

St Bart's News – Sunday 5th January 2025

Epiphany

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 5th January	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	All Together Worship
	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wednesday 8th January	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 12th January	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW)

DIARY DATES

Thursday 2nd January	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
Friday 3rd January	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Monday 6th January	2.00pm	CAMEO (Church Centre)
Thursday 9th January	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
Friday 10th 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 Sunday and Wednesday 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 26th January at 10am. This will instead be our Christingle Service.

A further change, but not due to the vacancy, is our usual service of Evensong on the 3rd Sunday will not be on 19th January but will be on 26th instead. This is because we have the service for the week of prayer for Christian unity at 5.30pm on 19th January.

EPIC

Don't forget that Epic is on Saturday 11th January, 6pm, in the Church Centre. School years 5-8. First one of the new year!

OFFICE OPENING

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

PARISH PRAYERS

In our **cycle of prayer**, we pray for the residents of the Hopfield Close; and the work of The Children's Society. We pray for those who are unwell, including, Rosemary Hull, Madelyn Roets, Mary Quenby, Keith Howe and Linda, We remember the recently departed, in particular Simon Ledward, and for those who mourn his passing. We also remember those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time.

SOUP LUNCH

Our next Soup Lunch will be on Monday 13th January, 12noon. Our coffee-time speaker will be Revd Jane Braund, the Otford Methodist Church Minister. Please sign up on the list in the church lobby if you would like to come.

LIFE AT THE CRIMINAL BAR

A talk on "Life at the Criminal bar" on Sunday 19th January 3pm. Jocelyn Ledward KC will be giving a talk in Church 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. The price is £8 per head which includes tea/coffee and cake. We expect this to be popular, so advance booking is strongly recommended. Please email events@stbartholomew.co.uk for payment details and pay by 16th January to secure your seat! Note that this event will not be recorded or streamed.

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Please join us for this ecumenical service at St Bart's on Sunday 19th January at 5.30pm. The service will be preceded by tea in the Church Centre from 5pm. Everyone is most welcome.

CHURCH EMAILS

If you haven't already done so please update your church email contacts to those listed below. Any emails sent to our old addresses cannot be accessed.

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

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.

The next one of these 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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The card stall would again appreciate donations of any new, unused Christmas cards that can be repackaged and sold at the November 2025 Christmas market. We are also collecting used Christmas cards and clear plastic wallets. There will be a box in the Church entrance lobby for all donations, until the end of January. 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 from 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

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

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.

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: Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg.947); Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 (pg.1029) (*used at 8.00am/10.00am*)

Evensong: Isaiah 60:1-9 (pg.); John 2:1-11 (pg.)

BCP Communion: Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 (*used on Wednesday morning*)

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MORNING

1. Come and join the celebration) 2. Joy has dawned upon the earth 3. We three kings; 4. From the squalor of a borrowed stable

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY EVENING

1. Bethlehem, of noblest cities (NEH 48); 2. Brightest and best (NEH 49); 3. O worship the Lord (NEH 52); Psalm 150

COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, 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:

VIRTUAL REALITY



PASSING THE
COLLECTION PLATE



ARRANGING THE FLOWERS



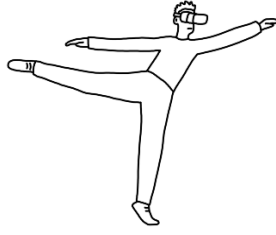
SHARING THE PEACE



PREACHING A SERMON



ARRIVING A BIT LATE



PERFORMING A
LITURGICAL DANCE

CartoonChurch.com

With every blessing,

The Wardens and Ministry Team