

THE Magazine

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



MAY 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
	(<i>Elect</i>) Mary James	01905 455214
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO):		
	Rachel Chalmers	07787 128345

WEBSITE: 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

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

Registered Charity number 1158894

Aware.. and involved

Last week the BBC ran several news items on the Indian general election. It's quite something with nearly a billion people eligible to cast their ballots in a seven-phase election to the 543-seat lower house of parliament. (Here in the UK there were just 47 million registered voters at the last election.) And it kicked off last Friday when more than 160 million voters in 21 states were eligible to vote for more than 1,600 candidates in 102 seats. Between now and 1 June, there are six more phases to go (each one lasts 2-3 days), with the final results due to be announced on 4 June. In terms of population, India is the world's largest democracy.

But all last week I was also aware of some of the massive challenges faced by so many in that vast country. Not just courtesy of the usual news channels. Yes of course, poverty remains a major issue. While many benefit from the country's economic power, so many still live far nearer the bread line as subsistence farmers. But (and it's a big "but") the percentage of those who live in "extreme poverty" has been significantly reduced in recent years. One source reports that "rural poverty declined to 7.2 per cent in 2022-

23 from 25.7 per cent in 2011-12. Meanwhile, urban poverty declined to 4.6 per cent from 13.7 per cent during the same period." This is progress that in many countries people can only dream about.

Vijayalakshmi works in her community as a healthcare worker, in the village of Uppaladinni, Karnataka State. She is 29. Her work involves going door to door to raise awareness about basic healthcare, but some villagers objected that a Christian woman was allowed to enter their homes. They threatened her family and tried to get her fired.

Vijayalakshmi was falsely accused of forced conversion, and the allegations went viral. The police called a meeting on 10 January to try to resolve the situation. But when Vijayalakshmi was given the mic to share her grievance, a large crowd attacked her and her husband, Ashok. Lift up Vijayalakshmi and Ashok in prayer, as well as other families from the same church who have been threatened and harassed.

But what really drew my attention to all this was the CSW Prayer Diary. **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** was last



Video footage shows Mr & Mrs Chavhan surrounded by villagers.

week inviting supporters to pray for India. A coincidence or a “God incident”?

CSW tells us more about this incident ..

Three other Christian families from Uppaladinni who attend the same church as Mr and Mrs Chavhan have also been harassed. The chief in their community directed local utility services to cut off the electricity and water supply for these families. The families were then publicly warned that they would be killed if they continued to follow Jesus. They were without basic services for at least four days. After police spoke with the community chief and several others who had been harassing the Christians, the assailants wrote a letter stating that they would stop, but CSW sources

report that the harassment of Mrs Chavhan and her family began the next day. Although the police have now assured Mrs Chavhan that she will not be fired from her job, she continues to receive death threats.

CSW’s Founder President Mervyn Thomas said: ***‘CSW is concerned for the Christians in Uppaladinni who have been singled out, harassed and attacked on account of their beliefs. We urge the police to thoroughly carry out their investigation against the perpetrators who assaulted Mr and Mrs Chavhan and ensure that all of the attackers are brought to justice. This is part of a growing trend of social hostility towards religious minorities across India which the authorities must address as a matter of utmost urgency.’***

And then I read in Friday's CHURCH TIMES a piece about a new role in government to protect religious freedom around the world. Another "God incident?"

In the House of Lords on Tuesday afternoon, Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Winchester, asked Lord Cameron whether he would support a Bill which he hoped to bring forward to the Lords in the next few weeks, once it had concluded its Commons stages. Lord Cameron replied: "I very much agree with the Bill. In fact, I insisted that it went forward with government support. "That reflects the importance that we in this Government attach to celebrating freedom of religious belief." Bishop Mounstephen also asked Lord Cameron what assessment he had made of the current state of freedom of religion or belief in India, given "disturbing reports of violations of freedom of religion or belief in India .. over the past year".

