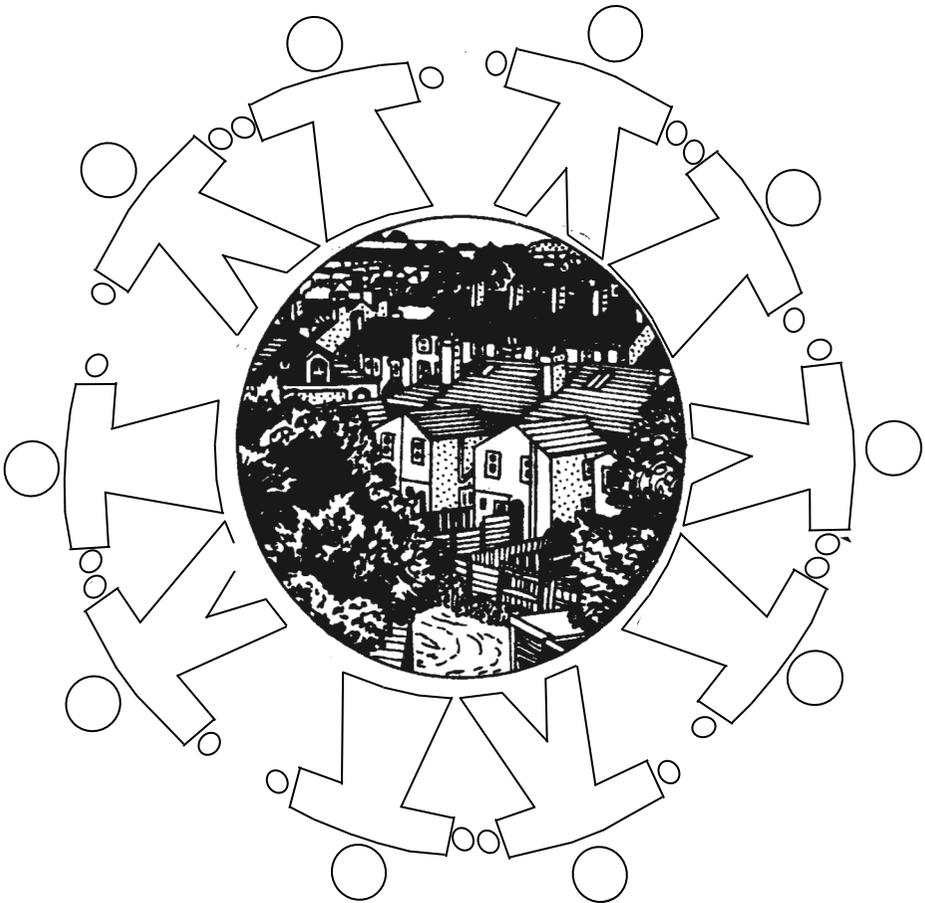

M THE MAGAZINE

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



SEPTEMBER 2021

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Vicar: Revd Julieann Watson (23785)
Churchwardens (St Barnabas & Christ Church):
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: *(from 19th July)*

Sunday	10am	Eucharist
	6.30pm	Evening Service
Wednesday	10am	Said Eucharist

If you would like to receive our written material for a Sunday - please place your request through Revd Julieann:
julieann.watson2019@icloud.com

PARISH OFFICE:

To book a baptism or marriage (or to have banns read), Parish Office is held in church every Wednesday 6-6.30pm (resumes on 30th June)

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

SAYING THANK YOU: THE GREAT LEVELLER

I have simply wanted to say 'thank you': thank you to those I know and those I don't know: those seen and unseen in life: those whose efforts, prayers and offers of time and energy have been vital to keeping me able, balanced and ready to work and serve and live. But also for the very basics of life – water, food, clothing, shelter, money, warmth, love, friendship, company. Saying thank you is the great leveller in life.

We say thank you for gifts and assistance in times of need. But it's not only the big things where thank you matters.

Here are some reasons to say Thank you:

- To express gratitude for what we have in life – even for the smallest of things, brings us happiness. We are recognising that the good things are often a result of someone else's effort and selflessness.
- It's a sign of respect and appreciation of another person. It's an encouragement for that person too.

