

St Bart's News – Sunday 1st December

Advent Sunday

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Sunday 1st December	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	All Together Worship
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Wednesday 4th December	10.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Sunday 8th December	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00am	Holy Communion (CW)

DIARY DATES

Thursday 28th November	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
	8.00pm	Advent Course 1 (on Zoom – details below)
Friday 29th November	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Monday 2nd December	2.00pm	CAMEO (17 Leonard Ave.)
Thursday 5th December	7.45pm	Bellringing Practice
	8.00pm	Advent Course 2 (on Zoom – details below)
Friday 6th December	2.00pm	Warm Welcome (Church Centre)
	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Saturday 7th December	3.00pm	Carols and Cake (Church Centre)

NOTICEBOARD

SERVICES IN CHURCH

Our **10.00am Sunday service** are livestreamed. You can access them via our YouTube channel [StBarts Otford](#) or [church website](#).

In addition to our usual 10am services we will be streaming Nine Lessons and Carols, 22nd December, 6.30pm; and also our Christmas Day service at 10.30am.

THANKS

Our welcome and thanks to Revd Adie McCall and Revd Anne Bourne for taking our Sunday and Wednesday communion services.

VACANCY

As our vacancy continues the churchwardens, ministry team and administrator in particular continue to have a lot of extra responsibilities and any help and support you can offer will be appreciated. Much 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 and more so now than when our vacancy began. 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.

*** CHANGE TO SERVICES***

In light of the above notice, there will be no communion service on 29th December. There will be just one service on this day which will be Morning Worship at 10am, led by Mags Southgate

OFFICE OPENING

The office will be open Monday, Wednesday and **Thursday** this week.

CHURCH EMAILS

At the end of this year the otford.net email addresses will no longer operate. Please update your contact details as follows as these can be used from now on:

Church Office : office@stbartholomews.co.uk

The Treasurer : treasurer@stbartholomews.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer : Safeguarding@stbartholomews.co.uk

There will also be other email addresses for different areas of the church which will be available in due course. We will let you know when these go live.

PARISH PRAYERS

In our **cycle of prayer**, we pray for the residents of the Hopfield Close; and the work of The Children's Society. We pray for those who are unwell, including, Rosemary Hull, Madelyn Roets, Mary Quenby, Pam Lane, Keith Howe, Linda, and Sarah. We remember the recently departed, and for those who mourn their passing. We also remember those whose anniversaries of death occur around this time.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments are served in the Church Centre after our 10am service to which all are welcome. If you could help with serving coffee, please sign up on the new rota next to the serving hatch in the Church Centre, there are spaces to fill



PRAYER BREAKFAST.

This is on the 4th Sunday of each month at 8.45am, between our 8am and 10am services. Stay on after one service or come early for the other. Join us in thanksgiving for all God has given us, for all that he will do through us, and also to pray for the filling of our vacancy.

HELP PLEASE

Could you spare a little time to clean one of our chandeliers ready for the Christmas season? If so, please get in touch with Susan Reid (01959 523234) who will be delighted to hear from you.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Many thanks to all those who were involved in any way with the Christmas Market last Saturday. Despite the efforts of the weather, it was a very successful event raising over **£4100** in total.

Without the help of so many of the congregation it would not have been the happy and successful event it was.

The Cards and Wrapping Stall - Thank you to everyone who donated their unused cards, tags and paper to the card stall for the Christmas market. Once again, we will ask for any unused cards in January, which will be used at the 2025 Christmas market. At the same time, we would also be grateful to receive any of the clear plastic wallets that contained the gift tags and cards sold on the stall, as these can be reused.

If you missed the chance to buy cards and gift tags from the stall on Saturday, some are available in the Church Centre. They are all priced. Please leave your money in the box provided. Thank you.

ADVENT COURSE

For our Advent course this year we will be using the book by Paula Gooder 'Journey to the Manger' to guide our thoughts. The meetings will be weekly on a Thursday at 8pm on Zoom and will be led by Dawn and Mags. The details for the zoom meeting are as follows:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86738004107?pwd=NFFmmAa2hGLEeR4wLRYGfouFwfl1Bz.1>

Meeting ID: 867 3800 4107

Passcode: 912352

CAROLS AND CAKE

Do you like eating cake? Do you like singing carols? Come and join us for Carols and Cake on 7th Dec at 3pm in the Church Centre. No need to sign up just turn up! Looking forward to seeing you all. Joan Beacom

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We are sorry that this year there will not be a Christmas concert by our choir. We do encourage you to come to the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm.

