

# THE M Magazine

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

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FEBRUARY 2024

# ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

## PARISH STAFF:

Priest in Charge:	Revd Sarah Northall	074838 07432
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Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):	Rachel Chalmers	07787 128345

**WEBSITE:** [www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk)  
**YOUTUBE:** St Barnabas with Christ Church,  
Worcester.



## 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.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk)

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

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## LENT MESSAGE

Dear Friends

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th February this year. It can fall any time between 4th February and 10th March, moving according to the date of Easter Sunday which, as a general rule of thumb, comes on the first Sunday after the first moon after the spring equinox. This year, the chocolate eggs come super early, with Easter Sunday being the day before April Fool's Day dawns!

The rumour of Spring is whispered as we become aware of Lent approaching. This six week preparation for Easter consists of forty fast days, and six Sundays. Forty gives us clues about the origins of the practice – mirroring the time that Jesus spent alone immediately after his baptism. Of course, in the Gospels, Jesus didn't come hot-

foot from the desert into the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem for Holy Week. Instead, *his Lent* was the preparation for three years of travelling the highways and byways of Galilee, Samaria and Judea.

Liturgically, *our Lent* is the sharing of the journey towards Jerusalem just for that final Passover. The drama of palm leaves, fragrant nard, silver coins, broken bread and wine outpoured calls for our attention once again. The Via Dolorosa is ready to be laid anew. The garden tomb is waiting afresh to be filled. Some call Lent *The Bright Sadness*. The promise of Easter endures but in Lent we let it lie veiled behind the brokenness that Holy Week re-enacts. This is why the Gloria is not sung, why alleluia is silenced in our services, why penitential

# Lent



purple is the colour of the season.

Lent is a pilgrim path that leads inwards. The discipline of fasting is out of step with today's world. This is why it is such a doorway into depths hidden in contemporary shallows. Taking time to become aware of our inner world is one of the joys and challenges of Lent. We tend to think of fasting in terms of food and drink, but fasting can be any abstinence deliberately chosen. *"There's nothing magical about fasting. It's just one way of telling God that your priority at that moment is to be alone with him, sorting out whatever is necessary, and you have cancelled the meal, party, concert, or whatever else you had planned to do in order to fulfil that priority"* (J.I. Packer). This is why Lent is also a path that leads the pilgrim upwards, daring to approach the God who is present beyond the shallows.

If it to be a true fast however, Lent is a path that must lead its pilgrims outwards again. This is why so many resources for Lent encourage us with ideas for action on behalf of others:

*"Here is the sort of fast I want — releasing those unjustly bound, untying the thongs of the yoke, letting the oppressed go free, breaking every yoke, sharing your food with the hungry, taking*

*the homeless poor into your house, clothing the naked when you see them, fulfilling your duty to your kinsmen!"* (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Those who have walked a classical labyrinth know that the circuits of the pattern take us to the very centre and encourage us to linger there. However, the very same circuits of the pattern lead us outwards again. As Richard Foster writes, *"our world is hungry for genuinely changed people"* and so this Spring, may the disciplines of Lent *"urge us to be the answer to a hollow world."* Every blessing,  
Sarah Northall

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORTS**

The APCM this year is on Sunday 14th April during the 10am service. Everyone is welcome to come along to hear what has been going on during the past year.

Reports for the Annual Reports booklet should be sent to [jackiecampbell@talktalk.net](mailto:jackiecampbell@talktalk.net) by 3rd March

*Thank you!*

## **CLUSTER CANDLEMAS SERVICE**

There will be a Candlemas Service at 7pm on Friday 2nd February in St Barnabas. *All welcome!*

## NEW ADVERTISERS

We are very grateful to the advertisers who support St Barnabas by advertising in our magazine. If you know anyone who might be interested, the cost for a quarter A5 page is £25 per year/10 issues.

Please contact Jackie Campbell (jackiecampbell@talktalk.net).

*Thank you!*



## PANCAKES!

On Shrove Tuesday 13th February, Revd Sarah has invited us to go along to St Wulstan's Vicarage at 7pm to enjoy some pancakes.

