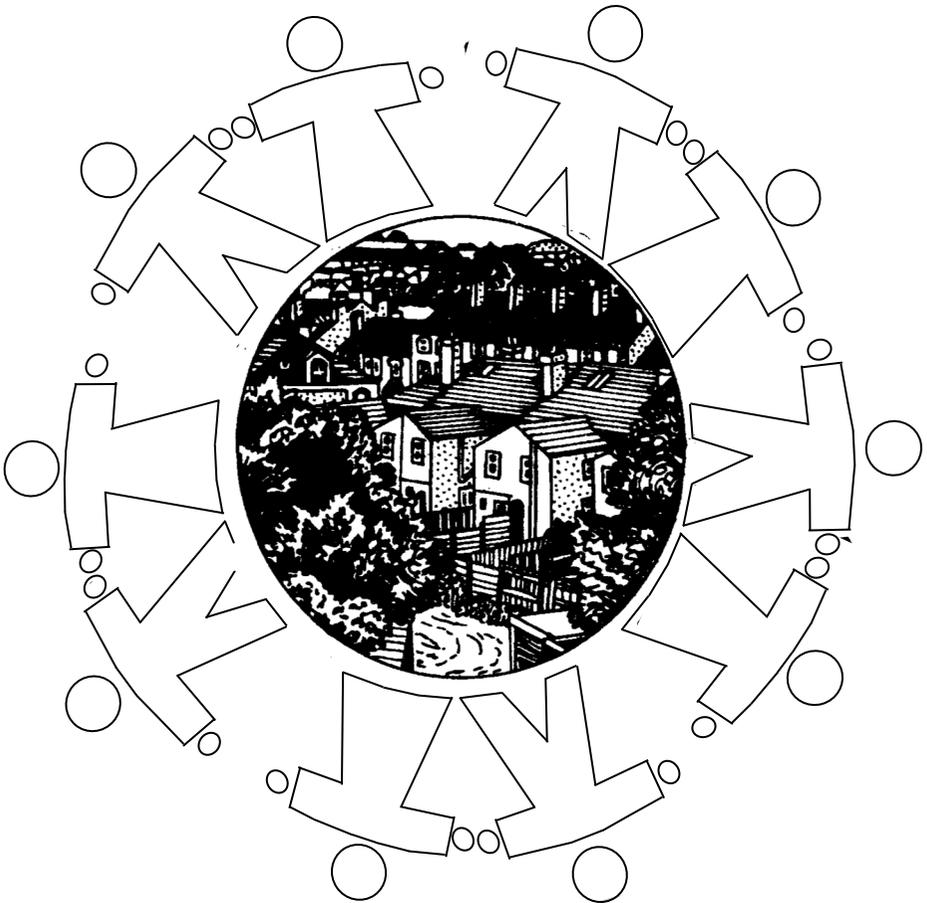

M THE MAGAZINE

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



APRIL 2021

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Team Rector: Revd Julieann Watson (23785)
Missioner Sue Martyr (25466)
Churchwardens (St Barnabas):
Mary James (455214)
Rachel Chalmers (07787 128345)
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):
Rachel Chalmers (07787 128345)

WEBSITE: www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk

YOUTUBE: St Barnabas with Christ Church,
Worcester.



SERVICES:

Sunday	9.30am	Church opens
	10am	Eucharist
	6.30pm	Public Bible reading & Prayers for the world
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	8.45am	Celtic Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Common Worship evening prayer
Wednesday	10am	Church opens
	10.15am	Eucharist
Thursday	2-3pm	Private prayer
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	Closed	

If you would like to receive our written material for a Sunday - please place your request through Revd Julieann:

julieann.watson2019@icloud.com

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

GIVING AND RECEIVING



During the past three months, as many will know, I have had the very great privilege of being involved with the vaccination programme in Worcester, mainly at the Turnpike Medical Centre next to LIDL, at the bottom of Newtown Road. I have also been able to do a few shifts at the St John's House, across the river. This came about through being put in touch by Tom Collins at the start of the pandemic with an excellent volunteer programme called Here2Help, which is run by our local authority.

