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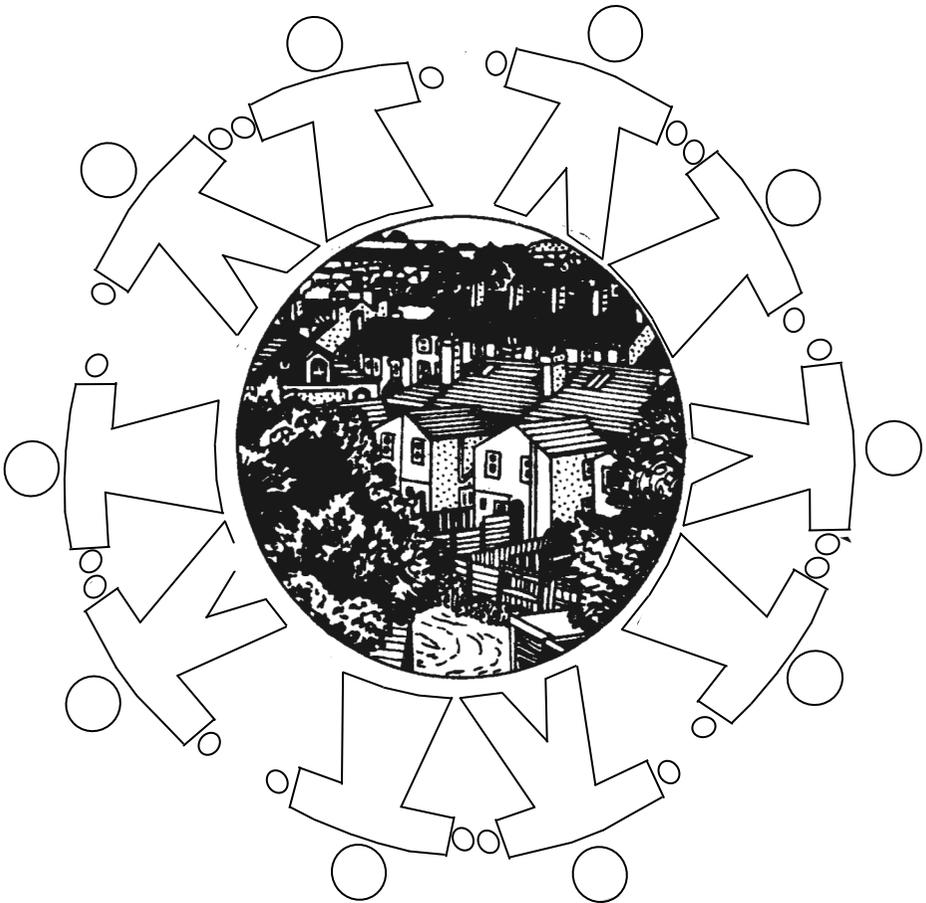
# M THE MAGAZINE

35p

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

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**JUNE 2022**

# ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

## PARISH STAFF:

Vicar:

**IN VACANCY**

Churchwardens (St Barnabas & Christ Church):

Mary James (455214)

Rachel Chalmers (07787 128345)

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):

Rachel Chalmers (07787 128345)

## WEBSITE:

[www.stbarnabasworchester.org.uk](http://www.stbarnabasworchester.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.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

# PENTECOST

*Dear Friends*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June comes seven weeks and a day since Easter. And that's what makes it Pentecost Sunday, based on the Greek "pentekoste hemera", the fiftieth day. It's a British thing to refer to the same day as Whitsun, although the Whitsun bank holiday doesn't always coincide with it any more. This late Spring Bank Holiday is usually fixed for the last Monday of May but it used to be on the Monday after Pentecost, which of course moves around as much as Easter does! And of course, this year, the Diamond Jubilee adds an extra layer again, with the Thursday and the Friday BEFORE Pentecost being bank holidays for a once in a lifetime moment.

Pentecost Sunday brings the Holy Spirit front and centre in our attention. We can be so used to phrases like "May I speak in the name of the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit" or "Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit" that the Holy Spirit almost sounds like the cosmic "plus one". Some of us have a sense that Jesus walks

with us and the Father guides us, but that the Holy Spirit is trickier to grasp - a matter of theology, or of liturgy, best left to the professionals. Methodist minister Samuel Chadwick thinks this is mistaken. Writing in 1911, he said: *"The gift of the Spirit is the crowning mercy of God in Christ Jesus. Without the gift of the Holy Spirit all the rest would be useless. The great thing in Christianity is the gift of the Spirit. The essential, vital, central element in the life of the soul - and the work of the Church - is the Person of the Spirit."*

