

St Bart's in 2021 and looking forward to 2022



Message from Fr Francis:

2021 has been an unusual year as we were operating within the Covid restrictions whilst at the same time moving forward – to establish our parish mission and build our parish community. Through work undertaken by existing parish groups and other volunteers, our parish has seen spiritual, social, ecumenical and outreach opportunities, great inputs from parishioners, some steps forward in the upkeep of church buildings/grounds, as well as our liturgical activities. A big thank you to all our parishioners for your efforts and ongoing support.

As we look forward to 2022, here is a summary (non-exhaustive) of 2021

- A new Parish Pastoral Council, including the Clergy and with Maintenance, Finance & Communications representatives, met monthly throughout 2021 and the 5 groups (**Building Community, Spirituality, Youth, Social Justice, Ecumenism**) defined their purpose and agenda for 2021.
- The parish Mission, **Evangelisation**, was agreed and two parish Zoom meetings were held to share messages and gain inputs. Summaries were circulated and are on our parish website.
- A new parish magazine “St Bart's Together” issued two editions
- A “Welcome to St Bart's” booklet was launched sharing details of parish groups and a new “Welcome” sign in our porch
- A new vision for Ecumenism in St Barts was shared and an explanatory leaflet produced
- A Parish Survey was held in September 2021 to gather inputs and seek volunteers to our many groups
- Our Parish logo was revised and re-instated (as above) to emphasise outreach and Evangelisation
- The Parish website was updated, and a new St Bart's Facebook page created for all to share, photos, events

Events

- Ecumenical Lent Groups were held
- Participation in and support for ecumenical COP26 pilgrimage and Pentecostal Walk
- Adopt a Plant - with St Albans Sustfest (funds raised for Earthworks) and Climate Conversations held
- Parish BBQ on 5 September with existing parish groups present, to share their purpose and introduce themselves
- 2x Cake Bake social events (raised funds for St Bart's SVP and for Youth Talk)
- 2 x Novenas held via Zoom (for St Joseph and for the Holy Spirit)
- Immaculate Conception Service by candlelight in December, also acknowledging the end of the year of St Joseph
- Fairtrade Lunch in October for One World Week
- Harvest Service, collecting food for 2 local foodbanks
- Ecumenical Advent Groups
- Christingle Service
- Diocesan “Journeying Together” (Synodal Pathway) consultation process from October - December 2021. This involved sessions with 6 existing parish groups and 3 discussion sessions for all parishioners and summary prepared. The outputs from Journeying Together and the parish survey will be reviewed together for any relevant overlaps and shared with all parishioners.

Other activities

- Weekly parish newsletter and missalette circulated on email, from updated parish database, as well as on Parish website
- Welcomers/stewards supporting the entrance to masses during 2021 and new rota in place for Welcomers now in place
- Parish groups continued e.g., Circle of Friends re-started monthly tea in September 2021 and SVP continued support
- Jumble Sale in September for HCPT funds
- Three Carol singing sessions for HCPT funds
- Our new Parish Administrator, Jenny Barnes was recruited and joined in December 2021
- Music and singing re-started in the church
- New arrangements for parish flowers;-the aim is to be self-funding, via parishioners ordering their floral displays etc
- Tea/Coffee after 10.30 hrs Mass re-started mid 2021
- Four ecumenical Christmas family hampers were gifted to St Bart's to distribute
- Wi-fi implemented in parish hall and in the church
- Contactless payment installed in the church

Maintenance

- Fire procedures and other H&S essentials were put in place leading to positive audit report end of 2021
- External fire signage added
- Parish gardens cleared, some equipment purchased and an ongoing maintenance programme with external contractor now in place
- Large trees at front of St Bart's pruned
- Presbytery porch repainted
- Parish hall roof repaired, and Church roof checked
- Soffit boards on Presbytery replaced and all gutters cleared
- Flat roof leak (above confessional) repaired
- Car parking bollards, steps and spaces re-painted
- New arrangements in Parish porch for greater space, contactless payment and enhancing the view inside of church
- New installations for Christmas and church decorations

Safeguarding

- Effective measures for keeping all parishioners safe were updated and guidance given, as required, and communicated

An insight into the PPC plan for first part of 2022 and linked to the liturgical calendar

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	
Christian unity week (Ecumenical)	Prayer card re love & St Valentine (Spirituality)	Lent groups (Ecumenical)	*Easter* 17/4	Marian Procession (Spirituality)	*Pentecost* 5/6		Novena For St Bartholomew (Spirituality)	
	Adult formation (Spirituality) TBC	Retreat "Day of recollection" (Spirituality) TBC		Adopt a Plant (Ecumenical)	Pentecost Walk (Ecumenical)			
		Walshingham pilgrimage -opportunity to join with St Albans & St Stephens - (Spirituality)		St Bart's Diamond Jubilee celebration 29/05 with Bishop Paul McAleenan leading				
		PRAYER GARDEN & FAMILY MASS (Target May 2022) (Youth) TBC						

If you wish to find out more or join any of the parish groups, please contact them directly, via the Parish Office or via Christine Lambert, PPC Chair.