What exactly have I been doing? Mainly it's been checking people's names off when they arrive to be vaccinated. Early on, a few of us were able to help establish a more effective queueing system at Turnpike, aimed at enabling more folks to queue safely inside the building rather than outside in the cold. A couple of times I have also helped with "marshalling". It's not a word I like, as it reminds me of the old cowboy films, and the guy with a shiny star on his chest and a gun on his hip who was very much in charge! Ushering feels

like a better term, more to do with being hospitable, and just friendly and kind to people many of them elderly or vulnerable in other ways, and some who are simply anxious. And all along volunteers are wanting to offer reassurance, and help people feel safe.

But volunteers are not alone in this. Part of the joy for me has come from seeing health care professionals – both medics and administrators – who are committed to this programme, and bringing their own gifts and skills into play. Many times I've discovered vaccinators have come to work on days off, or they are retired GPs or nurses coming back to work. The sense of collaboration and teamwork is extraordinary.

Of course most of us are social beings – we love company and conversation (I've discovered dog owners seem to love talking about their dogs!), especially after long weeks and months of lockdown. Sitting at my check-in desk, I can often engage albeit fleetingly with 600 "customers" in



one day! Then there are the fellow volunteers to chat with, all giving their time freely and gladly, many also still working, others retired like me. Invariably these are folks with interesting professional backgrounds and life experiences ... with their own stories to tell. And while it's become clear some volunteers prefer a particular role, others are quite happy doing anything at all, including making the tea and coffee (and loading the dishwasher afterwards!) ... just glad to be involved. And in fact some can get a little bit frustrated that there aren't more opportunities for volunteering!

And all along this programme has been proceeding brilliantly, built on the back of the remarkable research and development which has brought these new vaccines into mass production in double-quick time. And it's the programme which will give us the protection we need to move back towards normal living. And so far over 26 million doses have been given, and well over 2 million have had their 2nd doses. And we who volunteer are privileged to be involved in just a small way in this

amazing and massive effort. The grammatical purists may complain that there are far too many "ands" in this paragraph so far, but they are used deliberately to try to convey the sense not only of growing excitement, but also of joy, fulfilment and positivity that I and I suspect all of us get through being part of the vaccine roll-out.

So, why do I write about this today? I hope it's become clear that I receive far far more than ever I am able to give through being involved with this programme. Of course for Christians, this should not be surprising. We follow the one who taught us to love our neighbour, in particular those who need our help, that whatever we give we receive back far more, Jesus who gave his own life so that we can receive new life, abundant life. Isn't it appropriate that the "road map" out of lockdown means that we can and shall be able to gather to celebrate Easter and resurrection together back in church? See you there!

Andy Gandon, 20 March 2021

FRIDAY FREE SHOP

The Friday Free shop is still running at Christ Church, Tolly Centre, Fridays 10:30-11:30am





UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from death to life, from
falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love, from
war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world,
our universe.

EARTH HOUR

*Saturday 27th March
8.30-9.30pm*

Ideas on how to mark this
important hour for the planet
from Chris and Judy our eco-
reps:

- Eat a meat free meal.
- Remind yourself of and try
some of the Eco friendly
targets (summary in the
March church magazine)
- Give up digital devices for an
hour.

*Get involved in the Earth Hour
Virtual Spotlight
(earthhour.org) on the night.*

LOSS & HOPE

Margaret Gandon submitted two
of her favourite poems which
seemed relevant on Reflection
Day:

VIGIL

by Imtiaz Dharker

Your eyes open, silver
for one second, close.
Your hand stops, falls still.
You send me no more
messages.

The machine by your bed
is saying prayers for you.
It keeps watch, tenderly
interpreting your body's needs.
It listens and records your every
breath,
the turning of your blood, your
heartbeat.

All night, all night, it pays close
attention to you.
At dawn it stops.

