

# THE PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW, OTFORD



## ST BART'S NEWS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> : THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

#### Services this week

<b>Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	10.00am – Morning Worship – ONLINE ONLY plus Children's talk on website
<b>Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>:</b>	10.00am - Spiritual Communion (BCP) – ONLINE ONLY
<b>Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>:</b>	10.00am – Morning Worship – ONLINE ONLY

These online services will be livestreamed on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StBartsOtford>) and also available to watch afterwards. They can also be watched by clicking the link from our church website.

#### Diary Dates (for note and prayer)

<b>Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	7.00pm, EPIC via Zoom (for Years 5-8 - contact church office or Russell/Dawn for details)
<b>Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	7.00pm, YPF via Zoom (for Year 9 and above - contact church office for details)
<b>Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	7.45pm, Ministry team meeting
<b>Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	1.45pm, funeral of Colin Fleetwood, Bluebell (invitation only) 8.00pm, Fabric Committee meeting
<b>Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	10.00am, funeral of Peter Downing, Bluebell (invitation only) 11.00am, thanksgiving for Peter Downing in church (registration only) AND ONLINE
<b>Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	7.45pm, Deanery Synod meeting

#### NOTICEBOARD

##### SERVICES IN CHURCH

It is with sadness that Revd David, the wardens and the ministry team, with the support of the PCC, have decided to **suspend public worship with immediate effect**. This means we, along with many other churches in the deanery and diocese, have had to seek a special dispensation from the bishop to allow us to hold online services only. We will review the situation in the middle of February, and decide whether or not it is safe to resume worship, taking full notice of Government, medical and Church of England advice. Regular services will continue online – a 10am livestreamed service on Sunday mornings and a 10am BCP Spiritual Communion on Wednesdays. With the new variant of Coronavirus spreading so rapidly and unpredictably, we could not risk the health of the elderly and vulnerable members of our congregation. We sincerely believe, after much prayer and thought, that it is the most responsible action we can take as Christians. We look forward to resuming our communal worship as soon as possible. The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am–3pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9–11.30am.

##### PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

In our **cycle of prayer**, we pray for the residents of The Butts and for the work of Sevenoaks Counselling Service. We pray especially for those remembering today the importance of the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and for all who are baptised. Daily prayers are available on our website and are also published on our social media pages.

##### CHURCH OFFICE

Please note that because of the national restrictions the **church office is closed**. Emails and telephone messages are being checked regularly.

##### PARISH MAGAZINE

We regret to announce that, as it has not proved possible to form a new editorial team for the St Bart's parish magazine, it will cease to be published at least for the time being. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the life of the magazine over the years, whether as writers, readers, distributors or advertisers. Without you, and the sterling work of the parish office, the magazine could not have existed. May God bless you all, Christeen and Vicki (retiring editors)

##### LOAVES AND FISHES

The food bank now receives donations on Thursdays from 11am – noon, and we continue to collect items in the church entrance lobby.

## MARATHON THANKS

Huge thanks to Tom Mann and Brittany Young (past YPF members) who ran a virtual marathon and half marathon to raise money for St Bart's. So far they have raised just over £500. Donations can still be made – ideally directly to the church or otherwise via their JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/brittany-young-1>

## BEETLE DRIVE

We are arranging a series of social events via Zoom to help us through the darker and colder evenings and the latest lockdown. The first is a **Beetle Drive** on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm. You will need your own die to roll. This event is free, but you are invited to make a donation if you wish towards church funds. The next event will be a Murder Mystery event on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ZOOM COFFEE

Join us for **Zoom coffee & chat** after church at 11.30am on Sundays.

Either online: <https://zoom.us/j/96153119326?pwd=b0xwOXRpdWVHUVxJRdNMGMNVVJKUT09>

Meeting ID: 961 5311 9326, Passcode: 103638 or phone in on 0208 080 6591 with the same ID/code

## LECTIONARY READINGS:

**BCP Communion:** Romans 12.1-5; Luke 2.41-52

**Common Worship Communion:** Genesis 1.1-5; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11

**Morning Prayer:** Psalm 89.19-29; 1 Samuel 16.1-3,13; John 1.29-34

**Evening Prayer:** Psalm 46; Isaiah 42.1-9; Ephesians 2.1-10



## COLLECT

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Jesus is seen at this time publicly demonstrating the type of ministry which he has chosen. When we baptise a baby, it is more than putting off of the old self, it is a putting on of the new - perhaps this is made more explicit when we baptise a baby, which it is hard to recognise as steeped in sin. So too the baptism of Jesus is not a washing away of the past, but rather a putting on of the new, preparing himself for the great task, setting out his style of ministry. The baptism of Jesus shows God entering flesh and becoming one of us. At his baptism Jesus goes down into the waters with us. Jesus enters the waters, comes up close to us, lets the waters that covered the repentant sinners flow over him. He takes what is weak and wavering, makes us his disciples and strengthens us who would follow him.



Vicar: The Revd David Guest  
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Tel: (as church office)

Day off this week: Tuesday

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[www.stbartholomews.co.uk](http://www.stbartholomews.co.uk)



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[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/)



## A prayer for the nation

Loving Father God, be with us in our distress: with our families, friends and neighbours, our country and our world. Give health to the sick, hope to the fearful, and comfort to the mourners. Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers, insight to our government and patience to us all; Overcome disease with the power of your new life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



A free phoneline of hymns, reflections and prayers

**0800 804 8044**

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

E	G	N	I	H	C	A	E	R	P
S	A	N	D	A	L	I	C	E	O
P	A	R	T	S	R	E	T	A	W
I	S	T	N	N	K	D	V	O	E
R	A	R	H	E	E	N	Y	E	R
I	O	O	E	V	O	D	E	O	F
T	J	E	O	A	O	H	S	E	U
P	O	L	I	E	C	I	N	A	L
A	E	V	E	H	V	O	C	E	N
B	A	P	T	I	S	E	D	E	D

JOHN	POWERFUL	KNEEL
STRAP	SANDAL	BAPTISED
WATER	SPIRIT	HEAVENS
DOVE	VOICE	BELOVED