We're all used to metaphors about the Holy Spirit – the dove, wind, fire, even oil – but the trouble with metaphors is that they make the Holy Spirit more an "it" than a personal friend, as intimate with us as the Father or the Son. In Ephesians 4:30 St Paul tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God. This word grieve whispers reality to us

about the Holy Spirit. This is the word scripture uses for Jesus in Gethsemane *"and Jesus took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be very sorrowful*



*and heavy in heart*” in Matthew 26:37. This is the word scripture uses for the Lord’s reaction to the corruption of the earth in the days of Noah, *“and the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart”* in Genesis 6:6. You can’t grieve gravity. The Holy Spirit is a personal being just as the Father, just as the Son. The Holy Spirit is not an it; he is not a force. He is our friend. Although for some, the preferred pronoun is actually she. She is our friend.

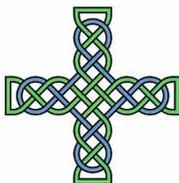
The word for “grieve” is *lupeo*, and it is not so much about causing offence, as it is about causing the other to lament, to mourn; not so much about provoking disgust, more about wounding or producing deep distress. Ephesians tells us the kinds of things that grieve the Holy Spirit in terms of bitterness, anger, immorality (yet another one of those lists of don’ts that St Paul is so fond of using). Now if the Holy Spirit is pained by our own hit-and-miss holiness, this must be because of the limitless purity of his own being. Our friend, the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Holiness. If the inner workings of our hearts and their overflow into our actions can grieve the Holy Spirit, then we have to conclude that he is intimately present. Dutch politician and theologian Abraham Kuyper wrote

*“In this way the Holy Spirit breaks down every wall of partition, pouring out His light in all the heart’s empty spaces, gradually opening every door, gaining access to the soul’s most secret chambers, even to the vaults underneath the structure of our being, until finally, either before or in death, the outpouring of His brightness is complete in all our personality, and the whole heart has become His temple.”*

The Holy Spirit is so committed to us that he stays not alongside us but deep within each of us who makes space for him, despite the grief that this closeness has the potential to bring him. We should be both humbled and empowered by the costly and transformative love that he has for each of us. The Spirit of God loves us – and he isn’t finished with us, until he’s finished with us.

And so this Pentecost, Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus

Christ our Lord.  
*Every blessing,  
Sarah  
Revd Sarah Northall,  
Vicar of St Wulstans  
Warndon*



## MARY'S MEALS BACKPACK PROJECT

The charity, Mary's Meals, which organised backpacks for children in Malawi has reluctantly decided to discontinue this project due to greater logistical complexities and costs that are no longer sustainable for the charity.

They will continue their work of feeding hungry children living in the world's poorest countries with a nutritious meal each school day.

We are very grateful to the many people who have supported the Backpack project by buying backpacks and the items needed to go in them. A big thank you to Ann Russell who co-ordinated our efforts.

If anyone wishes to donate to Mary's Meals, phone 0800 698 1212 or visit [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)  
*Mary James*

## JUBILEE CELEBRATION

On Wednesday 1st June we will serve tea/coffee and cake following the 10am Eucharist service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Everyone is invited. See page 12 for poster.



## PCC SUB GROUPS

At the recent AGM in church at the end of April a new PCC was elected—see photos on page 10.

The PCC usually meets about 8 times a year but between these meetings the sub-groups meet to discuss various issues. These sub-groups are Fabric, Church Hall, Mission Giving, Pastoral, All-Age Outreach, Events & Publicity and Worship (everyone is encouraged to join at least one group - you do not have to be a member of the PCC). If you would like to join one of the sub-groups, sign-up sheets will be at the back of church until Sunday 5th June.

## MORE WALKS IN JUNE

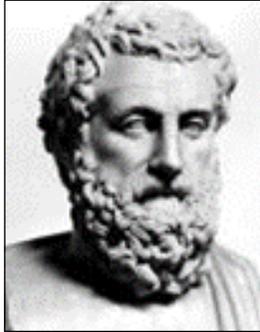
One hour long, flat, no mud! First half in silence: connecting with our creator. Meet at the entrance of Perdiswell Sports Centre at 6pm on:

- 7th June
- 21st June (*Astronomically the start of summer*)

*Sue Martyr*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Today recording the natural world is not new and is extremely important. These records tell us what state our world is in and highlights those creatures that are threatened with extinction.



