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# M THE MAGAZINE

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

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MARCH 2023

## ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

### PARISH STAFF:

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**WEBSITE:** [www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk](http://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](http://www.stbarnabasworcester.org.uk)

**MAGAZINE DEADLINE:** Penultimate Sunday of each month.  
Please e-mail contributions to [jackiecampbell@talktalk.net](mailto:jackiecampbell@talktalk.net)

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## LENTEN JOURNEY

*Who cares if the sun cares to fall in the sea?  
Who cares what banks failed in Yonkers?  
As long as you've got a kiss that conquers  
Why should I care?  
Life is one long jubilee  
As long as I care for you, and you care for me*

Does anyone recognise this song? It's George and Ira Gershwin. Great phrase isn't it? One long Jubilee. Jubilee is of course an Old Testament word from the Hebrew word "yobel" meaning "a ram's horn, trumpet". Blow the trumpet – Jubilee comes!

Jubilee might seem a strange theme to write on at this stage in the church's year. Surely these are the days of Lent? Ash Wednesday has been and gone, and the six weeks of the wilderness are upon us once again. The orthodox traditions call Lent the Bright Sadness, for these are the days of waiting. Resurrection is on its way, and Resurrection will heal what is broken in our hearts and bind up what is wounded. *Forty days and forty nights*, as the old hymn goes. The maths is not quite so simple. Lent is 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve. That's 46 days, but then you subtract the Sundays. Tadah 40 days! But liturgically, Lent merges into Passiontide, from the Sunday before Palm Sunday,

and then fades away on Maundy Thursday. It's all a bit churchy. Think of it this way, seven weeks, with all of Lent lying in between the last Sunday before Lent and Easter Day, and then we will rise to greet the risen Christ on that great day of Jubilee.

Lent is the annual reenactment of Jesus' journey into the wilderness. Lent is the annual insistence that Jesus not only redeemed us, but he spent over 33 years on earth preparing to die well. Lent is the annual liturgical reminder that conversion to Christ is never finished on this side of the Kingdom of God. Lent is the annual invitation to share in Jesus' death so that we might share in his resurrection. Lent is the annual call to purify our souls for the great high priest of the great feast of Easter. Lent is the annual opportunity we are all offered to rekindle the flame of faith, and move forward in hope toward God whose mercy awaits to embrace us with His forgiving and transforming Love.

Let me ask an important question, friends. When you wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will you be different? What are you preparing for? It's time to blow our own trumpet, sound the ram's horn. You have a Jubilee to get ready for! Lent is not a second chance at New Year's resolutions gone soft. Have an adventure and end it with Jubilee. And maybe, tackling little adventures every day, along the way, might mean that this Lent earths itself into your story, roots itself into your heart and mind. Try things for your heart, your mind, your soul and your body. Try things for your neighbour too. These are the five ways that our love for God is expressed and refined.

The year I committed to reading Lew Wallace's *Ben Hur*, which has the subtitle, "a tale of the Christ" was blooming hard work! Maybe trying something simple everyday is a more realistic challenge for what remains of Lent than one great big headlong project. How would it be to choose one uncomplicated thing to commit to once a day? Some ideas:

Catch up with the  
Forty Day  
Generosity  
challenge:  
40acts.org.uk

Declutter one item from your home each day

Plant something and nurture it into the Spring

Say the Lord's Prayer as soon as your feet touch the ground in the morning

Sit prayerfully with the same picture each day

Use devotional resources; use this link for some ideas --- [tinyurl.com/2zznv9h](http://tinyurl.com/2zznv9h)

Write down one thing you are grateful for on the calendar for that day

Choose wisely and gently, for in doing so you are declaring a jubilee for yourself. Whatever you do, take responsibility for your own progress towards the Easter Jubilee that lies ahead.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*

Len 

Every blessing to  
you all  
Sarah

## 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. See *poster on page 12*.



## SOMETHING ELSE SUNDAY

*Sunday 5th March 10.30am at Christ Church,*

How can this be?  
A Something Else Sunday  
“special” centred around  
Nicodemus

with a Coffee, Tea & Toast  
breakfast at 10am  
*All welcome!*

## GOOD FRIDAY



Following the huge success of last year's Passion Play in Cathedral Plaza, rehearsals are underway for a repeat performance this year.

There will be no service on Good Friday at St Barnabas but we will be serving hot cross buns and tea/coffee from 8.45am, then making our way to town for the 10.30am start.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Church Annual Meeting takes place in church on Sunday 16th April. *All welcome to stay on for the meeting following the service!*



**Behind  
the Smile**  
Continuing Zac's Story;

## BEHIND THE SMILE

This charity runs peer support groups for anyone experiencing mental health every Wednesday 2pm till 4pm at St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street Worcester. For more info:

Find us on; [https://  
behindthesmile.care/](https://behindthesmile.care/)

Facebook @behindthesmile.care  
Twitter @BehindTheSmil17  
Instagram @behindthesmile4

## LENT COURSES

This year there are two (interchangeable) Lent courses using material based on the 2021 film *West Side Story*:

### ON ZOOM

Sessions will include clips from the film, scripture, a poem and some discussion. Over the five weeks we will be reflecting on the themes of fear, love, betrayal, death and reconciliation.

Sessions run on Tuesday evenings on zoom from *28th February* for 5 weeks to be led by Revd Rosie Moss and Julie Berrow, joining with others from the cluster. Contact Julie for a zoom link.

### BILFORD ROAD HOME GROUP

This group will follow the same course *A Place for Us* - based on *West Side Story*. Our dates are: *Monday 27th February, Wednesday 8th, 15th & 22nd*

*March* then *Monday 27th March* starting 7pm till 8.30pm.

Each session has a different theme, starts with a "prologue", and is centred round a particular scriptural passage, with time for study, reflection and discussion. There is also a psalm, and a poem - different each week - which would work as a closing time of worship and stillness.

This course is of course open to everyone! It would work well for those who for any reason aren't into Zoom meetings, also for anyone who signs up for the zoom group but can't be there for one or more of the Tuesdays when the zoom group meets. In which case you would be welcome just to join us for the one session!

*Please speak to Margaret or Andy (01905 942052 or 07516 045633) if you might come, or just want to know more.*

# Lent





## **WORCESTER PASSION PLAY**

*Good Friday 7th April  
Cathedral Plaza 10.30*

Following the success of last year's performance on a beautiful spring day telling the story of the ultimate sacrifice, the Worcester Passion Play returns this year.

The Passion Play is a dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Jesus Christ: his trial, suffering and death, and resurrection.

These plays are performed in many cities around the UK and around the world and bring the true meaning of Easter to our streets.

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'* John 3:16

There will be no Good Friday service at St Barnabas this year.

Instead, we will meet in church at 8.45am for hot cross buns and then make our way together to town to watch the Passion Play.

*All welcome to join us in church or to watch the performance in town.*

## **CATHEDRAL RECORDS**

More than 13,000 people attended services in the week till Christmas Day with 2,743 people attending Christmas Eve services.

A total of 44 Choral Carols were sung and 56 Carols, with a staggering 235 verses echoing around the building.

The Christmas Appeal reached over 7,000 people and has so far raised an incredible £24,751.

The Vice-Dean, Canon Stephen Edwards, said: *We were absolutely delighted to welcome so many visitors to the Cathedral throughout the Advent and Christmas period. It was a pleasure to celebrate Christmas with no restrictions in place, for the first time since 2019.*

*"It just goes to show how much people value the Cathedral being here for them in times of crisis, celebration or commemoration and we are overjoyed to have welcomed so many people through our doors to enjoy the festivities."*



*Above:* Bill addresses the haggis at the Burns' Night Supper last month

*Left:* Philip Adams preparing to cut out the dead growth in the shrubs in the church garden

*Opposite page:* Enjoying fellowship and refreshments following the Ash Wednesday Eucharist Service recently

✦ FORTY DAYS PRAYER ✦  
✦ MERCY REPENTANCE ✦  
✦ PENANCE FASTING ✦  
✦ CHARITY REFLECTION ✦

LENT



## EARNING YOUR BREAD & BUTTER



Last evening we were at an Author event with Jim Crace, former journalist. He read from his new book and spoke about his writing journey. He was comparing writing a novel with producing an article for a newspaper. The latter starts with a desk laden with ideas and sources and quotes and papers. It all has to be whittled down to concise, appropriate, impartial truth. The desk gets emptier. Starting a novel is the exact opposite. There is nothing at the beginning except an empty page. Gradually ideas and plots and characters emerge, revisions and corrections are applied to faltering first attempts and eventually the desk is littered and a novel starts to evolve.

Jim talked about the empty pot feeling, where inspiration has evaporated and no refill feels possible. But then he rejoiced in the fact that story telling is innate for us humans, stories keep coming and charmingly, ideas are

“gifted in”. I like that. I don’t have to do it all! But it isn’t easy. One of his illustrations compared the effort and hard grind of a novel pto pushing a concrete ball uphill. But over time it feels like the weight reduces and the ball metamorphoses into a balloon pulling on its string. The story gets a mind of its own, tugging the writer forward and taking us where it wants to go.

At 77 Jim is still writing books, having decided a novel or two back that there would be no more. Without asking, his pot refilled itself and spilt its contents out onto his waiting blank pages.

I wonder if we sometimes feel like a blank page and in need of a gift? Maybe an article in a paper or a chance meeting could inspire us. Perhaps we might even end up swapping stories and then writing them down.

I stood at the flour counter in Sainsbury’s the other day having

decided to make my own bread to bake in the oven. This 'first' was thanks to the article in my Saturday paper about the joys of a teenager running her own bakery. A so-called simple recipe came with it.

A lady joined me in the baking aisle and I took a punt that she was a bread maker too. She was. I came home, not only with the correct flour and yeast but a wealth of advice and tips from her own experience to aid me on my way. What a gift!

And my first loaf was pretty good too!

*Margaret Gandon*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDEACON**

I am writing this in the departure lounge of Heathrow airport, lucky enough to escape the long cold days of January and fly off to Cyprus for some of February. For quite a few years now, I've facilitated the worship for the Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf – quite a privilege, and, you might well think, not much of a hardship either! I've been most fortunate on so many levels. Cyprus is a beautiful island, and it is great to be able to travel again.

Waiting to board the plane, I realise once again just how much of a jolt to the whole world the

Covid pandemic was, and, in many senses, still is. As we travel and meet and live again, it's worth remembering just how total the lockdown was. Perhaps it is not surprising that we are experiencing such political turmoil in its aftermath. And perhaps it's not surprising there seems to be so much grumpiness around.

We are learning to be with each other again, though undoubtedly we'd learned the true value of neighbourliness when we couldn't get out. Maybe we also need to re-learn how to do business with each other – how to discuss, how to disagree well, how to live for others. We even see this in the Church, where, for example recently, our consideration of and moves towards affirming same sex relationships have given rise to feelings and reactions I don't really understand. How can this feature so large when the world faces far greater problems and issues?

But I'm here in this airport lounge, so maybe it's easier to see things a bit differently. Stepping back from the fray while others get on with it is my luxury at this moment. So I mustn't judge, but rather learn a little humility as we all try to 'come back well' from the experience of these past few years. But hey, it's time to go: they're calling my flight!

*Robert Jones, Archdeacon of Worcester*

## BISHOP JOHN'S LENT APPEAL 2023



*St Barnabas supports Bishop John's annual Lent Appeal: this year it will be for the Anglican Diocese of Peru.*

As a country, Peru has had a very turbulent few years. It had one of the world's highest Covid mortality rates and has experienced considerable political unrest. Strict lockdowns and the financial implications have had a major impact on the Anglican Church. Paying stipends has been difficult, leading to many clergy having to have additional jobs. These pressures have naturally limited what can be done in terms of ministry and mission in poor areas experiencing multiple problems. Our support helps them in these difficult times.

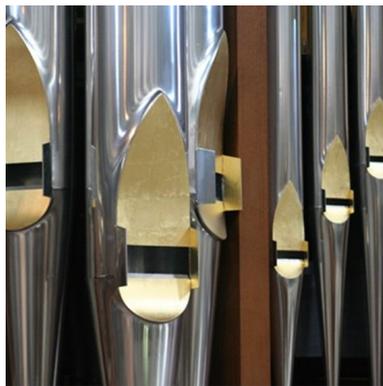
Peru has had a particularly difficult time recently with violent protests. These started in December when the former

president was impeached, and they are ongoing throughout the country. Over 50 people have now died as a result of the protests and the government's response to them.

In Juliaca where there have been the highest numbers of casualties, the Revd Luis Vizacarra has been seeking to support those affected by helping provide for soup kitchens for those who are staying near hospitals to support those injured in the protests. He is also trying to help with medical expenses for those who are in hospital and recovering for their injuries.

Bishop John says: "Please do give generously to this year's Lent appeal. Things are difficult for many in our own country, but they are much worse in our partner diocese of Peru. 'Our support can help them greatly in difficult times.'"

## CATHEDRAL CONCERTS



**SATURDAY 18 MARCH,  
7.30PM**

*Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius*  
by Worcester Festival Choral  
Society

Sir Edward Elgar's much-loved choral work, *The Dream of Gerontius*, is returning to Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 18 March at 7.30pm – sung by a 140-strong local choir that was close to the Worcestershire composer's heart.

**THURSDAYS 12.15PM**

*Spring & Summer Lunchtime  
Recital Series 2023*

With the return of the Cathedral's Quire Organ, we are delighted that our popular lunchtime recital series will recommence. The recitals take place on most Thursday lunchtimes, starting at 12.15pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection. The dates and performers are as follows:

*16th March* Musicians from Royal Grammar School, Worcester

*23rd March* Peter Dyke (organ)

*27 April:* William Saunders (organ)

*4 May:* Ed Jones (organ)

*11 May:* Steven Wooddell (organ)

*25 May:* Gus Cox (organ)

*8 June:* Andrew Furniss (organ)

*15 June:* Choral Scholars of Worcester Cathedral

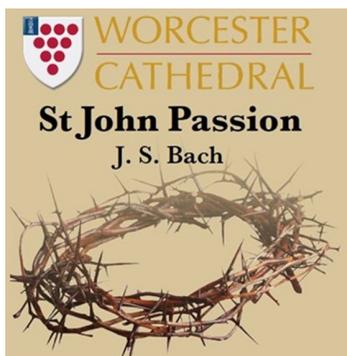
*22 June:* Brittany King (soprano)

*29 June:* Charles Francis (organ)

**FRIDAY 31 MARCH, 7.30PM**

*J S Bach's St John Passion*

Join Worcester Cathedral Choir, the Musical and Amicable Society, and an array of guest soloists for one of the most powerful musical compositions of all time – *The St John Passion* by J. S. Bach. The work will be sung in German, with copies of an English translation available on the night.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT



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about your faith

Friday 3rd March  
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Coffee & Chat  
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*all welcome!*



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For further information contact: t: 01905 330600

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