

M THE MAGAZINE

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ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



SEPTEMBER 2023

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Priest in Charge:	Revd Sarah Northall	074838 07432
Associate Priest:	Revd Rosie	07761 691984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Julie Berrow, Reader	07733 226061
Churchwardens (St Barnabas & Christ Church):		
	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:

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

BLACKBERRIES & PSALMISTS



The humble blackberry harvest;
a continuing story

The Psalm writers wrote with an honesty about the world, not a cover up, and not a received wisdom from a book but from experience of the world around them. It is the same world now as when the Psalm writers wrote, same creator, same human feelings of loss, desolation, joy and hope. While out picking blackberries at this time of year I get a feeling of connecting with my ancestors, maybe even the Psalmists may have harvested wild fruits.

My mindful collecting of blackberries lead me into an awe of creation and the creator: how the brambles reach out, using any opportunity to grow; how berries on the same cluster can be green, red and black; how I can pick handfuls, but still leave plenty for the other humans and

birds/animals; how to shape my hand so I don't get hurt by a briar how I must collect before the season is over; And how I have had no part to play in the beauty and growth of these juicy sweet fruits.

I am urged to question how these observations, and other interactions with nature, can inform how to live life with God at the centre.

Blackberries seem to arrive at an in-between time of summer and autumn, an in-between fruit. At the end of the month the church's calendar concludes with St Michaels and All Angels, where heavenly beings meet with earth, maybe blackberries are also at the meeting point of heaven and earth; with a message for us all reminding us that the Kingdom of God is here.

Sue Martyr

Authorised Lay Minister

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS!

We are organising an Arts & Craft Exhibition in St Barnabas Church over the weekend of Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September.

If you have any items you would like to put on display, please speak to Mary James on 07914 875861 for more information.



SIGHT CONCERN

Can you spare some time to help blind and partially sighted people in Worcestershire live the life they

choose?

They are the only charity in the county solely dedicated to improving the lives of local people with sight loss.

They can't do this without the support of volunteers

THEY NEED YOU!

If you'd like to make a real difference to someone's life please contact Sight Concern on 01905 723245 or email the Volunteer Coordinator at n.poole@sightconcern.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

Can you help man the church for a couple of hours for the Art & Craft Exhibition over the weekend of Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September? If you can, speak to Mary James (07914 875861). *Thank you!*

WEDDED BLISS x 4!

Saturday 26th August will be a busy day in St Barnabas. At noon Revd Rosie marries a couple, then at 1.30pm Revd Sarah will help a couple renew their wedding vows, followed by a double renewal service at 3.30pm!

Congratulations to them all!

SOME OCTOBER DATES FOR YOU:

Sunday 1st October: 12pm Bring & Share Harvest Lunch in Hall

Saturday 21st October: 7pm Beetle Drive in Hall

GUIDING AWARD

Congratulations to Pam Instan who recently received a Good Service Broach after 35 years of Guiding. This is the third award she has been awarded—she has already received the Midlands Chief Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Service to Girl Guiding and the County Broach for Outstanding Service.

Congratulations Pam!

ROBIN'S GARDEN

In June I was privileged to be invited to the official opening of Robin's Garden at the St Paul's Hostel in Worcester, in memory of our dear friend Robin Sykes who died in 2019. The gardens were re-named to honour Robin's enormous commitment and service to St Paul's over many years since its inception.

The history in their website tells me that St Paul's Hostel, a Worcester Council of Churches initiative, first opened in March 1977 as a response to the high numbers of people in Worcester sleeping rough in derelict buildings, car parks, bus shelters or open spaces. The hostel first opened in the derelict vicarage of St Paul's church where Revd Studdert Kennedy (Woodbine Willy) used to be the parish priest, hence the Hostel's name.

In May 1977 the old hostel was moved onto the Hillborough hospital site, into a building which belonged to Worcester City Council. In 1986 the old hostel was demolished and the site cleared to make way for a new, purpose built building. The new hostel was completed in July 1988.

Quite simply, Robin was hugely involved throughout, from being one of the founding trustees, then later as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Space doesn't allow me to begin to list what he achieved, so I'll just quote from the brass plaque which was proudly unveiled in the garden. It simply says 'Without Robin's determination this hostel may never have been built'.

