

Sunday Services across the Team

9:15am St George's church
 9:15am St Thomas' church
 11:00am St Bartholomew's church

Further details on the weekly pewsheets

Third Wednesday of each month at St Bartholomew's:

11:00am Holy Communion followed by Luncheon Club

OFFICE HOUR RUNS ON A MONDAY AT St. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH 10:30 – 11:30am or Saturdays by appointment only [please e-mail westhoughtonparish@outlook.com]. For all enquiries relating to weddings, banns and for other routine matters, please contact the Rector, details below.

DIRECTORY

Team Ministers

Team Rector	Revd Carol Pharaoh carol.pharaoh@gmail.com	01942 859251
Curate in Charge	Revd Andy Jones reverendandyjones@gmail.com	01942 813 750
Team Vicar	Revd Angela Wynne	01204 468150
Associate Vicar	Revd Malcolm Wearing	07557 658452
Reader Emeritus	Alan Morris	01942 817871
Reader Emeritus	Elaine Simkin	01942 810762

Parish Wardens

Edward McHale 01942 812193

Joan O'Reilly

Deputy Wardens

St Bartholomew	Christine Andrews Vacancy	01942 817146
St George	Pat James John Moore	01204 492994
St Thomas	Graham Andrews	

Items for inclusion in future newsletters should be sent to the parish office:
westhoughtonparish@outlook.com
 or given to Edward McHale, churchwarden and Director of Music

www.westhoughtonchurches.org.uk



Parish of St Bartholomew
 Westhoughton
 St Bartholomew St Thomas
 St George



NEWSLETTER - JULY 2022

On Friday 3 June the Archbishop of York delivered the sermon in St Paul's Cathedral during a service to mark and celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This follows in full...



'Bring your supplications and thanksgivings to God' says St Paul.

'Then the peace of God will guard your heart and mind... and keep on doing the things that you see in me.' (Philippians 4.6,7 & 9)

Of course, the 'me' in that sentence is Paul himself. But Paul is only worth following because he is following Jesus. And Jesus is worth following because Jesus shows us who God is, and what our humanity could be. And there are many occasions in the gospels where we see Jesus himself, faithful to his vocation, seeking out places of replenishing so that he can learn God's way.

'I only do what I see the Father doing', says Jesus (John 5. 19).

'He is close to God's heart', says St John (John 1.18).

Sometimes I wonder whether the whole Christian faith is best understood as an invitation to dwell there ourselves.

And the purpose of the Christian faith is to know and to do God's will.

Sisters and brothers, dear friends, we gather today in great rejoicing to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, but we do it against a backdrop of such suffering and uncertainty in our world.

For me, the best leaders - like Paul, like Jesus – are those who know how to be led. People who lead for others, not themselves. People whose heart's desire is to serve the common good and build up the common life; who don't try to do it all themselves, or act in their own strength alone; people who take a longer view; and who seek out places of replenishing, even places where they might learn the mind of Christ.

And I say this today, knowing that in Her Majesty the Queen we see an example of this kind of service; a staunch constancy and a steadfast consistency; a faithfulness to God, an obedience to a vocation that is the bedrock of her life.

No, bedrock isn't quite the right image.

Faith in Jesus Christ is a fountain, and it is a well.

It is the well from which we draw deeply and replenish ourselves through all the challenges, joys, and vicissitudes of life.

And it is a fountain, overflowing with immense joy. Joy, that we can live in the assurance that we are loved; joy, that God has a purpose for our lives; and, joy, that through Christ's dying and rising we have the promise of life eternal.

Now we all know that Her Majesty likes horse racing and I imagine Your Majesty will be watching this on the television. I don't have any great tips for the Derby tomorrow, but since the scriptures describe life as a race set before us, let me observe that your long reign reflects the distance of Aintree more than the sprints of Epsom. Certainly, less dressage than most people imagine. But with endurance, through times of change and challenge, joy and sorrow, you continues to offer yourself in the service of our country and the commonwealth. Your Majesty, we're sorry you're not with us this morning in person, but we are so glad you are still in the saddle. And we are all glad that there is still more to come.

So, thank you for staying the course. Thank you, for continuing to be faithful to the pledges you made 70 years ago. Thank you for showing us how service and faithfulness matter. People of all faiths and no faiths and people of goodwill can learn from this.

