

The Notices

The notices that you are reading, are printed out every Saturday evening ready for the Sunday Services. If you do have anything that you would like mentioned, eg coffee mornings, outings, walks etc. please let Rev. Michael know either by phone, email or putting your article through the Vicarage door.

Diary Dates

Please do put the following in your 2018 diaries. The Berkhamsted Deanery Lecture will be given on Thursday May 24th at 7.45pm by Terry Waite.

Competition Time

We would like to provide Christmas Cards of the church for next year. If you have taken photos of the church in the last few days, covered in snow, please send them by email to be printed out and you may have the winning photos.

Our prayers

Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, if it is well cultivated and nourished it will produce fruit, but if it is neglected, it will wither and die.

Gracious God, forgive us when, as the innkeepers of our time, we turn away those who are different from ourselves. When there is no room in our hearts for those you love, confront us until all the doors and windows of our souls are flung open, that, inspired by your love for us, we might be generous to all who come near to us in need. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

God of Christmas, we unwrap our presents- help us to remember those who have nothing. As we eat our festive food –help us to remember those who are hungry. We have fun with our friends and family –help us to remember those who are lonely. We think about the birth of Jesus in a stable –help us to remember all animals, and to be kind to them. We reflect that Mary gave birth a long way from home –help us to remember those in refugee camps today. As we enjoy being around those we love, in our happiness –help us to remember all who are sad today, and entrust them to you. In Jesus' name.
We remember all who have died and we pray for those who mourn.

Weekly Notices

Rector: Rev. Jonathan Gordon 01442 871547
Associate Priest: Rev. Michael Eggleton 01442 823273
www.stbartholomewschurch.org

Services this week

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

8am. Holy Communion BCP Rev. Michael

10am Parish Eucharist CW Rev. Jonathan

(David White Preaching) HYMNS: 358, 471, 237, 395

3pm Crib Service Rev Jonathan / Rev Michael

11.45pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight Rev. Michael

Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Eucharist

December 31st.

8am Holy Communion BCP Rev. Michael

10am Parish Eucharist CW Rev. Michael

Collect Prayer for the Day . God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Your donations help

If you are a taxpayer and are considering putting cash in the offertory plate today, please consider using a Gift Aid envelope which is available at the end of the pew. or from one of our welcome team. We are able to claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate

The Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David:

Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. *NRSV*

Romans Chapter 16:25 end

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen. *NRSV*

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. *NRSV*

Post Communion Sentence

Heavenly Gather, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.