

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 - NOVEMBER 2022

Advent – November / December

In the Middle Ages, Advent [from the Latin word meaning “coming”] was kept as a season of great solemnity – a time when the church focussed on the ultimate issues of death, judgement, heaven and hell. Advent, however, was also a time of great rejoicing; for Christ would come as judge and Saviour bringing in the Kingdom of God. There were processions from west to east [towards the rising sun at dawn], starting with the church in darkness but lighting candles as the procession moved eastwards to show the hope of the coming of Christ, the light of the world, to banish sin and darkness. We still mark this today as we light a candle on each of the four Sundays in Advent thinking of the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary. Our Old Testament readings focus on those prophets as they foretell the coming of Christ.



At Evening Prayer from 17th – 23rd December, the great “O” Advent Antiphons [church-speak for introductions] were sung before the Magnificat, the Song of Mary. We still have these in our hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” where the first line of each verse is taken from one of these antiphons – the Rod of Jesse or the Key of David – although we usually only have 5 verses rather than 7 to stop the hymn going on too long!

Today, Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas, though most Advent calendars start on December 1st and mark the 24 days before Christmas. The tradition of Advent calendars is believed to have started in the mid-19th century, when German Protestants made chalk marks on doors or lit candles to count the days leading up to Christmas. The first printed Advent calendar was produced in the early 1900s by a German named Gerald Lang. When Lang was a child his mother sewed 24 cookies onto the lid of a box and allowed him to eat one of them every day during the Advent period. Lang used this as the model for his own Advent calendar in 1908.

Even though we seem to prepare for Christmas from September, the period of Advent still has a special significance and meaning for the church. There are details of all our services over Advent and Christmas later in this Newsletter and we hope you'll be able to attend some of these.

Hymn of the Month – November

In the month in which we mark Remembrance Sunday, here's a very famous Remembrance Hymn with all the verses printed rather than the six we usually sing.

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

2 Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4 The word commands our flesh to dust
Return ye sons of men;
All nations rose from Earth at first
And turn to earth again

5 A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

6 The busy tribes of flesh and blood
With all their lives and cares,
Are carried downward by the flood
And lost in following years.

7 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

8 Like flow'ry fields the nations stand
Pleased with the morning light;
The flowers between the Mower's hand
Lie withering, e'er 'tis night.

9 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Words:

These come from a paraphrase of Psalm 90 [*Lord, thou has been our dwelling place in every generation*] by Isaac Watts [1674 – 1748] one of the greatest hymn writers ever. It was written in 1714 shortly before the death of Queen Anne when there was a lot of national anxiety about who would succeed to the throne. It was first published five years later in Watt's snappily titled book "The Psalms of David imitated in the language of the New Testament."



Watts was born in Southampton and not being a member of the Church of England was banned from studying at Oxford or Cambridge Universities. Being a Dissenter, he was appointed minister at Mark Lane Chapel in London in 1702 but after 10 years his health failed and for 36 years he lived as a house guest of Sir Thomas and Lady Abney.

The story goes that at a time when the only singing in Calvinist churches were the metrical psalms, he complained to his father that what was sung in church was dull. His father told him then to write something better and he produced nearly

700 hymns many of which are still in use today – “Come, let us join our cheerful songs”, “When I survey the wondrous cross” and “Joy to the World” for example.

Watts originally wrote this hymn as “Our God, our help in ages past” and so it stayed until 1738 when no less than John Wesley decided it should become “O God, our help ...” and so it has stayed. Nearly every hymn book now omits the original verses 4, 6 and 8 and many change the first word of the second verse to “Beneath” as the stress and emphasis of the word fits the tune more satisfactorily.

The tune “St Anne” is now wedded to the hymn but this pairing didn’t come about until 1861 and the publication of the first Hymns, Ancient and Modern. In the 1700s this tune was more usually sung to the Psalm 42 paraphrase “As pants the hart for cooling streams, when heated in the chase.”

It’s most likely that the tune was composed by William Croft [1678 – 1727] organist of St Anne’s church, Soho, the Chapel Royal and Westminster Abbey where he is buried with other musicians in the north aisle.

Croft’s most enduring legacy other than this tune is his solemn setting of the Funeral Sentences heard at the start of many funeral services.