In our church year, the month of May moves us on from Easter

into the season of Pentecost when we celebrate again the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' followers. **Please join us at St Barnabas' when Sarah leads our celebration on 19th May.**

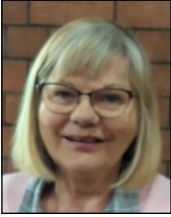
The Holy Spirit is God's empowering gift to all his people, not just to make us feel more Christlike on the inside, but to prod and prompt us to be aware of where he/she (which gender is the Holy Spirit I wonder?) is already busy blowing away and ahead of us in God's world. And this includes making us aware, and helping us to look OUTWARDS to see what's going on in settings that may feel far beyond our reach and direct involvement. So thank you for all the Spirit is prompting you to be up to extending God's kingdom wherever you are. But we can all be involved further away, through prayer. So here's a prayer from CSW, for peace and justice in India.

*Revd Andy Gandon
22 April 2024*

***Father God,
you are the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and
the Prince of Peace.***

***We ask that you establish peace across India – especially
during this year's election season, when there is a heightened
risk of communal violence and discrimination against
minorities.***

***Where there is threat, violence and division, we ask for
compassion, healing and harmony across the nation. Amen.***



NEW CHURCH WARDEN

At the recent APCM Mary James was elected the new Church-warden to

replace Rachel Chalmers. Mary had previously served as Churchwarden for five years, had a year's break then did another four years before taking a break last year.

But special thanks to Rachel who completed five years in post, followed by a two year break, then another term of five years—what a commitment!


Many thanks to both of you for your hard work and commitment to St Barnabas.

GARDEN TIDY UP MORNING

On Saturday 11th May 9.30-11.30 we are planning a Church garden tidy-up. Please come and help if you are able—coffee provided!

Please bring your own gardening tools.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

 Christian aid week is 12th to 18th May. We will not be having envelopes in church this year but donations can be made online at CAWweek.org. See poster on page 11 for details of this year's campaign.

REFLECTION FROM OUR NEW ECO REP, SUE MARTYR



A photograph taken on Earth Day. Does it remind you of any bible stories?

BISHOP PEROWNE ALTAR COVERS



Today the Bishop Perowne Chaplaincy team handed over 4 altar covers which have been made by St Nicholas Crafters.

The project came about when the school asked us if we could come up with a solution to cover their marked altar top for the school altar used in their Acts of Collective Worship (ACW).

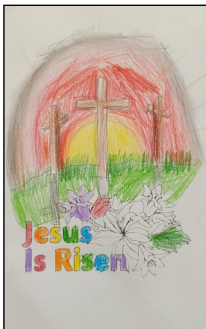
Rev'd Rosie discussed it with the Crafters. We found some no longer used damask tablecloths which had belonged to Rosie's parents, and devised a way to make them into 4 covers. Each is edged in the 4 liturgical colours



used throughout the year, and because the top of the altar can be seen from the raised seating in the hall, an appliqued design was applied to each cover. Then a storage bag in the liturgical colours was made for each one.

The covers presented by Rev'd Sarah and Rev'd Rosie, and were received by Headteacher Jane Price and Assistant Principal James Manship who are delighted with them, and extremely grateful for the time and skills of the Crafters. They will now be used for all their ACW throughout the year.

Revd Rosie Moss (24.04.24)



EASTER DAY EVENT

at the Tolly Centre, organised by 'The Friends of Tolladine'





Above & left: The Passion Play in Cathedral Square was a very emotional event. Andy was particularly menacing as one of the Jewish priests. (photos from Facebook)

Below: A very proud John Dentith showing off his Maundy Money





Easter Day: Lighting the Easter Candle proved something of a challenge in the wind!

CATHEDRAL PEREGRINES UPDATE

The fourth and final Peregrine falcon egg has hatched at Worcester Cathedral. It has been an exciting week for bird watchers in Worcester as all four falcon eggs have now hatched and the chicks appear to be healthy.



series of drop-in sessions with a team of experts, cameras and scopes to allow people to see the birds up close later in the season.

Peregrines have been in and around Worcester for hundreds of years and are depicted in the Cathedral's great West Window and parts of the stonework.

The first chick was spotted on Monday, April 22 with two more appearing the following day. The latest arrival was spotted this morning (April 25).

To watch the chicks, visit: www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/news/peregrine-falcons

The adult birds, named Peter and Peggy by Cathedral followers, have been visiting the nest box for a few months now and engrossed viewers on the live stream have spent this week watching them taking turns to incubate the eggs. 'Peregrine tourists' have travelled from Norwich, Scarborough, Cromer and Salisbury visiting the city to catch a glimpse of the Falcons.

This year's action is also being live-streamed on a screen inside the Cathedral where bosses will host a



The chicks should attempt to fly towards the end of May, start of June, the cathedral said. Biodiversity advisor Chris Dobbs said Peggy ate some of the shell and people might not see much of the chicks in the first few days.

"They normally look a bit wet, when they first come out of course, because they've been feeding on the yolk inside the egg," he said.

"So, the warmth of the parents above dries them out fairly quickly and they start cheeping for food pretty soon."

Peggy and Peter should start to "alternately bring food in now", he added.

(with thanks to Worcester Cathedral website and Worcester News)

NON GARDENING



The garden has been a bit neglected of late what with all the rain and more rain. But it's been busy doing its own thing, that's for sure, and has got our attention with a re-wilded colour palette of its own.

Dandelions! Everywhere. Oh, please don't get out the trowel. They're surely flowers too, not deserving of being constantly yanked out and tossed in the compost bin. Why shouldn't they stay? Their sunshine colour can compete with any number of yellow tulips.

It's not only sunny hues. There is also a beautiful sky blue. The soft clouds of 'not to be forgotten' forget-me-nots. Agreed, just like the sunshine flowers they spread themselves in abundance but why not let them? At least for now.



Well what do you know. More colour. The composting area

has proudly decked itself in the blue and white of bluebells and white bells, self sown, and tall. The bells are ringing all around the place.

Nearer the house yellow and blue make green, the colour of chives, somehow emerging from the cracks in the concrete and just crying out to be brought indoors for lunch.

Let's weed out the thought that we need to give the garden a manicure. There's a time and a place for everything wild.

Look for self sown beauty in unexpected places.

And in unexpected people.

And be glad.
Margaret Gandon



Worcester Deanery Celebration for

Ascension Day

Service of Holy Communion

Thursday 9th May

7pm



St John Baptist Church,

Claines

Claines Lane

WR3 7RN

Car Parking is available along the
lanes near the church

Guest Preacher: Rev'd Canon Dr Georgina Byrne

*A deanery gathering to share in worship,
fellowship and refreshments.*



Aline is pushing back **against the inhumanity of poverty**

12th-18th May

Over seven days, you made a difference in so many ways. The donations, time, and prayers you gave this Christian Aid Week will help more people like Aline push back against the scandal of poverty and secure a future for themselves and their families.

Thank you.

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059134 and ROI charity no. 20204162 Company no. 426928 The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Printed exclusively on material sourced from responsibly managed forests. © Christian Aid January 2024 Photo: Ndacayisaba Epitace J373529 Your donations will help families facing poverty and injustice around the world.

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WORCESTER DIOCESE: CALLED TO ACTION: ROGATION & NO MOW MAY



The latest edition in our Called to Action series looks at Rogation and how No Mow May might help us to make a difference to our environment.

May is a time of sowing and growing.

Rogation is when we ask for God's blessing on our fields planted with crops. Rogation services are particularly moving when held on farms or outside.

Why not let some grassed areas at home or in the church yard grow out in May and see what appears?

Changing your mowing routine, allowing plants to flower in your lawn can create enough nectar for ten times more

bees and other pollinators, and encourage insects and invertebrates.

- Find a Rogation service taking place near you or follow the Diocesan service provided by **CARL** (Chaplaincy for Agriculture & Rural Life)
- Walk the bounds of your parish noting the wilded habitats, and cultivated land.
- Participate in *No Mow May* and count the species of flowers which emerge.
- Plan an area in churchyard or garden where you will let the grass grow longer.





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who continue to support us

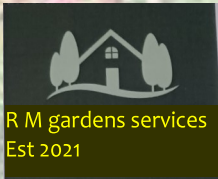
If you would like to advertise in the Church magazine the cost is £2.50 per month for this size.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALL

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



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WHERE DO WE MEET?
The Rainbow Hill Community Hub
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

Wellbeing Mindfulness Friendship Support
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