In the afternoon they will also be served at 3.30pm at either St Nicholas Barn or Warndon Hub (venue to be confirmed).

*Everyone welcome!*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of the Ashes will take in St Barnabas on Wednesday 14th February at 10am service and also at 7pm at St Nicholas.

*All welcome!*

40  
days  
of Lent



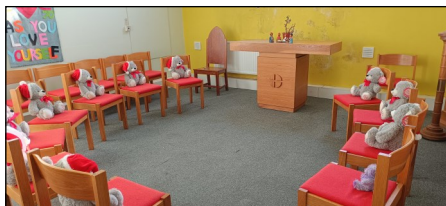
## SHOEBOXES FOR THE HOMELESS

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the shoebox appeal. 150 boxes were blessed and sent on their way to Maggs and St Paul's Hostel in time for Christmas.

*Many thanks!*

## TEDDIES AT CHRIST CHURCH

Teddies enjoying a Christmas service in Christ Church!



## ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO VISIT

*The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will visit the Diocese on Saturday 3 February to bring us together in prayer.*

Prayer is the first of Archbishop Justin's stated priorities and as we continue to 'pray for growth' in our diocese, his visit provides an opportunity for us to come together for a day of focussed prayer that more people will come to know the love of Jesus and join us in our life and worship; praying for our parishes, schools and communities.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in different locations throughout the Diocese. Booking will only be required for lunch at Holland House and more details on that will be available in the new year.

The timetable for the Archbishop's day will be as follows:

- 10am: Top Church, Dudley  
An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer.
- 12.30pm: Prayer lunch at Pershore Abbey - bring your own picnic lunch. *(Please note this is a change to the originally publicised lunch at Holland House - there is no need to book for this)*
- 2.15pm: The Cathedral. An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer in various prayer stations. All are welcome.

*Please note that timings may be subject to slight variations.*

Bishop John said: "I'm delighted that Archbishop Justin has agreed to spend a day with us in February. Prayer should be the bedrock of all we are doing, and this day will provide an opportunity for us to support each other as we pray together. I hope that it will be an extremely affecting and inspirational day. Please do join us."

*See poster on page 12*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

**FRIDAY 1 MARCH**

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!



I beg you, bear with  
one another in love



10.30 am  
St Barnabas  
Church  
All are welcome

written by the women of Palestine

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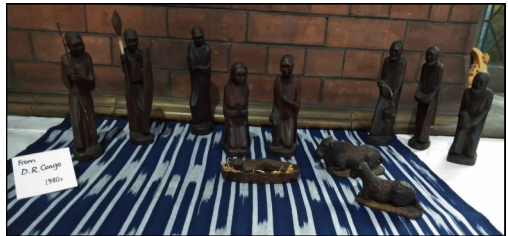


Above: At the recent Christ Church Patronal Service we all donned paper crowns to celebrate Christ the King

Left & below: Carol singing on the streets round the Tolly Centre and on the Green at St Barnabas







*Above:* Some of the nativity sets on display at our Nativity set Fest in December

*Below:* To celebrate Epiphany we marked the church door with a blessing and took some chalk to do the same to our own houses



## SHOULD HAVE GONE TO SPECSAVERS\*

When the headmaster of Tujisaidie school in downtown Kayole said “Come and see our playground!” I wasn’t at all sure what to expect. There were definitely not any green areas around here.

A large inside space with no windows was being whitewashed but to be honest it didn’t look much like a playground to me. He, however was full of pride and enthusiasm about the works and I admired him for that. And now I can see why.

He had the vision. And he had imagination, wisdom, and creativity.

Now that vision has been realised, as the recent photo shows. The playground has been transformed and it looks wonderful, a space to truly be proud of. In a short video clip the children are as excited about their play area as their headmaster.

This is a Community school, built by local people in a very poor area. When primary education became compulsory in 2003 there simply weren’t enough schools to accommodate everyone and many more were needed. The commitment to building schools, finding teachers and staff and the firm belief in the power of education to improve life chances is admirable.





## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year World Day of Prayer falls on Friday 1st March. There will be a service in St Barnabas at 10.30 written by the women of Palestine. *All welcome!*  
*See poster on page 5*

How is our vision? Do we need glasses? The Optician can do a lot to help with our ability to see clearly but being a visionary is a different ball game. When the world seems full of sadness and grief we can be encouraged by those with a realistic vision of something that can truly affect people's lives and happiness. Let's try and emulate them.

## **WORCESTER CONCERT BRASS BAND**

Over 80 people came along to St Barnabas to enjoy the Christmas concert by Worcester Concert Brass Band. Over £400 was raised for St Richard's Hospice.

*Keep an eye open for details of Christmas concert this year!!*

And for our headmaster faith in God is also key, and a pertinent parallel.

'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not yet seen'

Hebrews 11 v 1

*Margaret Gandon*

- *Other Opticians are available*



# OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT THE CATHEDRAL



At 3pm on the first Sunday of each month and 10am-12pm on the third Saturday of the month Worship in the Garden: meeting with God in creation.

Starting in January, Worcester Cathedral will be launching a new, monthly service of worship.

What makes it a little unusual is that it will not take place inside the cathedral. Instead, we will be outside, come rain or shine. The vision is to develop a service that focuses on worship of the Creator *in* creation, *with* creation, and aware of ourselves as a *part of* creation. So we will be paying attention to, and respond to, what is happening around us in the garden as the seasons change.

The hope is to develop a pattern

of creation-attuned worship that brings into focus those many aspects of the Bible and Christian tradition that celebrate the natural rhythms of the world, and the goodness of fields and rivers, trees and plants, and all creatures, great and small.

Our service will have a traditional liturgical shape—with prayers and Bible readings, for instance—but will pay special attention to the theme of creation as it connects to all aspects of Christian spirituality. A little more unusually we will give regular space to silence and to hands-on engaging with the space around us (e.g., doing some gardening).

Worship in the Garden will not be for everyone, but if you find that

you connect with God when outdoors it might be right up your street. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at 3pm on the first Sunday of each month in the garden behind 15b (off College Green, entering through the doorway outside the Edgar Tower Gate). Our first meeting will take place on 7 January. If you want to know more or are interested in coming along, please email Revd Dr Robin Parry on:

[revdrobin@gmail.com](mailto:revdrobin@gmail.com)

**SACRED GARDEN:** *engaging with God in creation through creativity*

Sacred Garden is a new monthly event that Worcester Cathedral is launching for people who feel God's presence when they're out in nature. Our goal is to create and cultivate a time and space in which people can engage with the Creator in creation through using their creativity.

Each month there will be a particular theme and then the opportunity to explore it in a range of ways. There will always be four different 'stations' with guided activities that people can choose from. Those will be:

- A silent contemplation zone (which people can stay in for as long or short a time as they wish)
- An art activity
- A kinesthetic/making activity

(e.g., wood chopping and whittling)

A gardening activity of a seasonally relevant kind

We aim to foster a welcoming and hospitable space for people to explore their own eco-spirituality in a Christian context. People of all faiths and none are most welcome.

We will meet from 10am to 12pm on the third Saturday of each month in the garden behind 15b (off College Green, entering through the doorway outside the Edgar Tower Gate). Our first meeting will take place on 20 January.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *There will be a peal of bells taking place throughout the first gathering. If you are sensitive to loud noise you may prefer to wait until our February event.*

If you want to know more or are interested in coming along, please email Revd Dr Robin Parry on [revdrobin@gmail.com](mailto:revdrobin@gmail.com)





# Prayer Pilgrimage led by the Archbishop of Canterbury Saturday 3 February 2024

All welcome - join us as we pray for our diocese as well as peace and justice throughout the world in 2024 and beyond.

## 10am: Top Church, Dudley

An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer.

## 12.30pm: Pershore Abbey

Prayer lunch - bring your own picnic lunch

## 2.15pm: Worcester Cathedral

An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer in various prayer stations.





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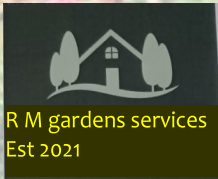
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**HOW OFTEN?** 1st Friday of month

**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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