What about flying south? That idea seemed rather silly - birds weighing very little and yet crossing the Mediterranean Sea and Saharan desert twice a year! These views continued for over 2,000 years until

the first hard evidence emerged that this could be the case. The tale of the 'arrow stork' tells how a bird hunter in Northern Germany shot and killed a white stork that had returned from no-one knew where to its nesting area. On collecting the bird the hunter saw that a long stick protruded from its neck. He took the bird and the stick to a local museum. The stick was identified as being a spear or arrow that was typically used by hunters in Central Africa. The bird had survived, despite the arrow in its neck and flown all the way back on its spring journey back to Germany, only to get shot on arrival. This was one of the first pieces of hard evidence that birds do in fact regularly travel between continents. So people began to accept that large birds were capable of travelling long distances. What about small birds? Did they hitch a ride on

It was with interest that I read an article in 'Nature's Home', the RSPB Spring/Summer magazine and here I share just part of it.

Aristotle was a remarkable documenter of the natural world. He observed and recorded plants, animals and the changing seasons that he saw around his homeland of Greece about 2,300 years ago. His observations and logic were very much ahead of his time. However he could not explain the natural phenomenon of birds appearing in spring and disappearing in autumn, while others appeared in autumn and disappeared in spring. His theory was that, just as some creatures hibernate over winter, probably birds do the same. Yet again, perhaps birds don't actually appear and disappear, but change their appearance between the seasons. Again it seemed quite logical to him.

the first hard evidence emerged that this could be the case. The tale of the 'arrow stork' tells how a bird hunter in Northern Germany shot and killed a white stork that had returned from no-one knew where to its nesting area. On collecting the bird the hunter saw that a long stick protruded from its neck. He took the bird and the stick to a local museum. The stick was identified as being a spear or arrow that was typically used by hunters in Central Africa. The bird had survived, despite the arrow in its neck and flown all the way back on its spring journey back to Germany, only to get shot on arrival. This was one of the first pieces of hard evidence that birds do in fact regularly travel between continents. So people began to accept that large birds were capable of travelling long distances. What about small birds? Did they hitch a ride on

the backs of larger birds?

The understanding of bird migration, as we know it, began with bird ringing. Safe ways of attaching metal bands to birds' legs began at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Each ring had a code number unique to that individual bird. This method revealed most of what we knew about bird migration to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

RSPB nature reserves provide good pit stops, but the birds may

still encounter dangers before they arrive in the UK. So RSPB works with many conservation partners to ensure a safe passage for them. Aristotle did not know everything about birds and their staggering journeys and neither do researchers today. Evidence is still being gathered.

A quote of Aristotle: 'In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous.' How true that is! Let us find time and space to stop and wonder.

*Judy & Chris*

## The migration of birds

### Migratory routes

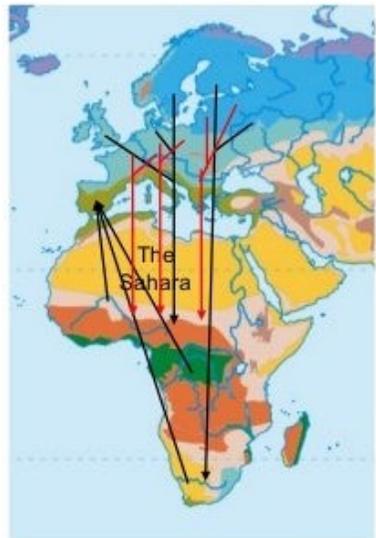
- Birds like swallows, bee-eaters, storks and birds of prey including black kites, vultures and common kestrels journey from Africa to the Iberian Peninsula to spend the summer.

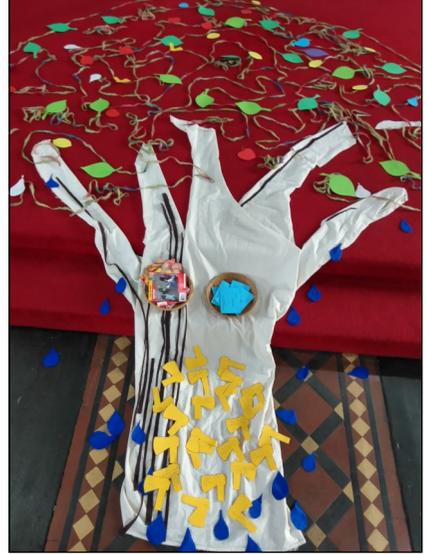


Swallows →



Black kite →







The band played on



Tea is served!



And light rain fell!



Not the tea urn!

*Left page top:* Enjoying breakfast at the Christian Aid service & prayer tree.

*Left page bottom:* Beautiful weather on Sue Martyr's reflective walks.

*This page:* Photos taken during Margaret Gandon's Buckingham Palace Tea (see page 8)



Dressed to impress!

## AND LIGHT RAIN FELL

We left on foot for  
Northwick Park  
There was not  
enough rain to need  
an Ark  
But light rain fell.  
The forecast had  
changed every time  
we checked  
And in my cool dress I  
was already decked  
And the Palace beckoned.

