

# THE M Magazine

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

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DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

## ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

### PARISH STAFF:

Priest in Charge:	Revd Sarah Northall	074838 07432
Associate Priest:	Revd Rosie Moss	07761 691984
Curate:	Revd Sooz Magee	
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.stbarnabasworchester.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasworchester.org.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.stbarnabasworchester.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasworchester.org.uk)

**MAGAZINE DEADLINE:** Penultimate Sunday of each month.  
Please e-mail contributions to [jackiecampbell@talktalk.net](mailto:jackiecampbell@talktalk.net)

Registered Charity number 1158894

# ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

As the nights grow longer and the festive season approaches, we invite you to join us on a journey through Advent and Christmas filled with creativity, reflection & celebration. From interactive services inspired by well-loved stories like Alice in Wonderland and Winnie-the-Pooh, to the joy of carol singing and the quiet beauty of contemplative worship, there's something for everyone. Whether you're seeking a space for peace, a chance to celebrate with family, or an opportunity to rediscover the Christmas story, our calendar is packed with events to bring hope, joy, and connection this season. Take a look and mark your diaries—we look forward to welcoming you!

## **Sunday 1 December**

**10am** 'Something Else Sunday' for Advent

An interactive informal service beginning our Advent journey in the company of *Alice in Wonderland* and her guide, the White Rabbit himself

**7pm** Sunday Crossroads

Gentle discussion & quiet worship

## **Monday 2 December**

**8.30am** Open Door Cafe

St Barnabas is open for coffee and chat for anyone who wants



to start the week in good company. This monthly event is especially welcoming to families who have just done the school run

## **Wednesday 4 Dec**

**10am**

Midweek

Communion: Our usual midweek gathering, with coffee and chat

## **Sunday 8 December**

**10am** Communion for All

An Advent communion service, we continue our Advent journey today with Winnie-the-Pooh as our guide

**3pm** Christmas Concert with Carols: A fun and festive afternoon with Worcester Concert Brass Band (*see page 9*).

## **Wednesday 11 December**

**10am** Midweek Communion

Our usual midweek gathering, with coffee and chat, followed by a busy time putting everything up for the Nativity Set Festival

**3pm** Blockbusters Christmas Party

The afterschool club children from St Barnabas School will be creating Lego masterpieces to join the other crib scenes that have been set up in church for the Nativity Set Festival 2024

## **Thursday 12 December**

Passport to Bethlehem

Throughout the day all the children from St Barnabas School will be in church in year groups to explore the crib scenes and learn about the Christmas story from the perspective of hope, love, joy, peace, faith and glory



Wonderful music and readings for the festive season

**Tuesday 17 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom

Join us for a twenty-minute devotional each morning. Open to all, simply email

[revsarahnorthall@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahnorthall@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. We will ponder the Advent Antiphons one by one in the run up to Christmas Day. These are the mysterious titles for Jesus that we sing every year in the great Advent hymn 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'. We begin today with O Sapientia which is 'Jesus – the Wisdom of God'

1.30pm St Barnabas School Christmas Service:

Another wonderful occasion, with Open-the-Book storytelling of the first Christmas

**Friday 13 December**

7pm Contemplative Bethlehem  
An hour for quiet and reflection. This will be a lovely opportunity for grown-ups to discover the Christmas story afresh, away from the hustle and bustle of the season

**Saturday 14 December**

11am Nativity Set Festival Open Day: Church will be open for families and friends from 11am until 3pm to come and see all the crib sets of our own and those that schools and others have loaned to us

**Sunday 15 December**

10am Communion for All  
An all-age service in our Advent journey, in the company of Pinocchio and his guide Jiminy Cricket

7pm Baptism Service

Supporting those who are taking the next step in their journeys of faith

**Monday 16 December**

6.30pm Bishop Perowne Christmas Service

**Wednesday 18 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom

Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Adonai which is 'Jesus – the Mighty Lord'

10am Midweek Prayers

Our usual midweek gathering, with coffee and chat. This week Rev Diane will be coming to bless all the boxes we have created to share with our local community charities

**Thursday 19 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom

Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Radix Jesse which is 'Jesus – the Root of Jesse'

**Friday 20 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom  
Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Clavis David which is 'Jesus – the Key of David'

**Saturday 21 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom  
Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Oriens which is 'Jesus – the Bright Morning Star'

