

M THE Magazine

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

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):	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	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

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

Registered Charity number 1158894

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“YE ARE
the LIGHT
of the WORLD”
MATTHEW 5:14



As I write this, we haven't got to mid-November, and yet there are houses around ours

which are festooned with Christmas lights. My usual reaction is to despair at the eagerness of some to celebrate early and harrumph to myself about commercialisation. But this year, I have realised that I really like to see those lights. What has changed my view?

We're currently having some 'work' done on our house. We're having a new roof on our kitchen to replace an extremely low ceiling and to let in more light. Cutting two large holes to replace roof tiles with glass has made a significant change. For the first time, I have walked into the kitchen and not had to turn on the electric light. What a difference letting light in has made, not just what in what we can see, but also how it makes us feel: it gives us an emotional lift too.

This has helped me to understand what those who dread the winter months must go through

every year as the nights draw in and the days become so much shorter.

If letting in a little more light has given me such a lift, I wonder how I can pass on that gift of light to others?

I have a t-shirt which bears the slogan 'Be the light' on it. I like it, because it spells out in three simple words what we Christians are called to be. Be the light.

In his sermon in Matthew 5: 14-16, Jesus says:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your

good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

To be a light shining before others doesn't mean having to do anything which is difficult, embarrassing or expensive. It just means being our true Christian selves with others. To be the light means to show love and to be loving to others.

Being the light means doing simple things like remembering to smile, to say hello to people we meet, to ask someone how they are and really listen to what they say in response. It means taking the time to visit or make a phone call to someone who is on their own. To pray for others. These little acts of kindness all help to show our love, and through us, Christ's love for others. It's that simple.

To go back to my new kitchen roof: I no longer need to turn the electric light on or off, because the light is there constantly. But it does still sometimes need a boost to shine a bit brighter.

So, I am going to use the Christmas lights bejewelling the homes around me as a reminder to me that I am called to shine. To be the light of Christ and reflect Christ's love in this darkened world. And as a reminder that Christ's light is for life, not just for Christmas.

Revd Rosie Moss

BOXES FOR THE HOMELESS

These will be blessed on Wednesday 20th December. Please bring either filled boxes or items for boxes to church by Sunday 17th December. (See poster on page 9 for suggested items for boxes).

Thank you for your generosity!



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 17th December.

WHY NOT....

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

CAROLS ROUND TOLLY CENTRE

Please join us for Carol singing round the Tolly Centre on Monday at 4.30pm on 18th December.



CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

There will be **NO** 10am service in St Barnabas. The Crib Service is at 5pm and Midnight Communion at 11pm. *See full details on page 4..*

NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

There will be **NO** 10am service in St Barnabas. There will be a Cluster Service at St Wulstan's at 10.30am

CHRISTMAS SALE IN CHURCH

Christmas sale at back of church from Sunday 3rd December onwards including:

- *Helen's Christmas decorations*
- *Pippa's preserves*
- *Marian's Christmas cakes & puddings.*

All in aid of church funds

XMAS DECORATIONS

Helen Platt will also be selling her decorations from her home at 21 Chestnut Walk anytime she is in.



Come & join us for
**CAROL SINGING ON
THE GREEN**
(by Church Hall on
Green Lane)

with Mulled Wine
& mince pies

Friday 15th December 7pm
(inside if wet)

All welcome!
(donations to Maggs)

NATIVITY SET-FEST

Come and see church like you've never seen it before! It will be transformed into Bethlehem with an exhibition of Christmas crib sets from families, schools, churches and organisations across the area on:

Saturday 9 December 2-4pm and
Sunday 10 December 11.30-4pm

Drop in to see them!

The crib sets will then be blessed at the 10am service on Sunday 10th December by the new Archdeacon of Worcester, Mark Badger.

If you would like to bring one for display contact Mary on 01905 455214



CHRISTMAS AT ST BARNABAS

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24th December

No 10am service

5pm Crib & Carol Service

(gifts of non-perishable food for the needy received)

11pm Midnight Communion Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th December

10am Christmas Communion Service

EVERYONE WELCOME TO ANY OF THESE SERVICES

RETIREMENT OF ARCHDEACON ROBERT

Hundreds gathered in the Cathedral recently to say farewell and thank you to Archdeacon Robert Jones at a special Evensong to mark his retirement.

