

ST BART'S NEWS

SUNDAY 19th November: 2nd Sunday before Advent

FORTH COMING SERVICES

Sunday 19th November	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	Morning Worship (CW)
	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wednesday, 22nd November	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 26th November	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	3.00pm	Messy Church

DIARY DATES

Thursday 16th November	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
Friday 17th November	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
Saturday 18th November	10.30am	Christmas Market (Church and Church Centre)
Sunday 19th November	5.00pm	Youth Band (Church Centre)
Monday 20th November	2.00pm	CAMEO (17 Leonard Avenue)
Thursday 23rd November	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
Friday 24th November	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)

NOTICEBOARD

VACANCY

During the **vacancy** the churchwardens, ministry team and administrator in particular will have a lot of extra responsibilities and any help and support you can offer will be much appreciated. A lot of 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. 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.

SERVICES IN CHURCH

Our **10.00am Sunday service** continues to be livestreamed as well as being in person. Access it via our YouTube channel [StBarts Otford](#) or [church website](#).

HOLY COMMUNION

At our **Communion services** we offer bread and wine. At our main services, the priest will either drop a wafer into your hand and you move on to an assistant who will offer the chalice OR you can receive a wafer dipped in the wine. Please make it clear which you would prefer. We offer intinction for health reasons so please do not dip a wafer into a chalice yourself.

THANKS

Our welcome and thanks to Revd Adie McCall for taking our Sunday and mid-week communion services.

OFFICE OPENING

This week the office will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am- 12noon. The church is usually open Monday-Friday mornings for private prayer and often at other times.

PARISH PRAYERS

In our **cycle of prayer**, we pray for the residents of Flowerfield; and for the work of Tear Fund. We pray for those who are unwell, including Rosemary Hull, Sylvia Grafton, Gareth Tucker and Jeannette Raine. We remember the recently departed and pray for all who mourn their passing. We also remember those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Our monthly prayer breakfast is on the 4th Sunday in the month, 8.45am in the Church Centre. The next prayer breakfast is on **26th November**. In particular we will be praying for our church during the clerical vacancy.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas Market is this coming Saturday **18th November 10.30-2.00pm**. Please see if you can help out in any of the ways listed below. Or, if you can offer a little bit of time to relieve a stall holder whilst they grab a cuppa and a bite to eat, please contact Janet Hunt and let her know.

In addition to unused Christmas cards, the **cards and wrapping stall** would appreciate donations of the following items: rolls of wrapping paper, Christmas themed or plain gift bags and boxes, bows, ribbon and gift tags. As the Christmas cards need to be sorted and repackaged, it would be helpful if any donations could be placed in the box in the Church foyer. Thank you. (*Deborah Vigis*)

Handmade donations for the **Christmas Craft Stall** would be gratefully received. Handmade mats, ornaments, cushions, patchwork items table decorations etc. No knitted garments this year please. (*Betty Bishop*)

Christmas Market Cake Stall: If you can make a cake, small cakes, tarts (fruit or savoury), jam, lemon curd, marmalade or a pudding, please either bring it to the Church Centre on the day of the Christmas Market or to the Church Office on the Friday. The more we can sell the more money we make for the Church! (*Susan Reid, 01959 523234*)

ST BART'S ADVENT STUDY COURSE – for four Thursdays beginning on 30th November, 8pm on Zoom (link to follow)

In the nativity story, there are four sudden, Spirit-filled songs from the heart, and they're all still used in the rhythm of liturgy: Zechariah's song (the Benedictus) Mary's song (Magnificat) the song of the angels (Gloria in Excelsis) and Simeon's song (Nunc Dimittis).

With the help of the book 'They Sang' by Amy Scott Robinson we will use our four Thursday studies to guide us in exploring these ancient poems of praise and prophecy. You may even discover your own song along the way.

DIOCESAN ADVENT QUIET DAY

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on **Saturday 16th December 2023 10.00 to 16.00** at St Benedict's Centre, West Malling ME196JX Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity for quiet contemplation of the genealogy of Jesus and what that means for us today, together with a closer look at the O Antiphons and how they can help us see God in all things. The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for 20 years. Please bring a packed lunch (drinks will be provided). Suggested donation for the day £15-20.

To book email: susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk

LOAVES AND FISHES

Here is a list of items the foodbank is requesting at the moment:

tuna and other fish, stewed steak, chicken casserole, ham/spam, corned beef, macaroni cheese, potatoes, rice sauces, instant soup, instant noodles, instant pasta, biscuits, cooking oil, peanut butter, chocolate spread, marmite, honey, tin openers, men's grooming products, women's hygiene products, shower gel.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments are served in the Church Centre after our 10am service. Please sign up on the new rota next to the serving hatch in the Church Centre if you can help, there are spaces to fill 😊

SALES TABLE

We are pleased to have Sylvia's **card and mini gifts stall** back in the church centre. If you have any used cards (not Christmas) or mini gifts you are willing to part with, we are sure Sylvia will be delighted to receive them. Many grateful thanks.

READINGS (numbers show page in pew Bibles of readings being used)

Sunday Morning Services: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end (pg.944); 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (pg.994) (used at 8.00am/10.00am)

Evensong: Revelation 1:4-18; Luke 9:1-6

BCP Communion: Jeremiah 23:5-8; John 6:5-14 (used on Wednesday morning)

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MORNING (*hymn in italics omitted if there is a choir anthem*)

1. As the deer pants for the water (BBC 212)
2. Judge eternal (BBC 386); 3. *Jesus call us o'er the tumult* (BBC 331); 4. I'll go in the strength of the Lord (BBC 329)

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY EVENING

1. Ye servants of the Lord (NEH 18); 2. Lead kindly light (NEH 392); 3. Soldiers of Christ, arise (NEH 449, tune BBC 344 (i))

COLLECT FOR SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Creator God who bears all things, help us to transform our church into a place of safety, where we can tell our stories; where we can choose to show the scars of wounded bodies, hearts and minds; where there is the possibility of healing and a willingness to stand as pain bearers for one another. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

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 vicar, 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

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18 th November	10.30-2.00pm	Christmas Market (Church Centre)
Sunday 19 th November	5.00pm	Youth Band (Church Centre)
Monday 20 th November	2.00pm	Cameo
Tuesday 21 st November	8.00pm	Social Media Committee (8 Great Till Close)
Sunday 26 th November	3.00pm	Messy Church (Church Centre)
	5.00pm	Youth Band (Church Centre)
Thursday 30 th November	8.00pm	Advent Study Course 1
Saturday 2 nd December	6.45pm	Strictly Come Dancing - wine and cheese evening (Church Centre)
Sunday 3 rd December	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service

CONTACT LIST

Please contact the [Office](#) regarding baptisms, weddings, funerals or requests for home communions

Please send any notices for inclusion to janet@otford.net by **TUESDAY EVENING at the latest**

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And here is a Dave Walker cartoon:

With every blessing,
The Wardens and Ministry Team

