
M THE MAGAZINE

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



FEBRUARY 2023

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

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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

**ALL IN THE SHORTEST MONTH OF FEBRUARY:
FOG, SIMEON & ANNA,
THE TRANSFIGURATION
VALENTINE'S DAY, ASH WEDNESDAY**

The fog hangs heavy. Only the shining lights reveal how dense the fog is. The light bares all.

Simeon and Anna patiently wait in the Temple to witness the new light. A hope to the world.

The glow of the Transfiguration of Jesus is too bright and eyes are shielded, but the hope has been set and reminds us of the new world now. And Peter declares 'how good it is that we are here!'

Saint Valentine jumps in and casts out rays of shining love in the midst of February.

Flip to the end of the month and we have a reminder of our own mortality, with Ash Wednesday; remember you are dust, and to dust you will return.

The God light holds us in the past, the present and the future and our faith patters on.

Maybe we should hold tightly on to February!

Mathew 17: 1-9
Luke 2:22-40
Valentine, Martyr at Rome
c.269
Genesis 3.19

Sue Martyr





MEMORIES OF ANN

I got to know Ann by coming to church and loved our chats.

This reminds me when COVID was around and church was closed and we couldn't mix and were restricted where we could go and do. Ann would always be waiting by her door for me and we would walk to collect our church papers that Julieann put out for us all if we were not able to do online—two meters apart I should add.

I sometimes used to bump into Ann and Graham while walking my dog Fin over Perdiswell.

Prior to COVID one of my memories is when we walked to the three churches—it was a very hot day.

I will miss Ann.

**REST IN PEACE
LOVELY LADY**

Lin Crony

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year World Day of Prayer is on Friday 3rd March. There will be a service at 10.30am in St Barnabas Church with prayer and prayerful action.

LENT COURSES

During Lent we will be running a joint course with St Nicholas' on zoom on **Tuesday** evenings.

The house group will also be meeting at Bilford Road on **Wednesday** evenings.

Further information will follow about content and themes.



PANCAKE DAY
SHROVE
TUESDAY

Join us in church for

PANCAKES &
QUIZ

at 6pm on 21st February

NEW HOPE CHARITY

St Barnabas has supported the work of New Hope through its Charitable Giving. New Hope is based in Wells Road, Ronkswood, in the building that once belonged to the Council, and latterly became the Housing Association Community building.

New Hope was started by Jean Wilson in 2010. Jean had a daughter who had very complex needs. She found that there was nowhere in Worcester or the county of Worcestershire that had any provision for children with complex disabilities including learning disabilities which are often combined with physical disabilities, autism and challenging behaviour.

Jean felt that these children and their families often felt very isolated and that the children had no social activities outside of school. If there were other children in the family they were often unable to do normal activities with their parents due to the needs of the disabled child. New Hope offers a safe environment for parents and carers to leave their child safe in the knowledge that they are having fun and friendship whilst the rest of the family can have a few hours respite.

Since 2010 New Hope has swiftly grown the number of

children from all over the County that come for the day on Saturday and for the Holiday Clubs. New Hope caters for children and young people up to age 19. The building has a Sensory Room and Craft areas, a Television area and a Cooking area as well as a Quiet area. There is a whole range of outside areas with lots of equipment for the children to play with. This summer the staff have made an outside Sensory Garden for the children.

Jean and her team work tirelessly to raise funds to enable New Hope to continue it's very worthwhile function. During 2017 a shop was opened in Ronkswood in the vacant Post Office called the "50p Shop". If any donated items are worth significantly more they are sold on Ebay.

I have been fortunate to take items donated by the St Barnabas church family to the shop including a lovely pushchair complete with a car seat. This was bought by a young mother who was expecting her first baby, she was delighted with it. This shop helps a lot of Ronkswood families as there is a good selection of



Continued on next page

clothes, including school uniform, toys and household goods on sale.

Jean was awarded the MBE in the 2016 Honours List for her work with complex disabled children. The money that has been donated by St Barnabas has paid for a children's Christmas party and a trip to a Pantomime and towards other activities.

If anyone has clothes or anything suitable to sell and they would like to donate it to New Hope but would have difficulty taking it to the shop I would be very willing to take it for you. This year I took some donations of sweets, chocolates and other gifts which could be sold or used as raffle prizes.