5pm Open Air Carols at St Wulstans

Getting into the festive spirit on the longest night of the year with food and drink and song on the longest night of the year

7pm Blue Christmas at St Nicholas: A gentler occasion for those who find the festive season challenging for any reason this year

**Sunday 22 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom  
Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Rex Gentium which is 'Jesus – the King of the Nations'

10am Communion for All  
Today's service allows us to travel once again to Bethlehem journeying with Mary, Joseph and all the others we know so well from the Nativity Story

7pm Carols on the Green  
Getting into the spirit of Christmas, open air carols and refreshments

**Monday 23 December**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom  
Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Emmanuel which is 'Jesus – the God who is with Us'

10.30am Christingle Spectacular at St Wulstans

Christmas fun for all ages, with songs and games and craft, and the first chance this year to see the vicar dressed as a giant Christingle!

**Christmas Eve**

8am Morning Prayer by Zoom  
Join us for today's twenty-minute devotional O Gloria Mundi which is 'Jesus – the Glory in the World'

4pm Midnight @ Four in St Wulstans: Our popular Christmas Eve communion service with all the nostalgia of a midnight service at a safe and sensible time in the afternoon

5pm Crib Service. For children of all ages, and the second chance this year to see the vicar dressed as giant Christingle

11pm Midnight Communion  
A celebration of the 'Fragile Glory' unveiled that first Christmas night



**Christmas Day**

10am Communion for All  
An all-age service for Christmas Day

*Events continued on page 12*

## CLUSTER SERVICE

On Sunday 29th December there will be a Cluster Service at St Wulstan's at 10.30am instead of a service at St Barnabas

## 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 15th December. *See poster on page 9 for more details.*

## CHRISTMAS STARS

It will soon be time to start preparing lists for the Christmas tree stars (£3) in memory of a loved one. If you would like a tree star, please put money in envelope with name on (gift aided if possible) and hand to Churchwarden by Sunday 22nd December.



## 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 Sunday 15th December.



## NEW HOPE

Firstly, a huge Thank You for bringing clothes, toys and other saleable donations for me to take to New Hope. They are absolutely thrilled and grateful for everything I have dropped in to the shop.

A member of the church family gave me three big bags of used gift bags to see if they were of any use to New Hope. The staff were really delighted. They are having a huge tombola in June and plan to put prizes in them, also they will use some as gift bags for the children when it is their birthday or at Christmas.

New Hope is going to have a tough year ahead due to funding cuts, and as several of the staff are paid wages the increased cost of their National Insurance will now have to be taken into account.

Yesterday I passed on some gifts that were given to me that I could not use. These will be used as raffle and tombola prizes. If any of you do have any unused items that you have no further need of I'm sure New Hope would be very grateful. I am happy to pass anything on to them on your behalf or you can take it into the Ronkswood shop yourself.

I would like to end by saying that New Hope children are going to the Pantomime this Christmas

funded by St. Barnabas Mission fund.  
Marian Bailey

## WHY NOT....

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

## XMAS SALE

On Sunday 8th December there will be a sale in church with Marian's Christmas puddings and cakes, Pippa's preserves and Helen's decorations. All proceeds to church funds.

## BRASS BAND CONCERT

On Sunday 8th December Worcester Concert Brass Band will be performing in church at 3pm. Tickets are available now in church or phone Mary on 07914 875861 £5 adults/£3 children.



## TOLLY CAROL SINGING

Meet up at the Tolly Centre at 5pm on Monday 23rd December to go carol singing round the area. *All welcome!*

## ONE OF MY FAVOURITE TREES IN WINTER



What can we learn from a tree in the depths of Winter?

It may seem a tree stands still in Winter, a natural pause, with no obvious growth flourishing, but underneath the ground real work for the coming season is occurring; it is searching for water, making new roots, deepening others, cutting of old ones, conserving nutrients, and is quietly sustaining a community beneath the earth.

It is this 'rest' time which provides the energy for the tree's forthcoming season of growth. It must have hope in new birth...

*Happy Christmas!*  
*Sue Martyr*





JOY  
NOEL  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
PEACE HOPE  
WISEMEN  
CHRISTMAS  
BELIEVE FAITH  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
THANK YOU



*Top:* Plenty of willing helpers at the recent Church Hall kitchen clean and inventory.