POLICY IN RELATION TO DOGS IN CHURCH

After much discussion and review at various PCC meetings we now confirm that 'Fully Trained Assistance Dogs' are always welcome in Church. Well trained dogs are welcome to visit the Church with their owners up to 30 minutes before a service starts and 30 minutes after a service finishes.

SALES TABLE

Don't miss out on the **card and mini gifts stall** in the church centre. If you have any used cards or new mini gifts you are willing to part with, we are sure we can make use of them. Many grateful thanks.

LOAVES AND FISHES

In particular at the moment the food bank is appealing for tins of tuna, chicken casserole, macaroni cheese, hot dogs, chilli con carne, beef curry, chicken curry, peas, sweet corn. Also, breakfast cereals (not cornflakes), rice, pasta sauce, UHT milk, biscuits, instant coffee, hot chocolate, vegetable oil, chocolate spread, marmite, shampoo, shower gel

If you wish to find out more about Loaves and Fishes or contact them please do so at www.sevenoaksfoodbank.co.uk or at sevenoaksfoodbank@gmail.com

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 incumbent, 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

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

Sunday Morning: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end (pg.1187); Luke 21:25-36 (pg.1057) *(used at 8.00am/10.00am)*

Evensong: Readings for Advent Carol Service

BCP Communion: Romans 13:8-end; Matthew 21:1-13 *(used on Wednesday morning)*

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY MORNING

1. Creation sings the Father's song 2. Light of the world; 3. All my days; 4. Come people of the risen king

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY EVENING

Hymns and Carols for Advent

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.

RESOURCES

OUR SERVICES ONLINE

You can watch last week's service and catch up with other recent services here: <https://www.youtube.com/@stbartsotford1735/streams>

CHURCH DONATION

You can make a **one-off donation** to the work of our church by visiting this site: <https://account.stewardship.org.uk/donation/oneoff/20293172>

CONTACT LIST

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

Church Office: St. Bartholomew's Church Centre

The Green Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PD;
tel: 01959 523185

e-mail: Office@stbartholomews.co.uk

Website: www.stbartholomews.co.uk

Facebook: [StBartsOtford](#)

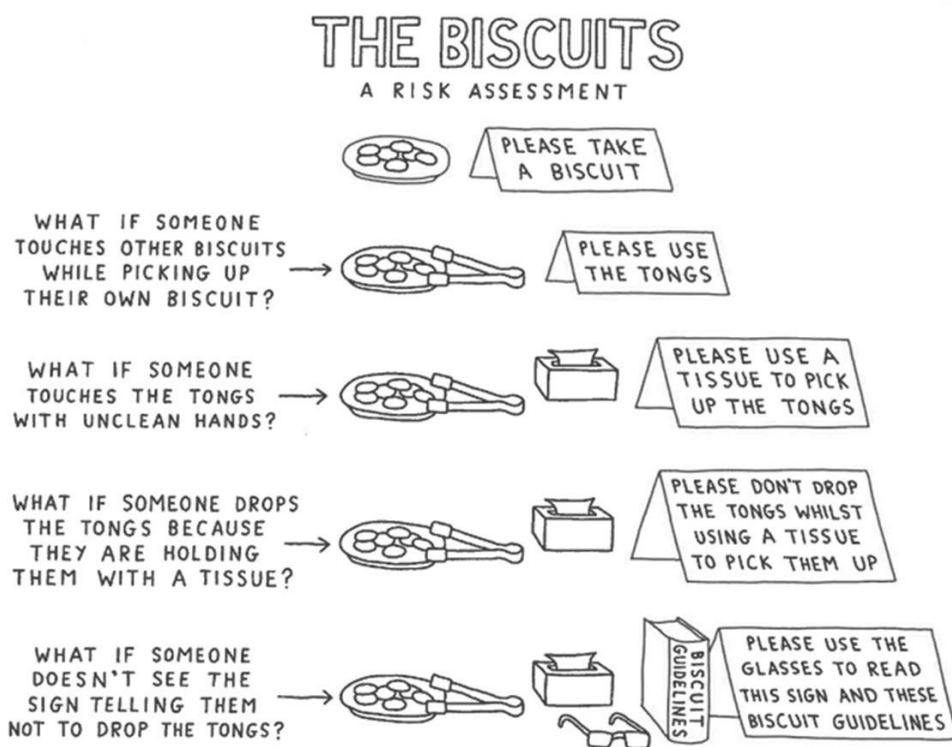
Instagram: [otford st barts](#)

YouTube: [StBarts Otford](#)

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

Please send any notices for inclusion to office@stbartholomews.co.uk by **TUESDAY EVENING** at the latest

And here is a Dave Walker cartoon:



With every blessing,

The Wardens and Ministry Team