All visitors to the New Hope "50p shop" can expect a very warm welcome and you never know you might bag a bargain.
Marian Bailey

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

- 22nd February 10am*
Communion for Ash Wednesday with Diane
- 22nd February 7pm*
Communion for Ash Wednesday at St Wulstans with Sarah
- 5th March 10am*
Something Else Sunday at Christ Church

LENT

Each Ash Wednesday our thoughts turn towards the desert, as we see Jesus, turning to the wilderness. Desert, wilderness, solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited expanses. The desert is never far away in the Bible. "Where is your God?" so often had the answer "we met him in the desert places; in the wilderness, we heard his voice." In every significant life story, at every fork in the road, wilderness is quite literally the landscape on which the covenant stories are mapped.

A common scene in Russian folk tales sees the lone knight riding through the expanses of the steppes, his noble quest firm in his steely grip. He spies a stone pillar marking a parting of the ways. This waymarker bears an inscription describing the fork in the road he now faces: *"If you ride to the left, you will lose your horse, if you ride to the right, you will lose your head."*

Lent is the decision of love that we make each year to share the road towards Jerusalem with the Lord Jesus. The drama of palm leaves, fragrant nard, silver coins, broken bread and wine outpoured regathers our attention. The Via Dolorosa is ready to be laid anew. Golgotha



stands ready once again. 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 in penitential purple. And so although Lent is a journey, it is also an interruption damming for a while, the flow of resurrection hope that defines our gospel story.



of the Christian year, and whether we ride to the left or to the right, matters very little. For as we have seen, there are costs to be counted and penitences to be faced. But know this too.

Treasure lies in every single step of self-restraint along the road to Jerusalem. And so this Lent, may our pilgrim hearts be enriched along the way and the journey itself ennoble our very lives.

Lent requires us to embark upon the journey and yet also, with the Russian knight, to face the fork in the road. Whichever choices we make, if our road truly takes us to Jerusalem, there will always be a cost. Whichever choices we make, if our road truly takes us to Jerusalem, there will always be repentance. And so although Lent is a discipline, it is also a freedom, balancing the weight of penitence with the liberty of absolution.

Surrendering ourselves to the grace of God, we need a particular kind of courage simply to say: *I am dust, to dust I shall return.*

And so what of our Russian knight? We left him pondering which way to go, seeking great treasure in his noble quest. The fork in the road demands a choice: *"If you ride to the left, you will lose your horse, if you ride to the right, you will lose your head."* Lent is the fork in the road

Shall we begin?

That this Lent may be holy, good and peaceful let us pray with one heart and one mind. As our Lenten prayers rise before you O God, so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and to set us free to sing your praise now and forever. Amen.

Revd Sarah Northall

PATRONAGE SCHEME

Our Patronage Scheme has now been running for 20 years! The scheme allows you to mark a special date, maybe a birthday or anniversary and become a Patron of St Barnabas for that day, paying £25 towards the daily running costs of the church building. Patrons' names are recorded in a special book kept at the front of the church by the piano. See Jackie Campbell (451928) for more info).



Above: Everyone was in fine voice for the Carols evening which was held in the hall during the very cold spell.

Below: We gathered at the Tolly Centre for Christ Church Patronal Sunday.

Opposite page top: Enjoying the Worcester Concert Brass Band who played a variety of tunes including some Christmas favourites. (see Julie's article on page 10)

Opposite bottom: After two years with Covid restrictions, the Crib Service was the first of the Christmas services.





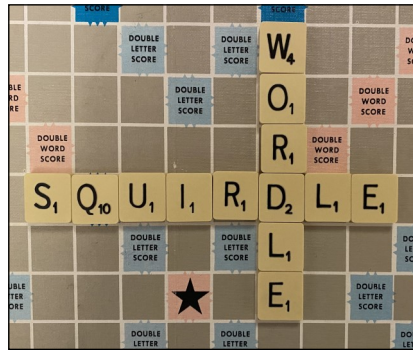
You will
seek *Me*
& find *Me*
when you
search *for Me*
with *all your*
heart
Jeremiah 29:13 ❤️



SQUIRDLE & WORDLE

I'm not big on pop groups and Michael Rosen must be the only person I know who can discuss the history of 'Band names' for thirty minutes and make it fascinating. With his softly spoken voice, and love of words and how we use them, his radio 4 programme 'Word of Mouth' is always worth a listen. He is of course the popular author of children's books like 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo'. His recent account of his near death Covid experience has been published, entitled 'Many different kinds of love - a story of life, death and the NHS'. While in a coma the nursing staff were diligent in writing a daily diary of what was happening, to share with Michael when he woke up.