*Bottom:* Hanging the names of loved ones on the Remembrance Tree for the All Souls service





*Left:* At the recent Christ Church service the musicians enhanced our worship

*Right:* Beautiful weather for Remembrance Sunday

## THE EYE OF THE TIGER

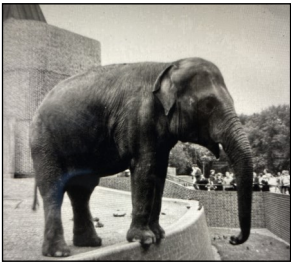


The tiger lifted his head, looked us straight in the eye and held his gaze for a minute or so. A little unnerving, certainly, from where we were standing.

Whippsnade is the UK's largest at over 600 acres and on a chilly, sunny autumn day

a delightful place for a warming walk, with far reaching views over the downs. Never mind the animals.

The big male had found his way rapidly, in bounds and leaps to the highest level,



while we weren't looking.

Suddenly and unexpectedly he caught my eye, standing tall, and glancing around before settling himself down. He sat and stretched before starting a ritual wash, using his large tongue and a wet paw for his face.

I was back at one of my favourite childhood haunts, Whippsnade Zoo. These days it's ZSL Whippsnade, the Zoological Society of London being a global Conservation charity, active in over 70 countries. We used to visit London zoo too.

Having lived in Africa for several years with all its safari opportunities I had no immediate desire to see wild animals enclosed. But here I was.

I hadn't visited for over 55 years whereas my twin sister has lived nearby ever since those childhood days, has continued to visit all her life and now brings her grandchildren.



*Even Margaret is not sure who is who in this photo! She thinks she is on the left.*

The only thing that looked vaguely familiar to me were the circular squat towers of the now listed and no longer in use elephant house. In those days elephants stood on concrete, separated from the public by a concrete ditch. I have to refer to archive photos to fill in the gaps in my memory.



Whipsnade has totally changed since my childhood days, both in look and in its commitment to conservation and breeding programmes. The enclosures are spacious and much more natural. Yes, it means the lion or the lynx may be hiding from view sometimes but surely a small price to pay.

Another much smaller creature has appeared though and is also standing tall. Not a big cat this time. Merely a meerkat.

*Margaret Gandon*




**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 15<sup>th</sup> December & any extra items before that so we can make up boxes

Or phone/text Mary James 07914875861 to arrange collection

Blessing of boxes on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am at St. Barnabas church

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE**

## CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Marian Bailey will be making and selling some of her delicious Christmas puddings in aid of church funds. She has sent her special recipe in case you want to have a go yourself!

Marian says: I do not put nuts in the ingredients and I use vegetable suet so the pudding can be eaten by vegetarians and vegans.

This year I have made a pudding using gluten-free flour. If any fruit listed below are not to your liking, omit them and make up the weight with fruits you prefer.

Note – the following recipe makes one large or 2 smaller puddings.

### Ingredients

110 gm / 4 oz Flour (plain or self-raising)  
50 gm / 2 oz Bread Crumbs  
1 teaspoon Mixed Spice  
1 teaspoon Cinnamon  
1 teaspoon Nutmeg  
110 gm / 4 oz Shredded Suet  
110 gm / 4 oz Brown Sugar  
110 gm / 4 oz grated Apple  
1 small grated Carrot  
110 gm / 4 oz Mixed Peel  
2 Eggs  
110 gm / 4 oz Currants  
225 gm / 8 oz Raisins  
110 gm / 4 oz Sultanas  
50 gm / 2 oz Chopped Prunes or dried chopped Apricots  
110 gm / 4 oz Chopped nuts (I do

not use nuts, thus replace with 4 oz of fruit)

Grated Rind and juice from ½ Lemon

1 tablespoon Black Treacle

142 mL / ¼ pint Stout or Milk

### Method

1. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a large bowl, then add the 2 eggs and Stout or milk. Mix well and cover the bowl and leave overnight.

2. Place the mixture into suitable bowls or tins and cover with grease-proof paper.

3. Cook in a saucepan or in a slow-cooker for 6-8 hours, or approx 2 hours in a pressure cooker.

4. When the puddings are cooked leave them to cool and re-cover with fresh grease-proof paper.

Finally, I re-heat a large pudding on Christmas day in a slow-cooker, and smaller puddings in the microwave.

