

THE M Magazine

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

May the
POWER OF GOD
OF HOPE fill
you with all
JOY AND PEACE
as you trust in him
so that you may
overflow with hope by the
POWER OF
THE HOLY
SPIRIT.
ROMANS 15: 13

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Priest in Charge:	Revd Sarah Northall	074838 07432
Associate Priest:	Revd Rosie Moss	07761 691984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Julie Berrow, Reader	07733 226061
Churchwarden (St Barnabas & Christ Church):	Mary James	01905 455214
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):	Rachel Chalmers	07787 128345

WEBSITE: www.stbarnabaschurchworcester.co.uk

SERVICES:

Sunday	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday	10am	Said Eucharist

PARISH OFFICE:

To book a baptism or marriage (or to have banns read), send message through our website:

www.stbarnabaschurchworcester.co.uk

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Penultimate Sunday of each month.
Please e-mail contributions to jackiecampbell@talktalk.net

Registered Charity number 1158894



FOUR FACES FOR ADVENT

Advent is one of those seasons that feels familiar every year yet still manages to open something new in us. It isn't just a countdown to Christmas; it's a way of paying attention again — to what God is doing, to what we long for, and to how Christ keeps arriving in the middle of ordinary life. Over the four Sundays of Advent, we will ponder the opening moments of each of the four Gospels. We will pay attention again to the first glimpse, the first sentence, the first arrival that John and Matthew, Mark and Luke give us of the Jesus that we are awaiting.



and we follow the Jesus who still exceeds our explanations and draws us into wonder rather than certainty.

From there we move to *Peaceful Disruption* on **Sunday 7 December**. Matthew's Gospel has long been linked to the symbol of the winged "son of man." Here Jesus arrives in the middle of a family crisis, and mercy quietly rewrites what righteousness looks like. We will meet the Jesus who will reorder the world with justice without violence and mercy without end; and encounter the Jesus who still unsettles our expectations so that a deeper peace can take root.

We begin on **Sunday 30 November** with *Hopeful Confusion*, guided by John and his traditional symbol of the eagle — the creature the early Church used to describe the way John's Gospel soars higher than the others. John introduces Jesus not in Bethlehem but before the beginning of time, lifting our eyes into the vast, bright mystery of the Word through whom all things were made. We can expect to meet the Jesus who existed before beginnings and who will gather all creation back into that first light, where hope is complete;

Our third Sunday is **14 December**, when we will find *Joyful Warnings* in the opening lines of Mark. Mark's Gospel has always carried the image of the lion to capture its urgency and strength. Here we can expect the Jesus who bursts onto the scene with joy blazing through urgency; we anticipate the Jesus who will finish what he began, bringing a joy that judges and a judgment that heals; and we receive the Jesus whose good news still comes as siren call — joy wrapped in urgency, demanding response over reverie.

The final Sunday before Christmas is **21 December**, the turning point of winter. On this longest night of the year, we will encounter the *Faithful Uncertainty* of Luke's story. The early Church gave Luke the symbol of the ox — steady, patient, grounded — because his Gospel is filled with stories of ordinary faithfulness carrying extraordinary promise. Before Jesus speaks or acts, we meet a priest still serving, a woman still hoping, a girl still saying yes — ordinary people whose steadiness makes room for God.

So in our worship this Advent, we will meet Jesus afresh four times over — and let these first encounters train our eyes and ears and hearts to recognise him in the life we are living now.
Revd Sarah Northall

NOAH'S BAPTISM

Thank you for Noah's cards and gifts and thanks to everyone who came to the service or sent their best wishes or baked cakes and treats! It was a beautiful and moving service. We certainly felt the power of God's family that morning, the church was filled with love and support for Noah as he continues his journey in faith. Thank you again to everyone at St Barnabas and beyond!

See photos on centre pages

PIANO FUND

A big Thank You to everyone who supported Katy with her fundraising—her final total was an amazing £150! *Well done Katy!*

RAFFLE PRIZES WELCOMED!

We are having a raffle at the Brass band concert in aid of Sensory Matters, Worcestershire. Any raffle prizes would be welcome especially luxury food and drink items for the hampers.