The tune St Anne has been incorporated [or sampled as pop stars would have it] in other compositions including Sir Arthur Sullivan’s “Festal Te Deum”, Sir Hubert Parry’s setting of the “Te Deum” for the Coronation of King George V in 1911 and Handel in his anthem “O Praise the Lord” and Vaughan Williams in his anthem “Lord, thou has been our refuge” also using words from Psalm 90. J.S.Bach’s great fugue in E-flat major is nicknamed the “St Anne Fugue” as the opening theme mirrors the first line of the hymn tune. It is very unlikely, however, that Croft and Bach would have known each other’s work.



On 14th April 1912 according to passenger Archibald Gracie IV, it was the last hymn sung at a church service presided over by Captain Edward John Smith on the morning before the RMS *Titanic* sank.

News from the Bell Tower

As we enter the final few months of the year, the ringing season looks towards Remembrance Sunday. Every year, the bells are fitted with a leather pad to make them half-muffled; this creates two tones. On the first stroke the bells sound as they usually would, and on the second stroke they are sombre and mournful in tone. This represents the living calling, and the dead answering in reply, and has been the traditional way to mark Remembrance Sunday for hundreds of years. We are lucky to have a team of ringers able to ring for this important occasion, as many towers across the country simply don’t have ringers anymore.

This year, as well as ringing prior to the service at 10.00am, a quarter peal will be attempted once the parade has departed from the cenotaph. This means the bells will be ringing as the parade makes its way along Market Street and past Ditchfield Gardens. It should create a very moving atmosphere.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Confirmation 2022

Thursday 3rd November
2022 7:00pm

St. James' Church, Daisy Hill



This year's Confirmation service is being held at Daisy Hill and we pray for all our candidates being confirmed this year.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 13th November
St Bartholomew's Church



