



St Bede Parish, Morris Green

24th
December
2017

Christmas Eve

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Editorial

Tomorrow we celebrate the most joyous of all occasions, the Birth of Christ. Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost two thousand years... Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" - *Luke 2:11-14*

Sharron & Tony would like to wish all of St Bede a wonderful, blessed Christmas

Sharron & Tony

Today's Service

This week is **All Age Holy**

Communion Readings are: Romans 16 vs. 25 – 27 & Luke 1 vs. 26 – 38



Today's Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord

Please pray...

Marcus and Belinda Kelly
Janet Wall - for her closeness to God
Jeff Archibold
Baby Anthony Ross Evans
Paula Hulse
Mark Hulse
Jean Heyes
Marlene Wolstencroft
Michael Harmsworth
Doreen Ridyard
Minti Radia
Ronnie Ditchfield
Margaret Hayes
Gabrielle Ridyard
Irene Hulse
Barbara Platt
Bill & Joyce Bancroft
Bill Brown
Mark Emerson
Andrew Taylor
Carys Leonard
Petra Bryan

The prayer list has been updated, if you feel we have missed someone off who still needs our prayers, please don't hesitate to let Sharron or Tony know and we will add their names back onto the list.





 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester



St Bede's Church has its own Book of Remembrance. If you would like to add the name of a loved one in the Book of Remembrance, please see Judith Kelleway or one of the Wardens who would be happy to arrange that for you. If you would also like to donate flowers to the Church in memory at any time, Sharron would be happy to arrange them for you.

CELEBRATIONS

If you have any celebrations you want to share, please see Sharron or Tony or email us at;

newsletterstbede@gmail.com

During the weeks when we have Children's Groups in the Community Room, tea and coffee after the service will be held at the back of church. This will allow our Group Leaders to focus more on our young people and not on ensuring tables are set up for coffee. Please support this initiative.

OFFER ON INSURANCE

Ecclesiastical Insurance now provide home insurance for individuals and will give our Church a financial sum if we encourage parishioners to apply and take up their offer. Please see David or Elaine Almond for further details.

The newsletter is taking a break over Christmas but will be back on 7th January 2017



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2017. Fresh ideas are always welcome as well as new members!

Dates for your Diary

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

Sunday 24th December 2017 Christmas Eve – All Age Communion – 10.00am

Christmas Eve – Carols around the Tree – 6.30pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion – Joy to the World - 10.00am

CHECK OUT OUR BANNER UNDER THE MAIN STAINED-GLASS WINDOW OUTSIDE SHOWING WE ARE A LIVING BREATHING CHURCH

NEXT FUNDRAISING/SOCIAL EVENT

Our next event will be a Winter Warmer Luncheon on Saturday 20th January 2018 in the Community Room starting at 12.30pm.

Ticket price includes Meat & Potato pie and Gateaux for afterwards.

Tickets will be priced at £6.00 for Adults & £4.00 for Children and will be available soon after Christmas.



Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat. We work very hard to put on different events but we need these events to be supported if they are to be successful in raising funds and providing opportunities to share fellowship as a Church.

Homeless Aid Uk

Simon and Phillipa would like to share the following message;

We help with a charity called Homeless Aid Uk (open hearts open minds). It gets no government funding and is run entirely on donations and Volunteers on a rota system. It was set up in Bolton by a group of friends who wanted to help others and brings together volunteers from all backgrounds and faiths. Local businesses donate hot food and every Friday night a Soup Kitchen is set up in Bolton Town centre in which clothing and hygiene products can also be provided. On Saturday nights, a group of volunteers walk 5 miles around Manchester giving out food, hot drinks, clothes, shoes and hygiene products to the homeless people, as well as just providing kind words and comfort.

Last weekend, the temperature was minus 4, we were wrapped up but still felt the cold, many of the homeless people were only in thin clothing, their hands were bright red and blue from the cold. We took plenty gloves, scarfs and hats but still ran out, we took 100 portions of food and still ran out. It really opened our eyes as usually at Christmas everyone wants snow to take the perfect photo but it's the worst thing to have for the homeless. Sadly, this week we were advised that 2 homeless men later died from exposure last weekend. Men aged 18-60 make up the largest percentage of homeless people as they are not considered a priority for housing. To claim benefits, you need a registered address, so the homeless people are in an endless cycle. Many of them have previously worked and been married and have just fell on hard times and some have made bad decisions which resulted in homelessness and now they can't get out of the cycle.

There was some good news; whilst out, a gentleman came over and hugged the volunteer guide (and founder) and started to cry. It transpired that he used to be homeless and the charity had helped him for years and had visited him in hospital throughout his bowel cancer treatment (even when fighting cancer with a colostomy bag, he was left homeless when not in for treatment) and he has now finally found a place to live and was getting back on his feet. He was crying because he said the charity were his only friends at that time and he was happy to see them.

I hope that this Christmas, rather than looking forward to presents and parties, people look forward to and are thankful for a roof over their head, food and spending time with loved ones and their communities as those things are priceless. It's been a very humbling experience and keeps Simon and I fully aware of what really matters in life and how lucky we are.

If anyone in church is having a clear out, warm clothing, socks and gloves are always needed, and we can collect them and take them to the centre.



As you have received, so may you be pleased to give.

St Bede's is a living Church and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support the social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church, but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.



JUBILEE AND COMMUNITY ROOMS

The Community Room and the Jubilee room are available to hire for parties, meetings etc. Please see one of the Church Wardens, Gill or Jean

**St Bede
Parish,
Morris
Green**

Normanby Street, Bolton,
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CONTACTS

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ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE_MOORS
@BedeParish

www.st-bede.org.uk

More News & Cluster News...

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Can you all join us in welcoming Shardai Bristow, Casey Johnson and Keiron Bowes from St Catherine's Academy who are here for the next 10 or so weeks to help with Tea, Coffee etc as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

OUR NEW ARCHDEACON HAS BEEN TWEETED!!



David Bailey @52000Bailey · 2d
Delighted that my successor has been appointed. Great news for @DioManchester and especially #BoltonArchdeaconry

DioceseofManchester @DioManc...

We're delighted to announce our new Archdeacon of Bolton will be Canon Jean Burgess from Derby Diocese ow.ly/pLGX30h65TK



LAMB MISSION PARTNERSHIP – WEEKEND AWAY

Application forms and prices now available for the April 2018 weekend away. Please see Gill – Churchwarden – for more information.



Merry
Christmas