Listening to year 3 readers at one of the local schools is another lesson in language and particularly the art of reading. Who would have thought there was so much to navigate? A font change might pop up and require emphasis, punctuation marks cannot be ignored as skipping through full stops is nonsensical (literally!). Spelling out words phonetically can be a big win,



until the exceptions to the rules trip you up. Idioms are everywhere, French words that have morphed into English suddenly appear and made-up words add to the challenges of pronunciation. English is certainly a bit of a rollercoaster for young learners.

The other day a child stopped mid-sentence when reading '...it the...'. She was flummoxed, as it didn't make sense. It was only on completing the line that she got it. '...on seeing it the boy laughed and ran.' She learnt to look ahead as well as reading the words right in front of her. It's a privilege and pleasure to join these children on their bumpy journeys.

As well as reading we might talk about what the illustrations add, the humour, a summary of what has already happened, what might happen next and what the child likes about their choice. Rhymes are attractive as are books with made up words like 'crodsquinkled' from Roald Dahl or Spike Milligan's 'squirdle'. Apparently Dahl famously invented words to stop his

readers getting so bored they closed their books and watched TV.

It has been said that if you want to write well you need to read widely. There has been some discussion in these 'tech' times about the effects of typing on a keyboard or texting on a phone rather than writing by hand. Is there a danger that handwriting will simply fall out of popular use? And what about literacy and spelling? The jury is out but some say texting should be seen as a new language, a progression, reflecting the current age. They believe it can even improve literacy, helping with summarising, writing concisely and even diplomacy skills.

It's never too late to learn and revise words in adulthood and doing Wordle everyday is good for the brain (so they say). It has recently led to an informative discussion in our house about the meanings of elude, allude, delude and illude!

And as for fonts, I discovered a wacky article about these. Apparently an easy to read typeface will likely convince you that your DIY furniture will be easy to assemble! Whatever the font was it didn't work for the Ikea bunk beds that's for sure!

Have a swashboggling day!
Margaret Gandon

PCC NEWS

Following an application St Barnabas Church has been paired with Andy Campbell, a Mission Accompanier.

What is a Mission Accompanier? I quote from the Diocesan website:

Seeking to grow as Kingdom People, all parishes are being offered the opportunity to receive some support in the form of a Mission Accompanier, who will work alongside a small group of clergy and laity in the parish church to help understand and work towards what health and sustainability might look like in your context, setting or tradition. Together the parish and Mission Accompanier will develop appropriate priorities with a 'health and sustainability plan'. Mission Accompaniers are being offered completely free of charge to parishes.

Andy will be visiting the parish early February and we are looking forward to meeting and working alongside him as he listens and understands where our parish is at the moment and where it would like to get to. He will be able to help with accessing appropriate resources.

An exciting time as we move forward!

Judy (PCC Secretary)



WORCESTER CONCERT BRASS BAND 17th DECEMBER

In the early evening of Sunday 17th December, St Barnabas echoed to the sounds of Worcester Concert Brass Band under their musical director Chris License. This was a very special occasion - the first time the band had played at St Barnabas and the first Christmas Concert they had been able to perform anywhere since 2019, due to lockdown restrictions. The band were also marking their 40th Anniversary Year, so we felt honoured.

The programme included some well-known numbers showcasing the talents of some of the instrumentalists, ranging from The Carpenters' *"We've only just begun..."* to numbers from *The Greatest Showman*. There was seasonal music, too. *"We wish you a merry Christmas"* and Slade's *"Merry Christmas Everybody"* and the audience joined in with some well-known carols (Chris was impressed with our singing!). John Wickson chose two poems to entertain us; Proctor's *"Going down t'band"*, which particularly amused the players and Beddington's *"A Christmas Carol"*, a hilarious ode in Forest of Dean dialect.