BRASS BAND CONCERT

On Sunday 7th December Worcester Concert Brass Band will be performing again in church at 3pm. Tickets £5 adults/£2 children are available now from Mary (07914 875861)

The band is busy preparing for a very enjoyable afternoon! (see page 11)

SALE OF CHRISTMAS GOODIES

There will be a sale of Christmas Goodies including Christmas puddings and decorations in church on Sunday 7th December.



Why not come and stock up!

BOXES FOR THE HOMELESS

We are making up boxes for the homeless in Worcester again this year. Any donations/filled boxes much appreciated. Please bring to church by Sunday 14th December. See page 12 for more details.

TOLLY CAROL SINGING

Meet up at the Tolly Centre at 5pm on Friday 19th December to go carol singing round the area. All welcome!



Come & join us for CAROL SINGING ON THE GREEN

(by Church Hall on
Green Lane)

with Mulled Wine
& mince pies

Saturday 20th December 6pm
(inside if wet)

All welcome!
(donations to Maggs)

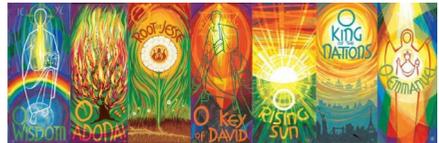


CHRISTMAS STARS

If you would like a Christmas tree star (£3) in memory of a loved one please put money in envelope with name on (gift aided if possible) and hand to Mary or Jackie by Sunday 21st December. Thank you!

WHY NOT....

Send Christmas greetings to your St Barnabas friends with a star on the tree by the coffee bar with donations to Maggs?



CHRISTMAS PEWENDS

If you would like a pewend in memory of a loved one (£5), please put money in envelope with name on (gift aided if possible) and hand to Mary or Jackie by Wednesday 18th December. Thank you!



MORNING PRAYER BY ZOOM

8am from Wednesday 17th
December to Christmas Eve
A daily 20 minutes of reading,
music and prayer for the week

You can join us directly from
the saintwulstans.online page
Revd Sarah Northall

A BIG THANK YOU



I would like to thank all the members of St Barnabas church family who have faithfully collected things for me to take to New Hope.

New Hope is a charity to support very disabled children and their families. For many of the children who attend New Hope it is the only social activity they have outside of school and home. It also serves as a well needed respite for their families, especially if they have other children.

New Hope has recently started to offer day services for 18+ youngsters who have finished full-time education, but there is no formal training or education to suit their needs. It has been a joy to see the activities that these young people have done with New Hope. They have gone out for a pub lunch, an outing for them to look for bargains in local charity shops, they have decorated pumpkins, enjoyed cooking and gardening sessions just to name but a few of their activities. New Hope often show the youngsters enjoying being together and forming friendships on Facebook.

These day sessions are a life-line for the youngsters and their

families; without New Hope these youngsters would be very lonely.

I, personally, would like to say a huge thank you to you all. I hardly ever come into church without getting offered donations to take to New Hope. It is a joy to pass them on as the staff and volunteers are so pleased and grateful for St Barnabas's support.

Marian Bailey



ABIDE FOR ADVENT

Our ABIDE resources for Advent this year are available by email.

Please send a blank email to ABIDResources@outlook.com and you will receive a confirmation message once you are registered. After this, you will receive a daily email from Friday 28th November.



NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT: OUR PRAYER FOR 2026

Our Season of Prayer brought us this well-known Serenity Prayer, as our choice for the new liturgical year, that begins on Advent Sunday 30 November 2025 and carries us through until Christ the King on Sunday 22 November 2026.



This prayer's opening lines have travelled far through recovery groups and communities seeking steadiness in hardship. Its structure is simple but searching: acceptance where we have no control, courage where we do, and wisdom to tell the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971) wrote it as the world slid toward war, when anxiety and idealism both ran high. A pastor and public theologian, he understood how easily fear or wishful thinking can distort faithful living. The longer version of the prayer adds realism, patience, and trust — a way of praying that neither denies the world's brokenness nor surrenders to it.