I try to read its face.
The machine is blinking back
its tears.

HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

by Emily Dickinson

'Hope' is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the
words -
And never stops - at all...

I WONDER..... A REFLECTION FOR HOLY WEEK

As human beings we have a wonderful range of emotions as we engage with others and respond to the environment – emotions such as joy, fear, sadness, anger and love to name just a few.

The events of Holy Week, as recorded in the Gospels, clearly state a whole range of emotions. However we can never be certain which emotions people are really experiencing at any one time, we can only wonder at what they might be.

So let's take a moment to consider what those emotions might have been during that week and who experienced them?

Palm Sunday – What joy and hope the disciples must have been experiencing as they were welcomed into Jerusalem with palm leaves being strewn on the road before themselves and Jesus, and shouts of “Hosannah”. Those gathering for the Passover festival must have felt great excitement – here was the king who was going to free them from the Roman rule! I wonder



how Jesus felt receiving this reception, as the people shouted and clamoured to see Him? I expect that those in authority felt very anxious when faced with this response from the crowds, who were gathered for this very special festival time. Would they need to deal with resulting unrests? Would the peace of this special festival be shattered?

Holy Monday – What a contrasting day! As Jesus returned to Jerusalem He passed by a fig tree and cursed it, and entering the Temple He showed real anger at how the space was being used, for exchange of money and the selling of doves, so He turned over the tables. What a surprise for those stallholders, and did their shock turn quickly to anger? I wonder what the disciples thought when seeing Jesus this angry? Had they ever seen Jesus this angry before? I expect that they were both very shocked and anxious as to any reprisals there could have been. Did they begin to fear for their lives because they followed Jesus?

Maundy Thursday – Jesus and the

disciples were gathered in an Upper Room for a meal together. I wonder how they felt when Jesus insisted on washing their feet, something that they would normally have expected to do for Him? Peter was appalled by this act, but once Jesus had explained His action, he allowed Jesus to continue. No doubt the other disciples were shocked and a little surprised too! Then a feeling of confusion and anxiety as Jesus spoke about a traitor amongst them and that He would be going away. I wonder how Jesus felt when He told His friends this news. It could not have been easy for Him! Telling anyone bad news is difficult, yet alone to those who had been with Him for such a long time. After the meal, a place of peace in the Garden of Gethsemane, so they thought, until Judas and soldiers arrived to take their friend and Master away. How fearful they must have been! I wonder what feelings Jesus had at this point?

Good Friday – Feelings of hopelessness and despair were probably what the disciples experienced, as they could do nothing to help Jesus without putting their own lives at risk. Would those in authority be gloating that at last they had



good reason to get rid of this troublemaker? Or did some have a guilty conscience? I wonder! What utter sadness and disbelief for those who saw Jesus on the cross as He died. We can only wonder

at the depth of their emotions at this point.

Holy Saturday – How would His followers have been feeling when their friend was no longer with them to care for and guide them? I wonder if they felt let down and abandoned? Jesus had performed many miracles, yet He had not saved Himself! They must have felt quite bewildered and at a loss as to what to do. As they reflected on the events of the week and especially the previous day, their emotions must have been in turmoil – a mixture of horror, grief, guilt and fear.

Easter Sunday – What an emotional day this turned out to be! A feeling of shock to see that the tomb where Jesus had been laid was empty. I wonder whether there was a mixed feeling of uncertainty, yet hope? How would the authorities react to this news? Did it make the disciples fearful? Yet I wonder whether there was a feeling of sheer amazement and wonder



BEYOND THE WALLS: LITTLE HOUSE OF PRAYER

Palm leaves prayers - what are you hoping for now lockdown has ended?

when Jesus appeared to them? I am sure that must have been quite a mixture of emotions! But how was Jesus feeling at this time? Today we can only wonder at this outpouring of love for us all!

The donkey on which to pin palm prayers.

Helping folk think and pray about the overturning of the money changers tables and the widow's mite.