*Marian Bailey*



## MISSION FUND CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Our Christmas donations from the Mission Fund have recently been approved by the PCC. Donations are always given to some local charities to help with Christmas celebrations and the colder weather, bringing extra financial demand on resources.

*Maggs Day Centre in Deansway:* Providing a warm, welcoming place where a daily breakfast is provided for homeless people. Maggs also has a Clothing Project, where items of warm, water-proof clothing, rucksacks, sleeping bags can be donated.

*St. Paul's Hostel Day Centre on Tallow Hill:*

Providing living accommodation and support for people who are rebuilding their lives, learning new skills and gaining confidence to lead an independent life again.

*Acorns Children's Hospice in Bath Road:*

Providing nursing care for children with life-threatening illnesses in a friendly, homely environment, together with accommodation, care and support for their families.

*WCWR (Worcester City Welcomes Refugees):*

Providing a welcome to refugees that are starting out on their new



life in Worcester, helping them to settle into their HMO, offering advice, support and friendship. A

'Welcome Pack' containing essential cleaning items and toiletries is provided by the charity.

*The Angel Project:*

This project is run by the Long Lartin Prison Fellowship Prayer Group. They support the Prison Service Chaplaincy and, at the request of inmates, Angel Tree supplies a Christmas gift to each child as if the present was coming from the parent.

The final donation is an International donation for:

*The Christian Aid/DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal*

he Appeal is for humanitarian emergency aid to Lebanon and Gaza as more than a million people have fled their homes in search of safety.

Once again, we send our sincere thanks to everyone who supports the Planned Giving Scheme and the plate collection at the Sunday morning services throughout the year. We pray for a peaceful Christmas throughout the World.

*Ann Bryant, Jackie Campbell & Marian Bailey, St. Barnabas with Christ Church Mission Fund*

### **Sunday 5 January**

10am 'Something Else Sunday' for Epiphany Sunday: interactive informal service catching up with the Wise Men and their exploits over the holiday season

### **Monday 13 January**

8.30am Open Door Café: St Barnabas is open for coffee and chat for anyone who wants to start the week in good company. This monthly event is especially welcoming to families who have just done the school run

### **Wednesday 8 January**

10am Midweek Communion: Our usual midweek gathering resumes with coffee and chat.

### **Sunday 12 January**

10am Communion for All: Our second Epiphany Exchange Sunday where we are swapping the ministry teams from the cluster around the different churches

7pm Sunday Crossroads

Our evening service for gentle discussion and quiet worship resumes for the New Year, and hopefully in its new home at Christ Church

You can find lots of resources for your Advent to Epiphany journey on St Wulstans website <https://saintwulstans.online/christmas-resources/> including ABIDE for Advent booklet, the Morning Prayer booklet for the week before Christmas, and links to other video and audio resources that you can use and share.



## **TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS**

*From Eco Rep Sue Martyr*

- Consider a potted tree
- Make your own tree from a natural stick/branch
- Recycle your tree: look out for recycling charities and the council
- Choose a British grown tree: sustainable Christmas tree farms are both the ethical and sustainable choice and are a better choice than a fake tree.
- Choose certified Christmas cards and wrapping paper: Most wrapping paper has little to no recoverable value, so consider wrapping in brown paper, or old magazines or newspaper giving it a second life, and make sure to recycle everything afterwards.
- Re-use Christmas decorations and avoid single-use ornaments: choose sustainably sourced decorations and avoid lametta (single thread) tinsel which isn't recyclable, can be difficult to remove from branches, and can pose a hazard to pets who might get tangled in it or swallow it.

[www.onetreeplanted.org](http://www.onetreeplanted.org)



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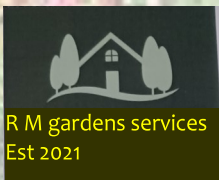
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**WHERE DO WE MEET?**  
The Rainbow Hill Community Hub  
12 Astwood Road, Worcester. WR3 8ET

**HOW OFTEN?** 1st Friday of month

**WHAT TIME?** 1-3pm

All women very welcome to get involved & make new friends.

Pop in for a chat with Rachel, our Secretary, any Wednesday or Friday afternoon 1-3pm.

t: 01905 330600  
e: rainbowsec@wfedwi.org.uk

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