- Saying thank you and expressing gratitude is infectious – it spreads from person to person bringing acknowledgement, respect and encouragement.
- Saying thank you for the very basics of life keeps us in tune with our world, our planet and ourselves.

The season of Autumn is when we say 'thank you' for all good gifts around us: the flowers have given us their seed and fruits, vegetables and grain for bread – the soil has given of its minerals - the skies have given us the sun and rain.

Finally, our great thanksgiving prayer over the bread and wine in church is our health, our life and reminds us of God's work and grace on which we all depend. It keeps our feet on the ground: holy ground maybe but still the everyday human ground which we all share.

Thank you everyone for all your prayers, time, understanding, benefit of your experience and your love.

*Revd Julieann Watson
Sept 2021*



BOOKS FOR FREE!

The summer progresses and autumn is on the horizon: so why not anticipate those shorter, cooler evenings and pick up one or more books from the Rectory study book shelves - going free.

I have been doing a church/theology/Christian book sort and after some colleagues in training have had 'first dibs' from what was on many shelves, there are a few shelves of books left: still of great interest. I have either read or dipped in to all of them and want to free up some space.

So, why not try out a new book - on a new subject, or on something simply helpful or maybe challenging? Come by the Rectory and take a look for yourself, in the flesh!

Julieann

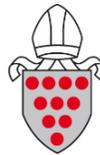
EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday 11th

Ride 'n' Stride: if you can help man the church, please see list at back of church

Sunday 19th

Harvest Lunch in Church Hall – see sign up in church



Sunday 19th 6.30pm
ALM celebration in cathedral for Judy Ford and Andy Hall: sign up for numbers in church.

No Evening Service in church

Friday 24th 10am

Community Garden Visit – meet at St Barnabas Church to walk to there

HARVEST LUNCH IN CHURCH HALL

Sunday 19th September



Everyone welcome!

See sign up list at back of church

FOR THE LOVE OF NUMBERS

40

Maths! It's rather like Marmite – you love it or loathe it! Well, I love maths. So let's consider numbers. There is, of course, the Book of Numbers in the Bible. It does contain quite a few numbers. There are lots in the first two chapters because God commanded a census to be taken in order to see how big Israel's army was. At that time, the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness with Moses. I was interested to read that in Hebrew this book isn't called Numbers at all, but Bemidbar meaning 'in the desert'.

What about numbers of importance elsewhere in the Bible? After some research, this is what I found out.

The number 40 is used 146 times throughout both testaments and is the traditional Hebrew number for a duration of any kind when times are hard and a person's faith is tested. For 400 years, 10 times 40, the Israelites were slaves under the Egyptian pharaohs and for 40 years they wandered in the wilderness. Moses was 40 years times 3

when he died at the age of 120 and he spent 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving God's law. We read of 'forty days and forty nights' throughout the Bible. The Great Flood was the result of forty days and forty nights rainfall. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and was tempted by Satan.

7

Then there is the number 7 which appears over 700 times in the Bible. From the seven days of Creation to the many "sevens" in Revelation, the number seven symbolizes completion and perfection. God rested on the seventh day after creating the heavens and the earth. Jesus spoke seven statements in agony from the cross. The Lord's Prayer contains seven petitions as a considered way to pray, and Jesus used seven metaphors to describe Himself as the path to salvation.

There are many other references to the numbers 40 and 7 in the Bible, plus a host of other numbers that have deeper meanings. Fascinating!

Judy



SUE MARTYR: JULY 2021

St Barnabas with Christ Church would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work which Sue has done in the Tolladine area and the generous friendship she has offered in her role as Tolladine Missioner. She has supported the community in so many ways. We celebrate this work and we are very thankful for the time Sue could give.

As a resident of Tolladine and before she took on the job as Missioner, it was part of Sue's ministry to see the community helping itself. Sue's message was always about wanting to energise and motivate and call people to action, to help each other and serve each other.

Sue worked in the name of the Church; funded by the National Church to be used effectively for the benefit of the Tolladine area. It is sad and challenging now to face the reality that the fund which paid her salary and her rent in the Mission House, has come to an end. But the church and its wide ranging work is still here, as well as its caring and committed volunteers. The work of supporting the people of Tolladine remains really important to us all.