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot
change;
courage to change the things I
can;
and wisdom to know the
difference.*

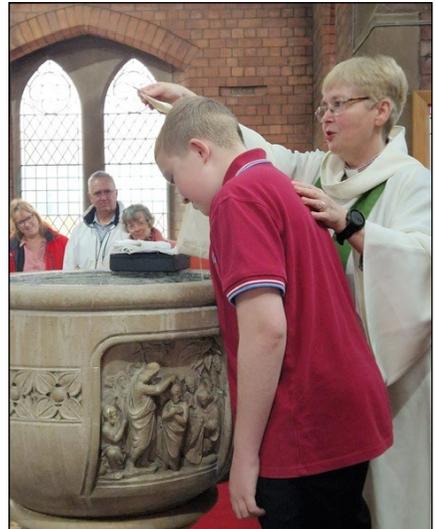
*Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a
time;
accepting hardships as the
pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this
sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;*

*trusting that He will make all
things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy
in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.*

Our Christian faithfulness is lived between what is and what will be. Beginning this prayer in Advent starts cultivating that balance: accepting the limits we cannot alter, acting bravely where God calls us, and seeking wisdom to discern the difference with clear eyes. Its patient, day-by-day trust offers a counterweight to seasonal pressure, and its quiet hope aligns us with the promise that Christ will indeed make all things right.

This prayer steadies our Advent waiting with grounded, courageous faith, and will go on to support and sustain as we seek to live our faithfulness afresh in the coming year.

Rev'd Sarah Northall



Top Recent ISingPop Sunday

Bottom: Noah Kear was baptised recently (see page 2)

Opposite top: A busy Remembrance Sunday service

Opposite bottom: The recent Christ Church Patronal service led by Revd Andy Gandon & Julie Berrow was followed by a bring & share lunch.



QUIZMAS IS COMING



This year we'll be marking the countdown to Christmas with a Daily Advent

Calendar Quiz — one short, playful challenge each day from Mon 1st December, right up to Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome to join in, and it's an easy way to add a little fun to the season. But the puzzles don't stop there. From Christmas Day through to 5 January, we will also run a Twelve Days of Christmas Challenge, offering a fresh festive quiz each day of Christmas itself.

Both sets of puzzles will be hosted on my new website, [Quizzles](https://quizzles.wordpress.com/), which is a sandbox space for games, puzzles, quizzes, and all sorts of playful challenges. Each edition brings something new to try, offering a few minutes of fun and a gentle workout for the brain. If you visit the site and click on the welcome message, you will find a space to enter your email address. This means that you will receive any posts and puzzles direct to your inbox. You can unsubscribe at any time of course!

I will also use the website to keep people up to date with our Big Quiz Nights at St Wulstans

and at St Barnabas, and the games afternoons we will be running at Christ Church.

<https://quizzles.wordpress.com/>

Revd Sarah Northall



What are you doing eco-wise this Christmas?

A GOOD EXAMPLE

The excellent eco minded 'Kitchen Crew' bought compostable palm leaf plates and bamboo cutlery to be used at Christ King Patronal festival, with the intention to take the used items home to be put in their compost bins.

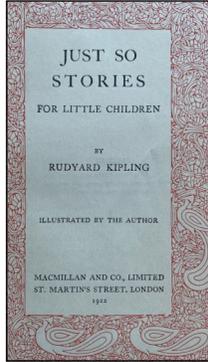
However, they took a step further by actually using real plates and cutlery, which they washed up instead, how eco was that?!

Let's give a Christmas gift of care to the planet this time of year.
Happy Eco Christmas!

And thank you for all that you do already.
*Sue Martyr,
Eco Rep*



ODE TO RUDYARD KIPLING



Painted shades of brown, sized to fit, on creamy white, uniquely patterned. I don't know how the giraffe got his patch. It is Just So.



White and black, evolved from the newborn's arrival browns, every coat bespoke. I don't know how the zebra got his stripe. It is Just So.

Iridescent blues and purples and golds. Avian jewels. I don't know how the superb starling got his colours. It is Just So.