10:00am Civic Service

*Attendance limited
first come / first seated*

11:00am Laying of Wreaths & Two Minutes Silence
at the War Memorial

11:30am Holy Communion Service

*There is NO SERVICE at St. George's
this Sunday*

Christmas Fairs

There are lots of Christmas Fairs coming up
in November & December

Saturday 19th November 10:00am –
1:00pm

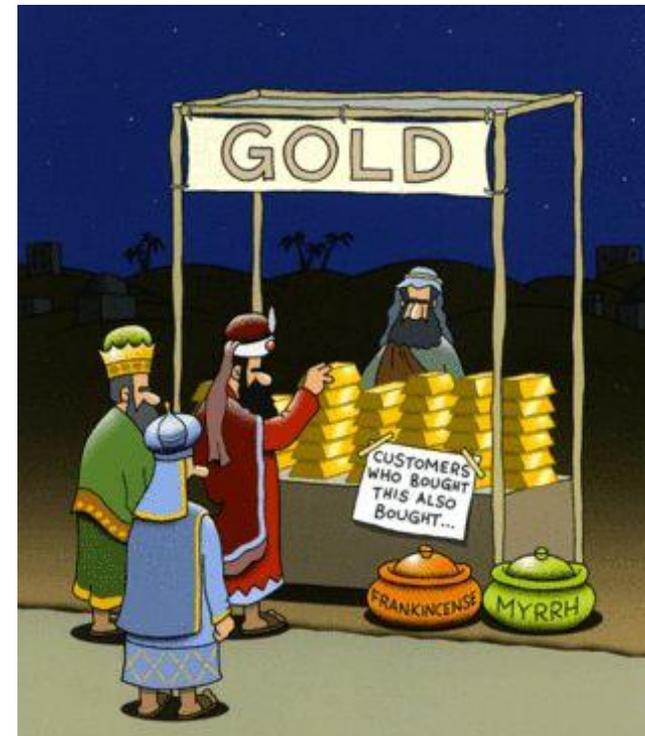
St. James' Church, Daisy Hill

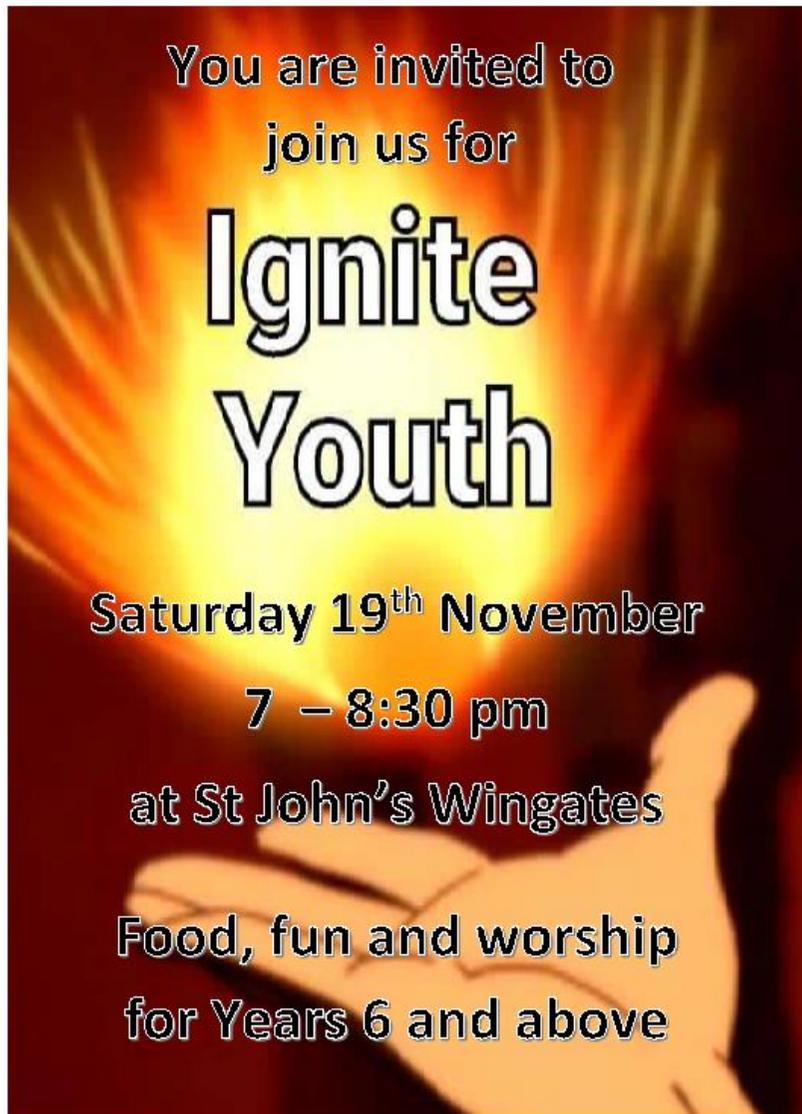
Saturday 19th November from 10:00am

St. Katharine's Church, Blackrod

Saturday 3rd December from 10:00am

St. John's Church, Wingates





You are invited to
join us for
**Ignite
Youth**
Saturday 19th November
7 – 8:30 pm
at St John's Wingates
Food, fun and worship
for Years 6 and above

Please RSVP to igniteyouthwesthoughton@gmail.com

Next Ignite Youth: 10th December

Town Christmas Lights Switch On & Carol Service

Friday 25th November 7:00pm
St. Bartholomew's Church

Christmas songs from local schools, and carols for all.

As last year a limited number of schools will take part in person with the other schools asked to contribute a short film that we can include as part of the service.

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SERVICE IS FREE BUT IS STRICTLY LIMITED AND ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY.

Tickets will be available at our churches.

Please do not attend the service if you do not have a ticket as there will be none available at the door and we cannot admit anyone without a ticket.

Christmas Concert

Friday 9th December 7:00pm – 8:15pm
St. Bartholomew's Church

Lancashire Youth Concert Band (LYCB),
Inspire Ensemble
Chris Guenault [Musical Director]
Ed McHale [Organ]

Festive music and carols to sing. Tickets £5

Share the light with the Christingles



Join us at our Christingle

We would love for you, your friends and your family to join us at our Christingle celebration so we can support more vulnerable children.

Sunday 27th November
Advent Sunday

St. Bartholomew's Church

Arrive at 2:30pm with an orange to make your Christingle
before the service at 3:00pm

The collection at this service goes to support the work of the
Children's Society



christingle.org

Christmas Dinner on Jesus:

This year we've agreed to collect **500 packets of luxury biscuits.**

It's the **200 – 300g packets** as they can't fit the larger boxes and tins into the hampers.

Please check that the use by date is after Christmas Day and **PLEASE** don't bring them yet as we have nowhere to store them.

We'll be collecting in our churches between Sunday 20th November and closing date of 30th November. Please don't bring them earlier as we have nowhere to store them.



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SERVICES

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022



Sunday 27th November

Advent Sunday

9:15 am St. George's	Service of the Word
9:15 am St. Thomas'	Holy Communion
11:00 am St. Bartholomew's	All Age Holy Communion
3:00pm St. Bartholomew's	Parish Christingle Service ++

Please arrive at 2:30pm bringing an orange to make your Christingle



Sunday 4th

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion
Service of the Word
Service of the Word

Sunday 11th

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Nativity Service
Toy Service ++
Holy Communion & Nativity /
Toy Service ++

***We hold our Toy Services today – please bring unwrapped gifts which are donated to Fort Alice [St. Thomas'] or Bolton Lions [St. Bartholomew's]*

Wednesday 14th

11:00am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion / Luncheon Club

Sunday 18th

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion /
Christmas Party ++
Carol Service++
Carol Service++

Our traditional Carol Services with the well-known readings telling of the birth of Christ and favourite carols for all.