Robert expressed his thanks to all those who were present for nurturing and encouraging him through his many years as a priest. He concluded by saying: *Thanks be to God and thanks be to all of you!*

At the end of the service, there were



short speeches from Cathedral Interim Dean, Stephen Edwards, Roman Catholic Priest, Brian McGinley, Area Dean of Worcester, Diane Cooksey, Eckart Warner from the Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM)

and Bishop John.

Robert and Mike were presented with a cherry tree for the garden in their new home (they will also receive a cheque with donations from people across the Diocese).

MISSION FUND CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

The Mission Fund Group met recently to discuss our Christmas donations for 2023 and submit to the PCC to approve at the November PCC meeting.

Donations are always given to our local charities towards the end of each year, with Christmas celebrations and the colder weather bringing extra financial demand on resources and help is needed even more.

The PCC have approved the following local donations:-

New Hope, Ronkswood, Worcester: The charity provides an excellent environment for children with various disabilities, where they can spend every Saturday, learning new activities, making new friends and gaining confidence. This also enables their parents to have a little free time to themselves.

Acorns Children's Hospice, Worcester: Providing nursing care in a home-from-home environment for children with life-threatening illnesses, together with support, care and counselling for their families.

Maggs Day Centre, Deansway, Worcester: Providing a warm, welcoming place where a daily breakfast is provided for home-

less people – a place where they can get help, advice and support.

St Paul's Hostel, Worcester: The hostel provides living accommodation for homeless people as they start to rebuild their lives, where they also receive support, advice and training.

St Richard's Hospice, Worcester: Nursing and supporting patients with end-of-life care, whilst offering their relatives care, advice and bereavement counselling. This donation was made in memory of Rev'd. Nancy Murray-Walker. She was a dearly-loved curate at St. Barnabas a few years ago.

Finally a donation was made for *Tearfund:* This is an International Christian charity which partners with churches in over fifty of the World's poorest countries. It has partnerships with churches and organisations who play a crucial role in the places worst affected by poverty.

Once again, we send our sincere thanks to everyone who supports the Planned Giving Scheme, together with the congregation at Sunday morning services.

We pray for a peaceful World and wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas.

Ann Bryant

On behalf of the Mission Fund



Above: A recent Cluster Service at Christ Church

Left: Retiring Archdeacon Robert and Mike received a cherry tree (see page 4)

Below: A lone giraffe and Andy Gandon at the top of Mount Kenya (see page 8)

Opposite page: A very wet day for the Act of Remembrance. Revd Sarah illustrated her message with a very clever opening box!





KENYA PART II: TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

Elmenteita soda
lake at
Soysambu
Conservancy is
serene and
beautiful. It
frequently
changes colour
according to the
conditions, from
a soft light blue



to sage green. Flamingoes and pelicans live here and unusually hippos, who normally prefer fresh water.

Surprisingly there are also cattle, (not allowed in Kenya's National Parks) which keep the grass short for those antelope that like it that way. Without the 'lawnmowers' they would go elsewhere and so also the predators. A herder stays with the cows during the day as protection and at night they are moved inside a fenced off 'boma' away from night-hunting lion or hyena.

Andy has climbed Mt Kenya (16,000 feet) at least a dozen times before but this was the first time snow was falling on the top. If it looks too dangerous to continue upwards the guides insist climbers turn round. They didn't and Andy and another small group made it, in very difficult conditions, with an immense sense of achievement. (See photo on

centre pages).

Meanwhile back at home I was 'flooded' by Diesel on our local walk - an incredibly strong one year old! On his lead to stop him running off didn't stop him

bolting after a bird. I was having to learn fast while temporarily in charge. My bare arms sprang red welts and grazes and I was a bit shocked. Diesel of course won me over again before too long!

I also accompanied Paddy from the farm complex when her long time friend, originally from Scotland, was coming out of hospital for end of life care. With no NHS a commode and wheelchair needed picking up and transporting from a charity depot. A carer was found from Nairobi who was willing to live in. She needed the money on her phone for the fare for a 3 hr bus ride, meeting at the bus station and taking to a pharmacy to buy needed dressings and creams. There were no discharge letters at the house, no written diagnosis or prognosis, no instructions and no drugs apart from panadol and a laxative. And all this when the elderly husband was in denial and strongly resisting any help. She died at home five days later

with her daughters present. One had travelled from Scotland.

