Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please see Joan or make a payment into the church bank account with the ref. Flowers

SUNDAY CLUB

There will be no Sunday Club on December 29th. After Christmas, our next meeting will be Sunday 12th January. The Sunday Club Team would like to wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas. Susanne Beard.

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 😊

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=NFFmMmAA2hGLEeR4wlRYGfouFwf11Bz.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3800 4107

Passcode: 912352

PRAYER BREAKFAST.

There is no prayer breakfast in December. The next one will be on the on the 4th Sunday in January 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 19th January 3pm, Jocelyn Ledward KC, will be giving a talk on "Life at the Criminal bar" about her 25-year career as a barrister, reflections on how faith has shaped that journey, and some memorable cases from her time as Treasury Counsel at the Old Bailey. More details and how to book this fascinating event will follow soon. Note that this event will not be recorded or streamed.

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.

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

There is a letter of thanks attached to this email, and posted at the back of church, with further details of their current work. 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

22/12 - Sunday Morning 8am: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45

24/12 - Mid-night Communion: Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

25/12 - 9am Communion: Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

25/12 – 10.30am Family Worship for Christmas Day: Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:8-15

29/12 – 10am Morning Worship: Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-end

COLLECT AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR 22nd DECEMBER

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COLLECT AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS NIGHT

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

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. Amen

COLLECT AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

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. Amen.

COLLECT FOR 29th DECEMBER

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. 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:

NINE LESSONS

LEARNED AT THE CAROL SERVICE

With every blessing this
Christmas time

The Wardens and
Ministry Team



①

YOU WILL NEED TO GET THERE EARLY IF YOU WANT A GOOD SEAT



②

PARKING SPACES WILL BE HARD TO COME BY



③

THE WORLDWIDE CANDLE SHORTAGE HAS NOT KICKED IN YET



④

THE SERVICE SHEET LOOKS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S



⑤

CAROLS WORK BEST WHEN EVERYONE HAS THE SAME WORDS



⑥

OASIS IS FLAMMABLE SO IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PUT CANDLES IN IT



⑦

SMALL CHILDREN DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY LISTENING TO NINE READINGS



⑧

PARENTS DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY RESTRAINING THEIR CHILDREN DURING NINE READINGS



⑨

YOU ARE HIGHLY LIKELY TO CATCH A COLD IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE ONE