However, as with any change in church officers, there is going to be an in between stage of planning and looking forward to

what is next & what is new.

An independent charity called The Tolladine Mission CIO is meeting to discuss and decide on future plans. This involves how money can be raised, finding the right people, and what we are able to provide, to continue to make a difference. One of the areas it is looking at is to do with housing and skills. This requires some commitment over a period of time to set up and get right. Watch this space!

In the meantime we remain inspired by Sue's legacy as Tolladine Missioner, helping the community to help itself.

Thank you Sue!!



Prayer tree/flags at Sue's farewell party



At least the hats kept them dry!

MANY THANKS!

Sue Martyr passes on a BIG thank you to everyone who came to the Farewell Gathering and contributed in anyway. It was great fun to spent time with everyone despite the intermittent drizzle!

Also a BIG thank you for the very generous gifts received.

Sue will certainly be missed around the Tolladine area!



MISSION FUND NEWS

The PCC recently authorised a donation from the Mission Fund to a local charity, The Bridge Counselling Service.

The Bridge is based in The Angel Centre, 1 Angel Street, Worcester. There is a team of trained counsellors there, who have a broad range of life experiences and backgrounds and can provide counselling and support for adults over the age of eighteen. They can help with a wide range of issues including depression, loss and bereavement, anxiety, abuse, work and social issues and problems relating to Covid-19 lockdowns. The past year has proved a very difficult year for many people and the year ahead will, no doubt, bring many new challenges. The Bridge team of counsellors and volunteers will continue to serve our local community in providing counselling services. We will continue to pray and support them, especially during this difficult period.

Visit their website for any further information: [www.bridge](http://www.bridge-counselling-worcester.org.uk)

[-counselling-worcester.org.uk](http://www.bridge-counselling-worcester.org.uk)

Ann Bryant





Top: Photos of a recent baptism - Bill the dad is a governor at St Barnabas School, Jess the older sister has been to Messy Church and Sophie the babe was born on the first day of lockdown in March 2020. *Love and prayers for them all*

Above: Working party in the Church Hall stopped for a cuppa during clean up morning

Opposite top: Glorious sunshine for the Parish picnic recently

Opposite bottom: Andy Hall taking cover at the Community Garden project. Recently two sheds were broken into and a storm kettle was stolen but fortunately the thieves overlooked two strimmers, a rotavator and mower plus a whole range of tools!



ARE YOU TALKING?

On our way home from holiday last week I ended up hugging a stranger I had only just met. True! But more of that later.

I recently read an intriguing article entitled 'Can we talk?' about the benefits of striking up conversations with people we don't know. The author had set himself the task of going out and starting a conversation with someone nearby. The article referred amongst others to Joe Keohane and his book 'The Power of Strangers: The Benefits of Connecting in a Suspicious World'.

Keohane believes conversations with strangers can be exhilarating, and apparently chemicals that make us feel happy are released in the brain when we bond with other people. He is convinced that engaging with folk we don't know broadens our minds, increases empathy, alleviates loneliness and could be the cure for all manner of individual and societal 'ills'. This includes the extremism or conspiracy-mongering by some who feel they just aren't being listened to.

The long-running Listening Project on the radio has enabled conversations with

friends and family members. More recently individuals have been invited to request a conversation with someone they don't know who they would not normally cross paths with. This has been set up and the results make for interesting listening as people of different faiths and backgrounds have talked together.

Even before the pandemic there were smart phones and earphones that stopped face to face conversation. I remember sitting in an eating area outside Euston station once and every single person was on their phone. One man was on two at the same time. No one was talking directly to those they were with. Now we have had masks, social distancing and a wariness of strangers who might be infected to add to the problem. We may have done everything on the internet, got everything delivered and only mixed with a few people we know. Are we missing out?



We were driving back from New Quay last week when I hugged a stranger; a Welshman, without masks. I know. It sounds a bit forward doesn't it. We had stopped at the scene of a motorcycle accident and a retired paramedic arrived who took over



from me. The cyclist's condition appeared stable and he was talking as we awaited the arrival of the ambulance. The stranger though was the driver of the car who had to do an Emergency stop when he didn't see the speeding motorcycle. He was visibly distressed, anxious, unsettled and repeating over and over what he thought might have happened that he now couldn't really remember. He drank tea from our flask sitting in our car and we said our goodbyes as he was invited into the garage to look at the cctv images. None of the witnesses had seen him causing the accident but despite their reassurances he wasn't coping well. It felt emotional but good to have spent a short time with those at the scene of the accident. All were strangers.