Wednesday 21st

7:45am Ditchfield Gardens
Act of Remembrance

10:00am St. Bartholomew's
Pretoria Pit Anniversary Service
We gather to mark the 112th anniversary of the
Pretoria Pit Mining Disaster.



Saturday 24th

4:00 pm St. Thomas'
6:00 pm St. George's

Christmas Eve

Crib Service++
Crib Service++



11:30 pm St. Bartholomew's
Holy Communion
The first Communion of Christmas with favourite carols in a candlelit
setting

Sunday 25th

10:00 am St. Bartholomew's

Christmas Day

Holy Communion++

There will be no services at St. Thomas' or St. George's churches today

Sunday 1st January 2023

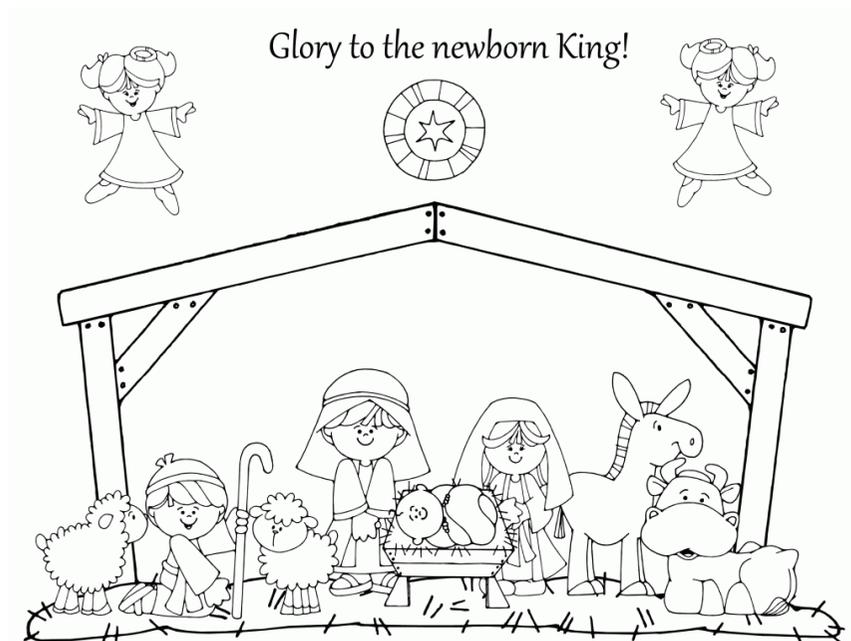
The Sunday after Christmas

11:00 am St. Bartholomew's

Holy Communion

There will be no services at St. Thomas' or St. George's churches today

**Services marked ++ are particularly family and child
friendly**





Westthoughton War Memorial was unveiled on 3 August 1923 by Colonel Crossfield, costing £1,800 which was raised by public subscription. The memorial commemorated 197 local servicemen who died in the First World War.

Following the Second World War the memorial was altered to commemorate the 90 fallen of that conflict, including the re-working of the rear wall, and re-dedicated on 7 November 1948. This unveiling was performed by Lieutenant Colonel R W Greenhalgh.



Regular Events

WESTTHOUGHTON PARISH

Every Sunday: Services:

9:15am St George's

9:15am St Thomas'

11:00am St Bartholomew's

Sunday School – term times during the Sunday morning service

– 1st and 3rd Sundays [St Bartholomew's / St George's]

Contact: Joan O'Reilly [St Bart's] / Pat James & Sarah Barry [St George]

Monday:

Office Hour - 10:30 – 11:30am every week in term time [for booking baptisms]

Just drop in

"Parent" & Toddler Group – 9:30 – 11:00am every week in term time

Contact: Joan O'Reilly / Elaine Simkin

Tuesday:

Bell Ringing - 7:30 – 9:00pm every week

Contact: Ryan Battersby [Tower Captain]

Wednesday:

Midweek Communion / Luncheon Club – 11:00am usually on the third week of each month at St Bartholomew's

Contact: Jean Tonge

Café Church – 3:45pm -

Contact: Jean Tonge

Choir Practice – 7:30 – 8:30pm every week at St Bartholomew's

Contact: Ed McHale

Saturday: from 9:30am every week,

Cleaning

Contact: Christine Andrews [St. Bart's]

Flower Arranging

Contact: Jean Tonge [St. Bart's]

Café Church

Wednesdays 3:45pm – 4:30pm
St. Bartholomew's Church



We're meeting every Wednesday afternoon from 2nd November to 21st December looking at the Old Testament story of Joseph.