The interval brought welcome refreshments, including mulled

wine – good on a cold winter's night – and the possibility of a raffle or lucky programme prize. There were several beautiful food and drink hampers, which Mary put together using some very tasty donations. The band gave their services free and as a result we raised over £300 for Worcester Foodbank.

The weather, unsurprisingly for the time of year, was forecast to be very cold and that may have resulted in reduced numbers, but we definitely made up for it in enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. We hope the band will come back again, so watch this space.

Julie Berrow

(see more photos on centre pages)



John at the lectern

FEBRUARY: THE MONTH OF LOVE

February is often known for being a month dedicated to and all about love. Yes, it is about valentines but we can consider it also as a month for loving oneself and self-care, a time for fostering relationships with family and friends and, as followers of Christ, for loving others. Just simple acts can mean so much and go a long way, and not just on February 14th!



‘God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3 v16).

Jesus becoming flesh and dwelling among us, His life and ultimate death on the cross is the greatest show of ‘love in action’ ever.

Judy

Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth describes love: ‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud’ – a familiar passage.

Throughout His ministry on earth Jesus showed love for others especially those who were poor, those who were sick and those in distress. He commanded His disciples to love one another, just as He had loved them. Love is action and not just words. Jesus showed His love by healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the hungry, casting out demons and preaching the good news of God’s love. Jesus commanded that even those who were considered enemies should be shown love, perhaps the hardest ‘love in action’ of all. An interesting verse upon which to reflect: Matthew 5 v46 ‘If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?’

TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE NAVE

The table had to be moved when the sound desk was installed, to its present rather cramped position by the font.

No-one in current memory knows how long it has been in church, or where it came from. In style, period and colour it doesn’t match any of the other furniture in church, and it tends to be a breeding ground for clutter.

The PCC has therefore resolved to offer the table for sale through a reputable auctioneer, and has applied to the diocese for the necessary permission.

If anyone has any further information regarding the table, or any comment on its disposal, please contact John Dentith on jandsdentith@btinternet.com

WORCESTER REPAIR CAFE



You will hopefully have heard by now about the Repair Cafe in Worcester. Not only is a Repair Cafe a practical response to issues around landfill, but also a learning experience, and a social event with tea and cake!

Our first event this year was a great success. We had 30+ repairs done and lots of great feedback from the visitors and our volunteers. We will now host monthly sessions every second Saturday of the month from 11am – 2pm (Repairs to be booked in before 1.30 pm) at our venue **Unity House on Stanley Road**. We still need more volunteers, funds for equipment and consumables such as glue and nails, and of course people to spread the word and bring us their broken items!

We need the following:

Repairers – anyone who is handy with a soldering iron, a tube of glue or a sewing machine will be fundamental to making the Repair Cafe function. So if you are skilled in repairing items; small electrical appliances, furniture or textiles... or want to

learn, and you would be willing to spend a few hours each month using those skills to help others, then please get in touch.

Greeters and administrators – we need people to help the event run smoothly by greeting visitors, explaining how it works, and pointing them to the right repairers for their item. We would also like to record what items are brought along and how they are repaired.

Catering – help keep the repairers and visitors happy by serving tea and cake! We aim to create a relaxed atmosphere which is as much a social event as a workshop.

To help with any of these, contact Rod at repaircafeworcester@gmail.com

If you have any items in need of repair do give it a try and go along. I went recently and there was a real buzz about the place—about 20 repairers and lots of customers enjoying cake and a cuppa while they waited their turn! I'm now looking for something to take along next month. Jackie



TO OUR ADVERTISERS

who continue to support us

If you would like to advertise in the Church magazine the cost is £2.50 per month for this size.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALL

To make your booking for parties, meetings, clubs, Baptism receptions



Call Rachel Chalmers (458101) or Julia Adams (610830)

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Coffee & Chat
between 10.45-11.45



all welcome!



Ladies of Worcester

We warmly invite you to come along to our next meeting.

Why?

Fun, Friends, learn, chat, tea & cake...

when do we meet?

The first Friday of each month 1-3pm

where do we meet?

Rainbow Community Hub,
12 Astwood Road Worcester WR3 8NL

For further information contact: t: 01905 330600

Kirsty e:rainbowpreswfedwi.org.uk

Rachel e:rainbowsecwfedwi.org.uk



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