Sometimes people say to me that the Christian faith is just a prop. I couldn't agree more. I'm not ashamed to say I lean on Jesus Christ, that I'm trying to live close to his heart. That I need his wisdom and his hope. And if you will forgive such presumption, this is what I also see in Her Majesty the Queen.

And to the people of our great nation, on this great and historic day, I say this: we are indeed living in a time of uncertainty and challenge, and we would do well to consider where we will find the replenishing we need.

What I see in Her Majesty the Queen is someone who has been able to serve our nation faithfully because of her faith in Jesus Christ. Perhaps there is no better way of celebrating her Platinum Jubilee than by doing the same ourselves.

Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Tower News

There's not much happening in the tower over the summer period other than ringing for Sunday Services and weddings. In June we rang for our first wedding of the year; this was quite important to us as it was the first to be rang by an all Westhoughton Band of ringers.

Usually we request help from neighbouring towers, but due to the ongoing training and commitment from our team in getting to an acceptable standard, every ringer who rang for the wedding is a Sunday Service ringer.

July will continue to be quiet, and it won't be until August when things start to pick up. A quarter peal will be attempted on 24th August to mark our patronal festival on St Bartholomew's Day; the large St George's flag will be raised to mark this day too! We know many of you like to see the flag flying from the tower!

Hymn of the Month – July

As a last nod to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, this month's hymn is "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is ended. To find out why, read on.

1. The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
2. We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.
3. As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.
4. The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.
5. So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

Words:

The hymn is written by John Ellerton [1826 – 1893] who was educated on the Isle of Man and at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1850 and after curacies on the south coast, became vicar of Crewe Green in Cheshire in 1860 where he wrote about 86 hymns. He's said to have thought up many hymns while on his nightly walks to the Mechanics Institute where he taught classes to workers of the London and North Western Railway.



In addition to this hymn he wrote two other evening hymns including "Saviour again to thy dear name we raise" not often sung as we have fewer evening services. But is "The day thou gavest" an evening hymn or a missionary hymn? Ellerton wrote it in 1870 for a missionary meeting having got the idea from another anonymous hymn which had the identical first line. The hymn's dominant theme is the growing worldwide spread of the church of Christ and its unbroken offering of prayer and praise somewhere in the world at any time. The imagery of morning and evening is just a background illustration.

The hymn first appeared in print in 1871 and was in the 1875 revision of Hymns Ancient and Modern; Ellerton was on the editorial panel of this book which just happened to include 26 of his own hymns.

Queen Victoria chose this as her Diamond Jubilee hymn in 1897 and on Sunday 20th June that year it was sung at thousands of churches across the country. It's suggested that she saw her own empire "on which the sun never sets" reflected in the hymn. In verse 5, however, we're reminded that while earth's proud empires pass away, God's kingdom stands and grows for ever.

It's a perennial "Songs of Praise" favourite and has been recorded many times, even turning up anachronistically on Rick Wakeman's 1973 album "The Six Wives of Henry VIII."

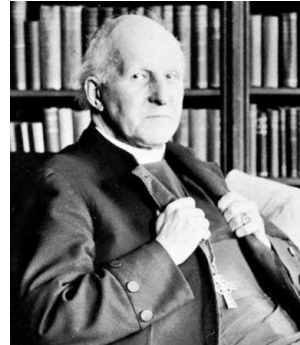


Tune: St Clement

The tune to which this hymn is wedded was written in 1874 by Revd Clement Scholefield [1839 – 1904] who was chaplain at Eton and later vicar in Knightsbridge. Although universally popular now, when it was written it was dismissed as a feeble waltz tune. Ralph Vaughan Williams included it in his 1906 English Hymnal but only in his “chamber of horrors” collections of tunes at the back well away from the words.

In 1932 Cosmo Gordon Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury denounced the tune in the correspondence columns of the Times newspaper. But, thankfully, both words and tune stand and grow forever rather than passing away.

It's also usually the last hymn at the World Day of Prayer service every March.



Apple Trees



The planting and dedication of our Platinum Jubilee Apple Tree at St George's set us thinking about apple trees in the bible.

Although we often think of Eve offering Adam an apple in the Garden of Eden, The Bible simply mentions the “fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Apples are never mentioned until depicted in art.

Jesus is sometimes referred to as an apple tree. The song may be an allusion to both the apple tree in Song of Solomon 2:3 which has been interpreted as a metaphor representing Jesus, and to his description of his life as a tree of life in Luke 13:18–19 and elsewhere in the New Testament including Revelation 22:1–2.