The rules were clear, a handbag  
and broly  
To arrive with a rucksack would  
surely be folly  
And light rain fell.  
Our clothes were now chosen  
and no way of adding  
The wind was so cold that I  
longed for more padding!  
And the Palace beckoned.

The queue was quite slow and  
we patiently listened  
To the man with his woes, as the  
raindrops glistened  
As light rain fell.  
Kept away twice now by Covid 19  
Today it was raining and no  
promised Queen!  
But the Palace beckoned.

The gardens looked lovely, with  
lake, lawns and beds  
A bandstand of green and  
musicians in reds



And light rain fell.  
The staff from the  
Palace wore a  
welcoming smile  
And we entered the  
tent, there'd be tea in  
a while  
We'd arrived!

Who should we see  
first in top hat & coat

But our very own bishop whose  
dress got our vote!  
And light rain fell.  
A stroll round the grounds next,  
mud browning my shoes  
A sea of umbrellas would surely  
be news  
We'd arrived!

With space for a teacup a  
rectangular plate  
For fingers of sandwiches, and  
cakes for a fete  
As still light rain fell.  
The food was most royal, for  
thousands of guests  
And we oh so thankful that we'd  
worn our vests!  
We'd survived.

Just as we left the rain had a  
burst  
And out came the sun for a  
welcome first!  
*Margaret Gandon*

*(see photos on centre pages)*

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE: A LISTED BUILDING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Would you be interested in joining a study group to investigate the feasibility of whether or not we should apply for our church to be a Listed Building?

Discussions which began with the PCC on the subject of the need to replace the church roof (which is showing its age of 137 years) have now widened out to cover the question of whether the PCC should apply to have the church building listed.

Most people shudder at the mention of Listed Building status, believing that all it means is a load of red tape governing what you can and can't do with your building, and what materials you have to use in repairing it. What they don't always realize is that being a listed building also brings lots of benefits in accessing a much wider stream of grant funding opportunities, as well as the possibility of obtaining a refund of some or all of the VAT spend on repairs.

And as a Church of England building, our church is covered by Faculty Jurisdiction anyway, which means that, listed or not, there

are strict rules to be followed and permissions to be obtained.

And in any case, we might apply to be listed and get turned down. There are no guarantees. But nationally there are over 12,000 listed Church of England church buildings.

So the question is – to be or not to be a listed building.

The PCC is looking for volunteers who might be interested in finding out more, about whether we should apply to be listed or not, and if so, what steps we would need to take to apply. If this is something you think you could help with, please contact:

- *John Dentith* 21348
- *Rachel Chalmers* 458101
- *Mary James* 455214



**PCC of ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH 2022  
IN VACANCY**



John Dentith  
*Lay Chair/  
Diocesan Synod*



Rachel Chalmers  
*Churchwarden*



Mary James  
*Churchwarden*



Judy Ford  
*Secretary*



Claire Summers  
*Treasurer*



Sue Sykes



Julie Berrow



Jackie Campbell



Marian Bailey  
*Deanery Synod*



Sue Martyr  
*Deanery Synod*



Graham Sugden



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## BISHOP JOHN TO CYCLE THE CAMINO

On Friday 20 May, Bishop John and his wife H-J are to cycle almost 500 miles to Santiago De Compostela, Spain (the alleged burial site of St. James) to raise funds for the Cathedral.

According to legend a local shepherd discovered the tomb in 813AD. When the king of Asturias and Galicia, Alfonso II, heard this, he undertook the Camino and ordered a church to be built there declaring St James the patron of his empire.

Since then, millions of pilgrims have travelled there. One of them was the 15th Century 'Worcester pilgrim' whose remains were discovered in 1987 at the base of the tower of Worcester Cathedral. Beside his body lay a long wooden staff, with a double-pronged iron tip and a perforated cockle shell, the traditional emblem of the pilgrimage route.



Bishop John is hoping to raise £3,000 by undertaking the 500-mile, 3 week journey. *If you would like to sponsor him, visit the Diocese of Worcester website.*



## MARKING PENTECOST THROUGH PRAYING THY KINGDOM COME

*The Day of Pentecost, this year on 5 June, marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end.*

At Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, remembering how this was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Thy Kingdom Come has become a global prayer movement with Christians from 172 countries taking part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing. Who are you praying for to respond to God's call on their lives?



JUBILEE CELEBRATION  
in CHURCH

on WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE  
at 11am (after 10am Eucharist)

JOIN US FOR  
TEA/COFFEE & CAKE!

*All welcome!*





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or Julia Adams (610830)

## WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

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*all welcome!*



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when do we meet?

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where do we meet?

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For further information contact: t: 01905 330600

Kirsty e:rainbowpreswfedwi.org.uk

Rachel e:rainbowsecwfedwi.org.uk



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