How caught up do we become in these events of Holy Week as we read and hear the Passion narrative, and what are our feelings? I wonder how we would have been feeling had we been actually there? I return to my original sentence - As human beings we have a wonderful range of emotions as we engage with others and respond to the environment. This Easter time, engage with the characters and become immersed in this story. Where might it take you on your journey of faith?

Mini bread rolls to give away – with the thought about remembering Jesus

Feet prayers and the invitation to think about what it means to serve – who serves us and how shall we thank them?

The erection of the cross clothed in red and thorns for Good Friday; a white linen cloth and stones for burial and daffodil prayer rings for Easter.

Egg shaped candles made from previous Paschal candle.

Judy



BAKE THROUGH LENT WITH RHI



During Lent Rhi has been sharing some delicious recipes. The latest was:

HOT CROSS COOKIES

200g soft butter

100g light brown sugar

1 egg

250g plain flour

1 tbsp cinnamon

2 tsp baking powder

100g sultanas or raisins

Icing sugar/ icing pen/ fondant

icing/ white chocolate

Set the oven to 180°C and line a baking tray with baking paper.

In a large bowl beat together the butter, sugar and egg until smooth.

Add the flour, cinnamon and baking powder, then combine to make a dough.

Add the sultanas and combine.

Roll lumps of dough into balls. Flatten these onto the trays, leaving enough space between each for them to expand.

Bake for 10 minutes or until golden.

Allow cookies to cool before marking them with a cross.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER IN CHURCH

Palm Sunday

10am Palm Cross blessing & readings

10.15-11am Private Prayer/
Prayers & readings on screen
6.30-7.30pm Bible Film

*Church open every day during
the week*

11am-noon followed by midday
bell.

Private prayer with visual focal
point & prayers & readings on
screen

Good Friday

10am Family Service
11am-noon Private Prayer

Holy Saturday

Morning Church preparations

Easter Day

10am Livestreamed Eucharist
with Easter ceremonies
6.30-7.30pm Bible Film

ONLINE/ PRE-RECORDINGS

Palm Sunday

Palm Cross family workshop
repeat: Margaret & Andy Gandon
Conversation in procession :
Julieann & Steve O'Rourke
Passion Reading repeat: The
Collins Family

Monday – Wednesday

Stations of the Cross

Thursday

7pm: Zoom Agape (link to be
circulated)

Good Friday

'I Wonder...' reflection by Judy
Ford

Holy Saturday

Storytelling round the fire:
Margaret and Andy Gandon

Easter Day

Livestream / recording of the
Easter Day Eucharist.

FLOWERS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

We shared Mothering Sunday Service with our cluster friends at St Nicholas and St Wulstan's. We were invited to eat a marshmallow in order to taste the softness and sweetness of the kiss of a mothering God, who loves, protects and raises us.



MISSION FUND NEWS

At the PCC meeting earlier this month the list of donations submitted by the Mission Fund Group were discussed and agreed by everyone. Donations have been sent to the following:- Bishop John's Lent Appeal this year is for our Diocese link with the Diocese of Peru. Our help and support is urgently needed due to the devastating impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Macmillan Nurses (Macmillan Cancer Support). Covid-19 has brought extreme pressure financially and referrals for home nursing continue to rise.

Mary's Meals. Their main objective is to supply children in very poor areas of Africa with a daily school meal. Covid-19 has raised difficulties in keeping schools open and extra help is needed to provide meals to many children who are now orphaned.

Onside Independent Advocacy. This is a local charity helping vulnerable disadvantaged adults, young people and children with their varied problems. They are involved with PLUS (People Like Us) helping 18-34 year olds who are suffering from loneliness, depression and anxiety, made worse by lockdown.

Alzheimer's Research (UK). This donation was given in memory of

Christine Chilton, our very dear friend and supporter of our church for many years.

Finally, a donation was made to *St Anne's Church in Wyre Piddle* in memory of Richard Murray-Peters. His wife, Nancy, was a loved and respected Curate here a few years ago and both she and Richard helped and supported our church in many ways.