Richard Hutchins was a Calvinist Baptist minister who served at Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, England, from about 1759-1765 and wrote this hymn about Jesus Christ as an apple tree. It is best known sung to a tune by Elizabeth Postern and usually appears in Advent or Christmas Carol Services.

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil -
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Apple tree.

With great delight I'll make my stay,
There's none shall fright my soul away;
Among the sons of men I see
There's none like Christ the Apple tree.

I'll sit and eat this fruit divine,
It cheers my heart like spiritual wine;
And now this fruit is sweet to me,
That grows on Christ the Apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Apple tree.



The phrase "**apple of my eye**" refers in English to something or someone that one cherishes above all others. Originally, the phrase was simply an idiom referring to the pupil of the eye and has nothing to do with apples. The phrase "apple of my eye" (or similar) occurs in several places in the King James Bible translation from 1611, and some subsequent translations:

- **Deuteronomy 32:10**: "He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as *the apple of his eye*".
- **Psalms 17:8**: "Keep me as *the apple of the eye*, hide me under the shadow of thy wings".
- **Proverbs 7:2**: "Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as *the apple of thine eye*".
- **Lamentations 2:18**: "Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not *the apple of thine eye* cease".
- **Zechariah 2:8**: "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth *the apple of his eye*".

In legend, there was an apple tree growing on top of the spire of old St Paul's Cathedral in London [the one that burned down in the Great Fire of London in 1666] which is the story behind the nursery rhyme.

Upon Paul's steeple stands a tree
As full of apples as may be.
The little boys of London town
They run with hooks to pull them down:
And then they run from hedge to hedge
Until they come to London Bridge.

On Pentecost Sunday [5th June] this year Westhoughton Methodist Church and URC Bethel came together to form the Cornerstone Church. As part of that service they printed this history of their churches in Westhoughton.

Revd William Alexander, originally from Scotland, embarked on a trek of 170 miles to Lancaster to look for work. Here he became a member of the Independent Church and was sent to preach to the villagers of Lancashire. In 1811, aged 48, he moved to Leigh and walked many times from there to Daisy Hill amongst other places to preach the doctrine of Congregationalism. Venues holding services included the Barn at "Old Sirs" a farm in Lower Leigh Road in Westhoughton.

By 1815 a cottage had been rented in Leigh Road approximately opposite Washacre in an area known as "Little Ireland" for a rental of £5 per year but was soon too small for a growing congregation.

In 1817 a larger room in Leigh Road that could accommodate 200 people was opened and about 200 children were taught every Sunday morning & afternoon with an evening service of public worship. But again the congregation quickly outgrew this space.

After 14 years in Leigh, Revd Alexander left the area and in spring 1826 the churches third home at 20 – 22 Park Lane was opened. In September 1827 a church formed in that place and 8 members enrolled. In 1835 Mr Thomas Green made a more spacious building available at a moderate rent making both church and school now at 20 – 26 Park Road. At this time Sunday School had 350 pupils and 40 teachers on the books.

Candle light was replaced by paraffin lamps which were so highly regarded that people visited to marvel at them.

This building also became inadequate so in 1846 plans were made for a further expansion; a subscription list was opened and funds accumulated. The new church was opened on 30th March 1853, built at a cost of £1,600. The members had to decide on a name and the vast majority voted to call it "Bethel." In 1870 the Sunday School opened, built at a cost of £1,400 and this building was also used for meetings and, for 45 years, a day school and

the church hall. The infant school was added in 1890 and by 1897 had 8 teachers and 266 children listed.

The Education Act of 1902 changed the management of schools and the Board of Education decided it should close on 31st October 1911 although it took until January 1915 to make the transfer.

A further building was opened on 15th January 1937 known as the Women's or Memoria Room.

In its time the church has had over 20 ministers, the longest serving being Revd R H Lord from 1891 – 1925.



Westhoughton Methodist Church:



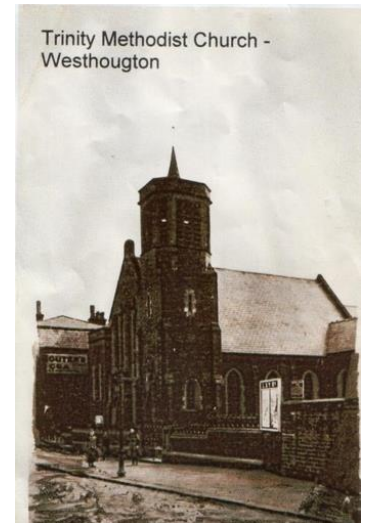
In 1785, at the age of 82 years, John Wesley was travelling on horseback from Bolton to Wigan,

when he stopped to preach in the open air at Barnaby's Farm, Wingates. A large crowd soon assembled, and so he could be both seen and heard by everyone present, John Wesley stood on a large boulder in the grounds of the farm. That same boulder can be seen today in the car park of Westhoughton Methodist Church.