I am retiring again this week after 6 months giving vaccinations. I will have spoken, very briefly, to more than 2000 people who came to get jabbed. Everything about the job is repetitious but each person unique and that interaction has been a joy and a privilege.

On reflection a more sobering thought comes into my mind to

take away from all of this. Maybe we are kinder with strangers than we sometimes are with our nearest and dearest. We know them well. But that is another story.

Margaret Gandon

SPACE

22nd/25th Sept 7:15pm-11pm

Worcester Cathedral invites you to *SPACE*, to journey to the edge of the universe and back!

When you visit *SPACE* you will be on an amazing immersive journey through light and sound that transforms the interior of majestic Worcester Cathedral. The visual spectacular allows viewers to go on a journey through space and time and gives you the chance to walk amongst the stars.

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For more information visit
www.worcestercathedral.co.uk



ST PAUL'S CORINTHIAN CORRESPONDENCE

St Paul founded the Church in Corinth and had a fairly fractious relationship with that community thereafter.

But how many letters did he write to them?

If your answer is “two”.....then that is understandable, and is certainly consistent with the New Testament, in that it records “1 and 2 Corinthians” as Paul’s surviving letters.

However, over many years, biblical scholars have established that Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth at least four, maybe five times, with the New Testament itself hinting at other (lost) letters, namely:

An early letter on the avoidance of immorality that Paul refers to at I Cor. 5:9.

and

Paul’s “angry letter” that is probably II Cor. 10 - 13.

A possible timeline of the complete correspondence is as follows:

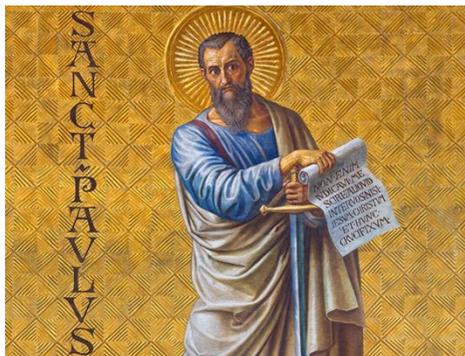
After establishing the Corinthian Church Paul writes to the

Church a letter on the avoidance of immorality (I Cor. 5:9). This is either a completely lost letter.....or it could be II Cor. 6:14 - 7:1.

Paul receives a letter from the Corinthian Church with certain questions and he also learns some things from Chloe. He responds in writing with what we now call “I Corinthians”.

At some point after “I Corinthians” is sent, some people arrive in Corinth and stir up opposition to Paul (II Cor. 11:13-15, 23). They have letters of recommendation (3:1). They were Jewish (11:22) but there's no indication that they were from Jerusalem. These visitors made demands (11:19-21), scoffed at Paul (11:30), and challenged Paul's authority and inspiration (13:3). It seems that one attack on Paul's legitimacy was that he (Paul) didn't ask for money from the Church for himself (11:7-11; 12:13-18). It appears that these visitors were

good speakers (11:6), claimed to have visions and revelations of the Lord (12:1), but preached a different gospel from the one Paul preached (11:4)



Paul learns of this visit and writes a letter (which could be II Cor 2:14 - 6:13; 7:2 - 4)

Real danger to Paul's leadership emerges (10:10) so he visits Corinth finding them rebellious and he is insulted (2:5 - 11; 7:12)

Paul sends a furious letter--one he later says he hated having to send (7:8, 12; 2:1 - 4). (That letter is probably II Cor. 10 - 13).

Paul sends Titus to check on things (12:17) and learns that his correspondence has been successful. The church has repented and the one who insulted Paul has been censured (2:6; 7:5 - 11).

Paul writes a conciliatory letter (which is could be II Cor 1:1 - 2:13; 7:5 - 9:15).