We give thanks and remember both Christine and Richard, together with their respective families, in our prayers.

Ann Bryant

The Church Hall Toilets have recently been twinned with a double Toilet Block in a Refugee Camp in Bangladesh. Thanks to Bill for putting the certificate in the Church Hall.



THE 2021 HEROES! *continued by Mark Watson*
or
**TWELVE EARLY CHRISTIANS WHO DESERVE TO
 BE BETTER KNOWN**

We progress through the Second Century AD by considering two early writers who were vigorous in their defence of Christian orthodoxy:

(5) Justin Martyr (AD100 – 165)

Justin was born in Samaria of pagan parents but became a Christian after many years of studying philosophy. After teaching for a while in Ephesus he opened a Christian school in Rome where, according to court records, he was later martyred along with a number of his students. Of his surviving writings, his *First Apology* of AD 155 is of particular interest, as it describes the structure of the Eucharist in the mid-second century:

“On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the

outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, “Amen”. The Eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.”

This is exactly the same order for the Eucharist as we celebrate today: Assembly of the People, Readings, Sermon, Prayers, Offering of the Gifts, Thanksgiving prayers over the Gifts, The Great “Amen”, Communion to those present and Extended Communion to those absent.



Justin Martyr (Feast Day: 1st June)

(6) Irenaeus (AD130 – 202)

Irenaeus was born in Asia Minor



Crypt of St Irenaeus' Church in Lyon, France.

(modern Turkey) but most of his ministry was carried out in Gaul (modern France). In his youth he reputedly heard the preaching of the aged Polycarp (see the "Heroes" article in the March magazine) and hence we here have early evidence of the Apostolic/Episcopal Succession: Christ Himself to John the Apostle, John to Polycarp and Polycarp to Irenaeus.

Most of his writings were directed against the heresy of *Gnosticism*, which claimed secret revelations to the privileged and "spiritualized" the reality of the Incarnation.

Little is known about the circumstances of his death, although he is regarded as a martyr by the Anglican and Catholic Churches and by some within the Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Irenaeus was buried under the Church of St John in Lyon, later renamed the Church of St

Irenaeus in his honour. The tomb and his relics were utterly destroyed by the Huguenots in 1562, an act of desecration to rival the earlier destruction of our own Worcester shrines of Oswald and Wulstan in 1538.

Next month: (7) Clement of Alexandria and (8) Tertullian
Mark Watson

Join us for a



NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

We stopped at 12 noon and lit a candle at 8pm to stand with the families who have lost loved ones:

126,172 people who have lost their lives due to Covid-19.

*May they rest in peace
And rise in glory
May light perpetual shine upon
them*

If you would like to talk and could do with a listening ear:

Contact: Revd Julieann Watson,
Vicar of St Barnabas Church:
01905 23785

SPRING EQUINOX REFLECTION

What has been coiling up inside you, what needs to spring forth?

Trust,

Enjoy, allow the energy that is

God given

Unfurl and feel the warmth

Allow the light of Jesus to glow in the world.

The seed of life, warm soil, unfold



*Carved gourd which was harvested in October 2020 and stored until Spring
Sue Martyr*

LITTLE HOUSE OF PRAYER

On 23rd March: The National Day of Reflection: The 126,172 people who lost their lives due to Covid-19 and their families were prayed for at the Little House of Prayer.



BLOSSOM



A Prayer Picture:
The Cross and the Blossom:
Heavenly Father, Lead us from death to life.....
Amen

AND BIRDS



Stephen Baird-Parker managed to capture these linnets swarming over the fields (above) and closer up (right)





**Good Friday
Family Service**

10.00am
2nd April
St. Barnabas
Church



Easter
He IS Risen!

CrossDaily.com



**Behind
the Smile**
Continuing Zac's Story;

BEHIND THE SMILE

This charity runs peer support groups for anyone experiencing mental health every Wednesday 2pm till 4pm at St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street Worcester.

Find us on; <https://behindthesmile.care/>

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