John Wesley had made several previous visits to the area, and as a result of which, Methodism began to establish itself in Westhoughton and the surrounding villages.

In 1835, Wingates Independent Methodist Church was founded, and then in 1869, Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church was opened. The building had cost £500 to construct. In 1871, the Methodist Church was established at Grove Lane, on the site of the present day premises of Westhoughton Methodist Church, and a vestry extension was added in 1896.

Trinity Methodist Church was demolished in 1961, and was temporarily replaced by a wooden multi-purpose building, which cost approximately £2,000 and at the time of its construction had an estimated life expectancy of 10 years. The following year saw the first resident Methodist Minister appointed to serve Grove Lane, Trinity and Daisy Hill Methodist Churches.



In 1966, Grove Lane



and Trinity Churches merged to become Westhoughton Methodist Church. The "temporary" wooden building that had been erected on the site of Trinity Church, was brought to Grove Lane. During the 1980's, plans were discussed to build a new church on the site of the recently merged church.



Finally, in 1991, the foundation stone was laid for the new Westhoughton Methodist Church. The new church building, and the refurbished School Hall were opened

in April the following year at a total cost of £250,000.

In 1996, Westhoughton Methodist Church, together with the Parish Church of Westhoughton, St Bartholomew's and the Bethel United Reformed Church, planted a new Local Ecumenical Project, that was named St George's Church, within the newly built St George's Church of England Primary School, at The Hoskers. The church continues to meet every Sunday morning in the school hall.

In April 2022, Westhoughton Methodist Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of the opening of the new church building.

With grateful thanks to the late Jack Hamer, a lifelong Methodist and resident of Westhoughton, for much of the above information.

Around the Team

At St James' church, Daisy Hill

Holy Communion from Book of Common Prayer

Every Wednesday at 10:00am

A quiet said service for those who prefer the more contemplative words of the Book of Common Prayer.

Face coverings are no longer required at this service which lasts about 40 minutes.

Refreshments are available following the service.

Tuesday Coffee & Chat

Every Fourth Tuesday at 10:00am - 11:30am

First Saturday Open Doors

Every First Saturday at 10:00am - noon



Our doors are open from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of each month to welcome people to come and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea, or a quiet time to themselves.

Messy Church Saturdays at 10:00am

Saturday 9th July 2022

All are welcome, no booking will be required. From 10am to 12 noon.

At St John's church, Wingates



Monthly Men's Breakfast

First Saturday of every month, 9:00 – 10:30am

In June, July, August, September, October, November, December. Every First Saturday at 9 a.m. for 1hr 30m

Salvation Army
Aldred Street,
Bolton
BL3 3QZ

We hold a regular men's breakfast each month. Please note change of venue. Suggested donation £5.

It's a chance for men to meet up for breakfast and every two / three months a guest speaker is invited.

Bric-a-brac n' Brew

First Saturday of every month, 10:30am - noon

Coffee and refreshments are served. Donations of food for Urban Outreach can be dropped off and there is a bookstall and bric-a-brac stalls in aid of church funds.

Team Youth Church – Ignite Youth

Next Meeting Summer BBQ Saturday 9th July 7:00 – 8:30pm

- *check weekly pewsheets for details*

We are looking for more volunteers to help us run this – if you could help out occasionally on a rota basis, please see Revd Andy



St John's Wingates Summer Fair

2 Jul 2022, 11 a.m. for 3hr

We are delighted to bring back our summer fair on Sat 2nd July - bring the whole family and come and grab a bargain.

If you are able to donate any of these items, that would be amazing. Raffle prizes, new £1 stall items, chocolate, bottles of wine, pre loved toys and children's books and cakes (if fresh, please bring on the day).

St James Daisy Hill Summer Fair

16 Jul 2022, 10:00a.m. for 3hr

The Summer Fair this year will be on Saturday 16th of July from 10am until 1pm. For more details please click on VIEW ATTACHMENT below

[View attachment](#)