If you count the letter mentioned in I Cor. 5:9 as a lost one - rather than one included within II Corinthians - you come up to five possible letters. An interesting conjecture. It doesn't say much for the quality of the record-keeping in the Church in Corinth.....perhaps some comfort for those tidying our vestries and sacristies today!

Look up the passages from "1 Corinthians" and "2 Corinthians" cited above.....what do you think?

Mark Watson

PLANNED GIVING UPDATE

Dear Friends

Halfway through July already. Even when we were forced to be relatively inactive during lockdown, the weeks seemed to fly by. By this point in our annual calendar I would usually, on the PCC's behalf, have mounted our annual review of planned giving. This would have involved preparing and distributing a leaflet to you all with some information on parish finances, and a 'sermon slot' on a Sunday morning.

This year continues to be very different. First another lockdown, following which we are now meeting again in church on a socially distanced basis with no singing. Next week the remaining restraints should be lifted, but we don't know quite how life is going to be. Some of us have returned to church, some still have to make that step – it's all a bit odd isn't it? Enough folks pay their giving to church by standing order or direct debit to give the PCC sufficient cash flow to pay the bills, so far at any rate, and most of you 'envelope givers' are now catching up as well. Good work, well done, impressive.

However we return to 'normal', I guess that we still need to be conscientious stewards of our church finances, hence my writing to you in this way. So as usual I want to commend to you

the principle of reviewing your weekly or monthly giving, which in this church we try to do every year. We're as subject to inflation as the rest of the world after all. And how do we do it?



calculate your five per cent. It's an easy calculation; you see what your 'take-home' income is, whether it's from work, benefits, pension or whatever, weekly or monthly, then divide that figure by ten and then divide that figure by two. That gives you your target figure to aim at. So at an

Well, we consider the principle of shared giving by working towards everyone giving a similar percentage share of our income. As I say every year, the bible states we should tithe our giving, that is give ten per cent off the top. First to the Lord. The Church of England recognizes that a lot of us contribute to other charities as well as paying our taxes, and so requests us to give at a more modest rate of five per cent of take-home-pay. So each year my annual request to you is to actually calculate your five per cent, work out your target figure and then move a bit closer to it if you can.

income of, say, £100 per week, divide by ten divide by two, your 5% target is £5.

Please, please make this calculation especially if you never have before. You might be pleasantly surprised that you are already over the 5%, or you might be concerned that you are nowhere near 5% and have a long way to go. If so, don't panic, you can't be expected to make up the difference in one go, but do let it influence your increase in giving this year and in the future so that you know you are working towards your goal.

I know that this is easier for some people than for others, that it won't happen 'across the board' except in a perfect world, but as a principle to aim at it's no bad thing. The idea that we all give at around the same share of our income, that surely has to be fair doesn't it? At the moment we are better than some parishes, but we still have a number of church members who give very generously so that others can give less. It would be good to even that out a bit.

Because of Covid, our own income and expenditure levels may have been a bit 'skewed' of late, and this may have meant that you need to alter the level of your giving, either down or in some cases up (Praise the Lord!). Some folks have actually increased their giving to church to help us remain solvent, God bless you. But the PCC still has to meet it's obligations including paying our ministry share to the diocese to pay for our clergy and other resources, which is why it's important for me to write to you

So every year I ask you to

in this way.

Despite everything that the last sixteen months has thrown at us, we've tried to stay positive and active as a church, still moving forward, still developing. As I write this the new lighting has just been installed and the audio-visual system (now augmented by a third screen) is back in regular use. We've been using Zoom and Youtube for services and meetings and look forward to discerning how we should make use of them in the future. Please help to keep this momentum going by giving serious consideration to your giving. If you need any help with it, let me know.

Once again I shall have to send this letter to most of you by e-mail. I hope you will forgive this but understand why.

I think I'd better stop there before I run onto a third page, so I want to send enormous good wishes to everyone in these strange but hopefully improving times. I really missed our fellowship together when I was away from church, and I was very grateful for the technology which enabled us to stay in touch at least a bit, but Sally and I are glad to be back at Sunday worship at last.

So please think and pray about your giving, and then put your changes into effect. God bless us all, stay well and stay safe, until we can meet again.

John Dentith
Parish Giving Co-ordinator



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