Loaded, for a long hot trek, on dry sandy riverbeds, or hills and scrub. I don't know how the camel got his smile. It is Just So.

Belly-white and side-striped black, against deer-brown. I don't know how the Thomson's gazelle got his line. It is Just So.

Thorny branches, food for giraffe and camel, evoke an African land. I don't know how the acacia got its shape. It is Just So.

Rising and setting, throwing purple shadows. I don't know how the sun got its shine. It is Just So.



Darkest black skies, pierced in every direction. I don't know how the moon and stars got their light. It is Just So.

It is Just So.

And Just So is enough.
Margaret Gandon

MISSION FUND NEWS

Christmas time has almost arrived (how time flies!) and the donations listed below, which have been approved by the PCC, will be the final donations for 2025.



At this time of the year we always remember our local charities: MAGGS DAY CENTRE caring for the homeless in many ways, especially during the cold months and St PAUL'S HOSTEL helping and advising people who are on their way to living a more fulfilling and independent life.

The Farming Community Network: this charity marks 30 years of the NFC 'walking with' farming families through difficult times and periods of change. The NFC is there every day of the year to listen, offering hope, support and guidance, helping them to find a positive way forward. A chaplain is always on hand.

Church Urban Fund: helping to support local communities, dedicated to tackling poverty and exclusion by mobilising people, churches and entire communities by reducing loneliness and boosting confidence, together with the value of faith-based social action. Finally, we remember the USPG,

Partners in Global Mission – Harvest Appeal 2025. The USPG are working together with the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil. The aim is to support indigenous and traditional communities who are courageously choosing to stay in the Amazon rainforest where over 10% of the area has already been destroyed. Together they are supporting grassroots led by local people, grounded in faith, who are restoring the land, healing their communities and learning new ways to produce native seedlings to reforest degrading areas and provide education on sustainable land use for future generations.



The Mission Fund receives 10% of the previous year's Planned Giving Scheme and Sunday morning service donations. Sincere and grateful thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

We pray for a peaceful and happy Christmas throughout the world.

Ann Bryant, Jackie Campbell and Marian Bailey – Mission Fund





Worcester Concert Brass

Christmas Concert

Sunday 7th December

3pm - 5pm

St Barnabas Church, WR3 8NX

Adults £5, Children £2 - includes light refreshments

Tickets available via Mary James:

07914875861 or on the door

Raffle tickets are also available for purchase. All proceeds will go to Sensory Matters Worcestershire



**Sensory
Matters**
Worcestershire

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR BOXES:

ST. PAUL'S: Shower gel, deodorant, shampoo, moisturiser (male&female), toothpaste & brush, socks, underwear, pens, notebooks, diaries to keep appointments, chocolates/sweets (lots!), torch & batteries.

MAGGS; as above plus thermal gloves, hats scarves (not hand knitted), Greggs coffee vouchers Earmuffs, perfume, nail varnish

The Blessing of boxes will be on Wednesday 17th December at 11am

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN WORCESTER

PLEASE GIVE A LITTLE CHEER TO PEOPLE IN ST. PAUL'S HOSTEL & MAGGS DAY CENTRE

Suggested contents for covered shoe box:

FOR ST. PAUL'S: Shower gel, deodorant, shampoo, moisturiser (male & female), toothpaste & brush, socks, underwear, pens, notebooks, diaries to keep appointments, chocolates/sweets (lots!), torch & batteries.

FOR MAGGS; as above plus thermal gloves, hats scarves (not hand knitted), vouchers for Greggs/coffee.

In addition, for women, earmuffs, perfume, nail varnish



Elastic band round the box & label with 'man' or 'woman' & whether for St. Paul's or Maggs

Please bring filled boxes to St. Barnabas church by Sunday 14th December & any extra items before that so we can make up boxes

Blessing of boxes on Wednesday 17th December at 11am

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

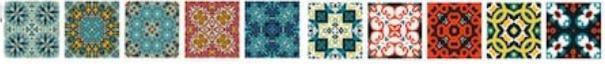


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parties, meetings, clubs,
Baptism receptions



Call Rachel Chalmers (458101) or
Julia Adams (610830)

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