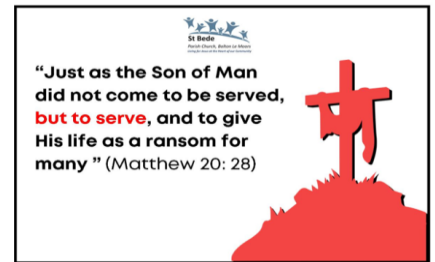


5th January 2025



Editorial

Epiphany

Reading: Matthew 2 v 1-12

The Epiphany of Our Lord is properly celebrated on January 6th, but it can be celebrated on the second Sunday of Christmas, which is what we are doing this year. When you think about it, celebrating Epiphany is a great way to begin a new year. Because this story is about people going on a journey to see Jesus, which is a great metaphor for all people of faith. We are all on a journey. In fact, we are on this journey together. To find Jesus, and to worship him. Life is a journey. And our life as Christians is a journey.

Scripture offers us many important journey stories. From Abraham being told to go to the land that God will show him. To the Israelites traveling through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. To Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem before the birth of their son. To Jesus, returning to heaven to prepare a place for us, and reminding us that we won't get lost on our journey to him, because he is the way, and the truth, and the life.

It is a new year, and what a blessing it is to begin this new year together. Truthfully, none of us knows what this year holds for us, or for our world. But we don't have to. Because we know that wherever this year takes us, Jesus will be with us on the way. We have found him. We have worshiped him. And now we travel on our way, by new and unexpected roads, but always with our Emmanuel alongside us.

As you and I travel through this new year together, may the one who created the stars, and gave us his only son, bless us and keep us; may the Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy; may the Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace

Tony Whitehead - Licenced Lay
Minister (Reader)



Please Pray for...

Minti R
David & Norma V
Barbara S
Brenda & Ken
Betty
Lee A
Stuart & family
Jackie
Isaac
Jodie
Anne H
Ross
Belinda K
Phil & Sue B
Dean
Norma M
Freda
Rebecca W
Samantha W
Kathleen
Emma H
Chloe
Alison H
Rachael B
John H
Kat C
Matthew B
Gary, Poppy & Flo



Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.

This week at St Bede

Sunday 5th January

10am Family Communion

Worship with us as we join together for our all-age Family Communion Service for our 1st service of 2025! This week we reflect on the Epiphany as the Magi followed the star to see Jesus.

Wednesday 8th January

12.30pm St Bede Luncheon Club

Join us for our 1st Luncheon Club of 2025 for a delicious 2 course cooked lunch and time to spend time with friends or even to meet new friends. Book your place now by contacting Elaine Almond.

6.15pm WOW Leaders Meeting

Our WOW leaders are meeting this week. Please note there is **NO WOW** this week; however, WOW will be returning next week.

Thursday 9th January

7pm Prayer at 7

Our monthly prayer meeting meets again this week in the Fellowship Room. Join us for a short evening of prayer as we pray for ourselves, our community and our world.

Friday 10th January

9.15am St Bede Academy Collective Worship

Taking place in church.

Sunday 12th January

10.30am Holy Communion

Join us as we begin a new sermon series 'Serve' as we reflect on our new text verse for the year and our call as disciples to serve one another. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this morning.





St Bede Charity Partner 2025.



COLLECT

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below

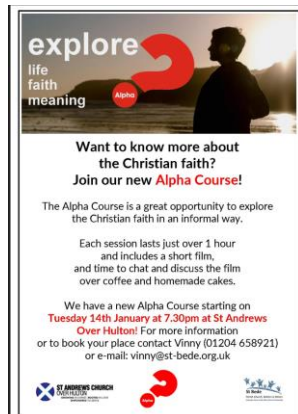


NEW ALPHA COURSE

We are delighted to announce that in the New Year we are running a new joint Alpha Course with our friends from St Andrews.

The Alpha Course is a great opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith and to ask those questions you've always wanted to ask!

The Alpha Course starts on **Tuesday 14th January 7.30pm** at St Andrews. For more information or to register your interest please contact Vinny



KWEZ 60th PARTY

After the 10.45 service on **12th January** there will be a party in St Andrew's Fellowship room to celebrate Kwez 60th party (the lady with pink hair who sings in the band and does prayers at St Andrews).

All are welcome to join her for a buffet and cakes following the service.

The party will run until 3.30pm for those who would like to join us after services at their own church.

Hope to see you on 12th.

Glynn (tel 07579 766453)

TEXT VERSE FOR 2025

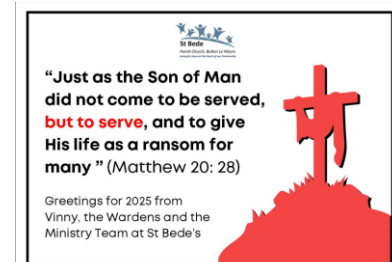
As we begin a new year; we also have a new text verse for 2025!

Our new text verse is

'Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Matthew 20: 28)

Our focus this year as we seek to live for Jesus at the heart of our community is how can we follow Jesus' example and serve those around us as we make a difference for Christ.

If you haven't done so already; please do pick up a text verse card from the back of church and put it up in your home this year.



BWFC SLEEPOUT



Join us on Friday 21st March, 8:00pm-7:00am for our annual sleepout. This inspiring event looks to raise awareness of homelessness in the Bolton Community whilst providing a unique experience and raising vital funds for Urban Outreach and Bolton Wanderers in the Community.

Give up your bed for one night and sleep under the stars, while gaining a small insight into the challenges faced by those without a place to call home.

Sign up today at

www.bwfc.org.uk/our-events



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 our 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.

Contacts

Vicar – Rev Vinny Whitworth – 01204 658921 vinny@st-bede.org.uk

Curate – Rev Sweetline Burnell – revd.sweetlineburnell@gmail.com 07423084946

Associate Priest – Rev Malcolm Bristow – 01204 659816

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) – Tony Whitehead – 07967 223380 – tony@st-bede.org.uk

Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

PCC Secretary and Church Administrator – Elaine Almond – 07757099862 elainealmond22@gmail.com

Treasurer – Simon Brooks - brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

Organist – David Platt

Newsletter Editor – Tony Whitehead 07967223380

Social Media Team – Kirsty Critchley 07763 495009 & Tony Whitehead 07967223380

Administrator – Elaine Almond – 07757099862

St Bede Primary Academy Headteacher – Anna Black – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

@StBedeParish, newsletter@st-bede.org.uk info@st-bede.org.uk

churchoffice@st-bede.org.uk www.st-bede.org.uk

Normanby Street, Bolton, BL3 3QR