



## The Greater Corsham and Lacock Team

The Church of England in  
Corsham | Gastard | Neston  
& Lacock with Bowden Hill  
[corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](http://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk)

### TEAM NEWS (43) - August 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

#### The Rector writes...

Today we are celebrating the life of Bartholomew, one of the apostles or eye-witnesses who knew Jesus. He is listed in Matthew, Mark and Luke as one of the twelve followers of Jesus.

In John's Gospel he appears under the name Nathanael, and this is the only time when we learn anything about him. He appears to be a friend of Philip, and when Philip is called to follow Jesus he goes to find Bartholomew. He tells him that they have found the one written about by Moses and the prophets, Jesus of Nazareth.

At first Bartholomew has his doubts: he wonders if anything good can come out of Nazareth, which was a pretty unfashionable obscure town in Galilee. But his doubts disappear when he meets Jesus. Although Jesus has not yet met him, he already knows that Bartholomew is a true Israelite in whom there is nothing false.

Not only that, but Jesus claims to have seen Bartholomew under a fig tree before he met Philip. In response to these miraculous words, Bartholomew declares his belief that Jesus must be the Son of God, the King of Israel. And Jesus promises that he will hear and see even greater things if he follows him.

And of course Bartholomew and the other apostles do hear and see many great things as they travel with Jesus. Later in John's Gospel we learn that Bartholomew comes from Cana in Galilee, which is where Jesus turned water into wine.

Bartholomew is also among the disciples when they meet with Jesus by the Sea of Galilee after his resurrection. And then in Acts Bartholomew is named as one of the disciples waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus has returned to heaven.

It is said that after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost Bartholomew took the good news about Jesus to India and Armenia. He is supposed to have been flayed to death at Albanopolis, on the west coast of the Caspian Sea.

So the example of Bartholomew and the experience of the twelve disciples in our gospel reading teaches us three things:

- We will experience doubts as we follow Jesus, and we will need to humble ourselves and fight against the world's view that the path to greatness is through having great power;

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- We will experience suffering and opposition as we try to share the good news about Jesus in a world that is increasingly hostile to the Christian message;
- But we will experience great joy as we serve Jesus and work alongside the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to make God's kingdom a reality on earth as it is in heaven.

May God grant that at the end of our lives we will hear him say these words: 'well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your rest'.

And in the words of our collect or special prayer for today, may we, with Bartholomew, be given grace truly to believe and to preach God's word.

*With love in Christ,*

*Andrew*

#### Sunday services

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Team Service of Morning Worship at St Bart's at 10 a.m.** Due to limited numbers, please telephone L'nora Olney on 01225 859202 to book your place. There is no parking in Church Square except for Blue Badge holders, and face coverings must be worn unless an exemption applies. No refreshments afterwards, sorry!

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August: Team Service on Zoom at 10 a.m.** If you have already attended any of our earlier zoom services you will automatically receive an invitation to this one. If you have not attended before, please contact Revd Victor by Friday 28 August at [associateminiser@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:associateminiser@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) for an invitation.

Not sure what a Zoom service looks like?: Use this link to access one held on 9 Aug: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/lfivqscjrszt46m/9%20Aug%20Zoom%20Service.mp4?dl=0>

#### Church services in early September

Alongside the continuation of a fortnightly Zoom Service and availability of our churches for private prayer on Sundays when there are no services in church we can now confirm the following church services are planned for September:

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Holy Communion in Corsham  
10.30am Morning Worship in Lacock

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

10.00am Holy Communion in Gastard  
10.00am Morning Worship in Neston

Further details about how to access these services will be published soon, together with details of church services for the rest of September, including Holy Communion services for Lacock and Neston.

As always at the moment there may be changes in response to government guidance and the progress of the pandemic but it is good to be able to start returning to our church buildings for services at last.

## Collect for Bartholomew the Apostle

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43.8–13 (NRSVA) Israel's only Saviour

<sup>8</sup> Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,  
who are deaf, yet have ears!

<sup>9</sup> Let all the nations gather together,  
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this,  
and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,  
and let them hear and say, 'It is true.'

<sup>10</sup> You are my witnesses, says the LORD,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.

<sup>11</sup> I, I am the LORD,  
and besides me there is no saviour.

<sup>12</sup> I declared and saved and proclaimed,  
when there was no strange god among you;  
and you are my witnesses, says the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> I am God, and also henceforth I am He;  
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;  
I work and who can hinder it?

### New Testament Reading: Acts 5.12–16 (NRSVA) The Apostles heal many

<sup>12</sup> Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. <sup>16</sup>A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 22.24–30 (NRSVA) At the Last Supper

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among the apostles as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. <sup>25</sup>But Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. <sup>26</sup>But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. <sup>27</sup>For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

<sup>28</sup>'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; <sup>29</sup>and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, <sup>30</sup>so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'

**Online Bible study : Colossian conversations Tuesday 25 August at 11.00am:** led by Revd Andrew. If you have not attended before please contact him for an invitation at [rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk).

### Churches open for individual private prayer

Our churches are expected to be open for individual private prayer during August as below. Please note that face coverings are now a legal requirement.

**Corsham and Gastard:** Sundays 11am to 1pm and Wednesdays 2 to 4pm

**Lacock:** Sundays 10am to 12 noon

**Neston:** Sundays 11am to 1pm and Wednesdays 2.30 to 4.30pm

**Wiltshire Ride & Stride - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 :** Please consider participating in this enjoyable fundraising event that benefits St Bart's and churches in Wiltshire. In compliance with government guidance on exercise, access to churches and risk assessments, the event will be quite different this year:

- Riders may take part as individuals or in small groups of up to six participants from different households preserving social distancing
- Striders may walk individually or in small groups of up to six participants from different households (a maximum of thirty can walk together as an organised group as long as social distancing is preserved between each group of six in addition to social distancing between households)

Churches are unlikely to be open or to provide a welcome and facilities.

**Please email Nigel Jackson if you wish to participate or sponsor –**

[nigel.jackson29@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nigel.jackson29@hotmail.co.uk). Forms also available from Team Office.

Revd Adam has left the Team. Please contact Revd Andrew Johnson on 01249 713232 or at [rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) if you need to contact a member of the clergy. Emails sent to [vicar@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) will automatically be redirected to the Team Office, from where they will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Adam can be contacted in his new role at [gauzebrookrector@gmail.com](mailto:gauzebrookrector@gmail.com)

More news and resources on our website [www.corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/news](http://www.corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/news). Enquires or information to [Office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:Office@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk) or [admin@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk](mailto:admin@corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk)