

ST BART'S NEWS

SUNDAY 3rd December: Advent Sunday

FORTH COMING SERVICES

Sunday 3rd December	8.00am	Holy communion (CW)
	10.00am	All Together Worship
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Wednesday, 6th December	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 10th December	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	Holy Communion with Bishop Jonathan (CW)

DIARY DATES

Thursday 30th November	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
	8.00pm	Advent Course 1 – on Zoom (details below)
Friday 1st December	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 2nd December	7.25pm	Strictly Evening: 7.00 for 7.25pm (Church Centre)
Monday 4th December	2.00pm	CAMEO
	8.00pm	PCC (Church Centre)
Thursday 7th December	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
	8.00pm	Advent Course 2 – on Zoom (details below)
Friday 8th December	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	7.00pm	Tree of Light Service (The Green)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 9th December	2.30pm	Carols and Cake (Church Centre)
	6.00pm	EPIC (Church Centre)
Sunday 10th December	7.00pm	Choir Christmas Concert

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 and Revd Anne Bourne 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 Great Till Close; and for the work of Sevenoaks Counselling Service. We pray for those who are unwell, including Rosemary Hull, Sylvia Grafton and Gareth Tucker.. We remember the recently departed and in particular Jeannette Raine and pray for those who mourn her 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. There will not be a prayer breakfast in December so the next one will be on **28th January**. In particular we will be praying for our church during the clerical vacancy.

VACANCY UPDATE

Attached to these notices (or available in church if you receive a paper copy) is an update on the current clerical vacancy. Please take time to read this update and to pray for the process to come and those taking part in it.

DATES FOR 2024

We have put together a complete list of dates of special services, events and meetings for 2024. We hope there will not be too many changes to this but do keep an eye on the weekly notices for any updates.

FROM THE CARD STALL

If you missed the chance to buy cards and gift tags at the Christmas Market there are still some available in the Church Centre. They are all priced. Please leave your money in the box provided. Thank you.

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

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.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83182997275?pwd=iZR41m1tRLacaf4oWtwbyajfwSSwqV.1>

Meeting ID: 83182997275

Passcode: 125823

STRICTLY EVENING

Bring out the sequins! Strictly Come Dancing Quarter finals night will be shown live in the Church Centre 7.00pm for 7.25pm on **Saturday 2nd December**. Enjoy cheese and wine and good company while watching the spectacular show! Suggested donation £10/head. Please sign-up in the church lobby or by email st.bartholomews@otford.net, and if you would like a lift please let Janet or Joan know.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Our annual Advent Carol Service by Candlelight service is on **Sunday 3rd December 6.30pm**. Everyone is welcome to join this atmospheric and traditional service marking start of the Advent season.

CAROLS AND CAKE

Calling all Carollers - come and join us for the opportunity to sing some of your favourite carols and enjoy some cake in the informal setting of the Church Centre on **Saturday 9th December at 2:30pm**.

Looking forward to seeing you all there (*Joan Beacom*)

BISHOP JONATHAN

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Jonathan to St Bart's on **Sunday 10th December** when he will be presiding at our 10am holy communion service. Please join us and take the opportunity to meet and speak with our diocesan bishop.

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The choir will present their annual Christmas Concert in church on Sunday 10th December at 7.00 p.m. There will be a mixture of carols old and new, from England and overseas, and plenty of carols for you to join in. Wine and mince pies will be served at the concert. Our entry price remains at £7 (children free). Come and get into the Christmas mood with us!

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

A note from Loaves and Fishes:

Dear friends at St. Bartholomews Church Otford,

Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes Foodbank would like to thank you for your continued support and generous donations to the Foodbank.

With the ever rising cost of living, the Foodbank strives to meet increased requests for it's services, and your support plays an important part in enabling to do this. It is very much appreciated. Please pass on our thanks to all those who have contributed. With all best wishes, Glenda Newholm for Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes Foodbank.

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: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (pg.1144); Mark 13:24-end (pg.1019) (*used at 8.00am/10.00am*)

Evening: A selection of readings for the Advent Carol service

BCP Communion: Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-33 (*used on Wednesday morning*)

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

1. Creation sings the Father's song; 2. Before the throne of God above; 3. Beautiful Lord, wonderful Saviour; 4. Praise like fireworks

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY EVENING

Advent Carol Service

COLLECT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

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
Monday 4 th December	8.00pm	PCC (Church Centre)
Friday 8 th December	7.00pm	Tree of Light Service (The Green)
Saturday 9 th December	2.30pm	Carols and Cake (Church Centre)
	6.00pm	EPIC (Church Centre)
Sunday 10 th December	7.00pm	Choir Christmas Concert (Church)
Monday 11 th December	8.00pm	Ministry Team
Tuesday 12 th December	6.30pm	Otford Primary School 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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Facebook: [StBartsOtford](#)

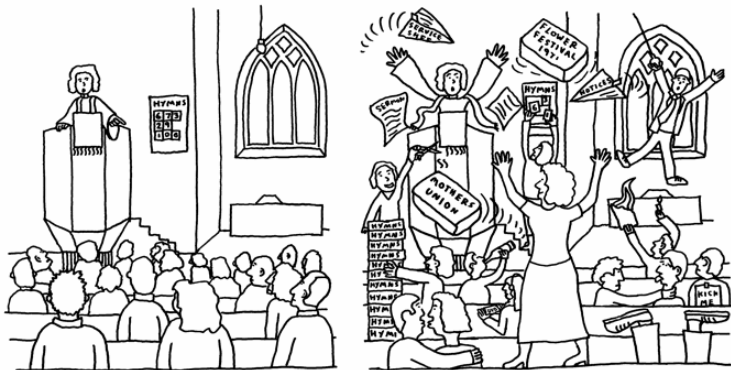
Instagram: [otford st barts](#)

YouTube: [StBarts Otford](#)

A Church Near You: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19716/

And here is a Dave Walker cartoon:

KEEPING ORDER



PRIEST IN CHARGE

PRIEST NOT IN CHARGE

CartoonChurch.com

With every blessing,

The Wardens and Ministry Team