2 nd November	Joseph the dreamer	Genesis 37.1 – 11
9 th November	Joseph the slave	Genesis 37.12 - 36
16 th November	Joseph is put in prison	Genesis 39. 1 - 23
23 rd November	Joseph interprets dreams	Genesis 40.1 – 41.36
30 th November	Joseph – Egypt's Governor	Genesis 41.37 - 57

Parent & Toddler Group

Mondays 9:30 – 11:00am

St. Bartholomew's Church – Meeting Room

Come and join us for refreshments, play, conversation and fun.

It's free.

Grandparents welcome

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 which lasts about 40 minutes.

Refreshments are available following the service.

Tuesday Coffee & Chat

10:00am - 11:30am

Check website for details

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.

NEW: Wiggle Worship – for younger toddlers, pre-school children and their parents & grandparents.

Each Wednesday during term time from 9:00 – 10am.

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Fair 19th November 10:00am – 1:00pm.

Do check out the **NEW St James website at:**

www.stjamesdaisyhill.co.uk

At St John's church, Wingates



Monthly Men's Breakfast

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

In 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.

Thursday Worship at St John's

A short and informal church family service at 6:30pm

Lasts 30 – 40 minutes

Every two weeks in November

Next Services: Thursday 10th & Thursday 24th

**Team Worship Service
Christ the King Sunday
Sunday 20th November 6:00pm
St. John's Church**

**An evening of worship, readings and reflections led by the
Team Worship Band**



Notice of events at St John's Church, Chorley Road, Wingates

Sunday service – weekly at 9.30am

Family service – Thursday at 6.30pm (1st and 3rd Thursdays of month)

Saturday 5th November 2022 – Bric a Brac & Brew at 10.30am
(1st Saturday of every month)

Saturday 5th November 2022 – Men's breakfast at 9am
(1st Saturday of every month)

Saturday 19th November – Calling all ladies

Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Fair at 11am

Sunday 4th December – Toy service at 9.30am

Tuesday 13th December – Wingates Band

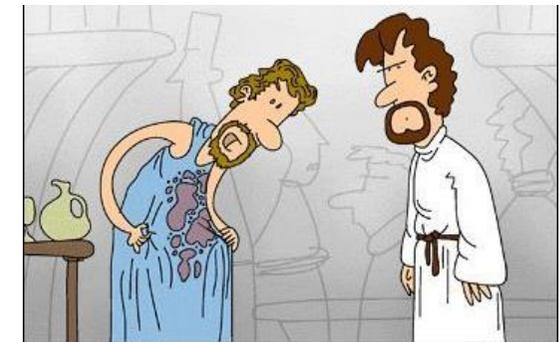
Sunday 18th December – Carol service



(See Matthew 14:14-21)

03-13-2009

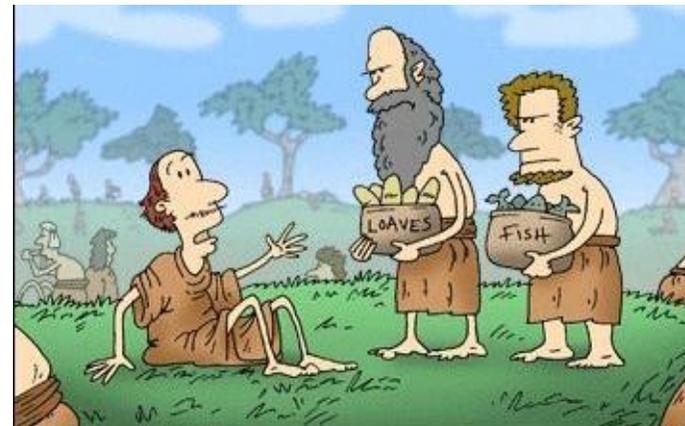
YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE, BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A BETTER OPTION



(See John 2:1-11)

10-05-2012

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU COULD TURN JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THAT WINE BACK INTO WATER?



(See Matthew 14:14-21)

08-05-2011

I'M ON A NO-CARB, VEGETARIAN DIET