I was on holiday and an outdoor Zumba class was in order. Held under some trees in a field it was a real bonus on one sunny morning. A neck and shoulder massage back at the house was welcome too, though to be fair it was a bit brutal!

If you get rabies you die apparently so when Andy was bitten by a (vaccinated) dog from a nearby property we took no risks and went in search of a prescription, rabies jab and someone to administer it. While looking like a visitor buying a takeaway coffee a young woman greeted me with "Hello, welcome to Kenya! My name is Felicity." Nice touch. The dog owner took no more risks either and his pet was immediately put down. His swansong to bite a clergyman.

On the way back to Nairobi for our last few days we were involved in a shunt in heavy traffic. Two vehicles stopped very suddenly in front of us. Passing drivers kindly expressed their sorrow at our predicament. We weren't injured but we had to be towed to the local police station so our friend could



write a statement. It took hours, and that's all I can say.

POSTSCRIPTS

- In Kayole, a poor part of Nairobi, the women built a mud block Community school by hand.
- If the ill wife had died at home with only her husband present the police would have got involved.
- The best quality Kenyan tea is exported so some people re stock from Sainsbury's when they visit the UK.
- Goat stew is tasty.
- Buy one item in a shopping centre and get one portion of toilet paper free for the toilets. Otherwise they charge you.
- If you start school but their budget has run out you may need to take your own desk and chair.
- 200 people attended a service at Nairobi cathedral at 7am, the first of 10 services on a Sunday.
- As always we found the

Kenyan people kind, friendly, helpful, welcoming, tolerant and hopeful.

• Many need help to get started but there is a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Margaret Gandon

WORCESTER CITY WELCOMES REFUGEES (WCWR): UPDATE

Since last writing much has been happening.

A number of new Afghan families have moved to Worcester. These are men and families who worked with the British forces in Afghanistan and who had to flee the country when the Taliban took control. WCWR has helped them settle in – decorating, tidying up gardens, making homes homely before arrival are some of the ways WCWR has been able to help. Once settled, WCWR continues to support families and individuals by allocating a volunteer support worker/s who can help newcomers to negotiate new demands of daily living eg how to buy a TV licence, join the library, make doctor/hospital appointments, understand Universal Credit !

In addition to supporting families resettled in Worcester under the government resettlement schemes, WCWR, in partnership with Wychavon District Council, is supporting asylum seekers at one of the hotels. As a result of some new funding, WCWR has been able to secure more ESOL classes (English for speakers of other languages); with the support of Worcester University some cricket and football sessions are being established; and organised an art therapist to work

with the asylum seekers and within a few weeks they are already preparing for an exhibition of work to be on display in Malvern. Hope Church, based at the Granary, has recently hosted a games evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

If you would like further information, or would like to find out how to support the work of WCWR, have a skill to offer or are involved with a company, business, organisation which could offer support please contact WCWR by email:

welcomesworcestergames@gmail.com

or keep up-to-date on Facebook:

[Worcester City Welcomes Refugees | Facebook](#).

Ann Russell



BURNS' SUPPER

in the Church Hall
Saturday 27th January at 7pm.

Watch out for details/lists at the back of church after Christmas.

Everyone welcome!

TICKETS on the door
or phone 07914 875861

Christmas Brass

Sing-along and stomp your mistle-toes

Step into Christmas with

Worcester Concert Brass



Sunday 3rd December

3 - 5 pm

St Barnabas Church, WR3 8NX



Tickets: Adult £5, Children £1



Proceeds to St. Richard's Hospice

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 17th
December & any extra items before that so we can make up boxes
Blessing of boxes on Wednesday 20th December at 11am

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!





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who continue to support us

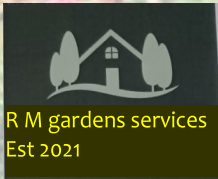
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WHERE DO WE MEET?
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12 Astwood Road, Worcester. WR3 8ET

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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