This honour also followed on from the re-naming of the main hall in The Tolly Centre (which also houses the Christ Church chapel) as the Robin Sykes Hall, in honour of his work with (among others) Worcester Community Trust, In fact, Robin spent his whole life volunteering, working alongside organisations like Amnesty, Worcester Community Trust, Worcester County Council and Worcester Palestine Friendship Group, while founding St Paul's Hostel and being on the board for what was the Worcester Royal Infirmary.



God Bless you, Robin, it was a privilege to know you and to share our church life with you and Sue.

John Dentith

FELLOWSHIP OF CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

I am a member of the fellowship of Contemplative prayer. The Fellowship publishes each month, a saying from scripture to use in contemplative prayer whenever in the day you have time to still the mind and listen to God for a few moments. Accompanying the saying is a commentary by a member of the Fellowship. As the nights begin to draw in, I thought some might find this helpful. Sue Sykes



way we live? As God in the Old Testament chose Israel out of all nations, Jesus chose believers to live a life that is holy. Jesus echoes God's words when he says to us in Matthew's Gospel 'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect' (Matthew 5:48).

Being holy or becoming holy, is for most of us, a continuous and lifelong journey of inner transformation, as we grow in love and service. As we follow the Fellowship's method of prayer, receiving God's Word into our mind, heart and will, we experience Jesus not just walking with us or before us, but actually living within us. Jesus asks us to 'Abide in Me, as I also abide in you' (John 15:4). Paul goes a little further when he says 'You yourselves are the temple of God and God's Spirit lives in you' (1 Corinthians 3:16).

All creation is impregnated with the holiness of God, including all humanity which He created in His own image. But we look with sorrow at the suffering in the world today caused by disasters, war and oppression, and sometimes feel powerless. Yet we are able to help in a small way through donating essential items, clothes and money, supporting our neighbours and communities and praying for all who suffer in the world, through our vital work of intercessory prayer. As this month's Saying reminds us: 'You shall be holy, as I the Lord your God am holy'.

September 2023

'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy' (Leviticus 19:2) NIV.

God is speaking in September's Saying from Leviticus to the Israelites, through Moses, and calling them to be holy. He says to them: 'Turn not to idols nor molten gods ...' and 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy'. Despite the fact that they have disobeyed Him and have been faithless, God loves them and honours His covenant with Abraham. Both the Old and the New Testaments stress the importance of cultivating personal holiness. In Hebrew, the words translated as 'holy' and 'holiness, have to do with being 'set apart', 'separate' or 'dedicated'. For God though, holiness is not about mere action or a set of behaviours; holiness is His essence.

So how can we dedicate ourselves to being holy and to re-enacting God's holiness in the

SUMMER GARDEN CAMEOS

Deep purples to black as the
currants ripen
and fill a conserve jar with scent
and promise,
before the birds can feast.

Mid green shine of gooseberries,
defensive
with prickly sharp stems,
retrieved and under a crumble
topping.

Soft white petals on a wavering
hollyhock tower.
Grass green of rain-watered lawns.
Storied old house bricks colouring
a curving wall.



Blood red dahlia pompoms
endlessly popping colour.
Reddish buds, opening as the
orange flowers
of runner beans, not before time,
Mottled brown and pink emerging
beetroots.

Soft shades of pink bobbed
raspberries
hiding behind leafy screens.
Graded pink shades of ripening
rhubarb
by the apple green fruiting tree.



Robin red Robinia with scateoured
curves.

Yellow-flowered mahonias' shiny
sharpening leaves
touching delicate cerise and purple
fuchsia earrings.

Warm, dark earthy compost and
pink worm topping.
Green shades and shapes of fig and
yet small apples for pies.
Autumn tinted greens of beech and
mixed hedges.

Grey brown of a mellowed worn
bench
inviting a pause, to sit and enjoy
a scented pink rose bush.

Sweet creamy yellow honeysuckle,
Five-petalled ground cover of cobalt
blue
and potted green herbs and ferns.

A cream stone pedestal
and circular bath
for the birds...

Margaret Gandon



Top: Archdeacon Robert Jones with a Cluster of Clergy at the recent Licensing of Revd Sarah and Revd Rosie.
Middle: Members of the three parishes enjoying fellowship & nibbles after the Licensing
Bottom: Sue Sykes at the opening of Robin's Garden at St Paul's Hostel (see page 3)



Top: Plenty of willing hands to help at the Hall clean/ inventory recently.

Middle: Good weather for the recent Cluster PCC party at St Wulstans.

Bottom: Unfortunately the weather wasn't so kind for St Barnabas Parish Picnic which took place in the hall because of rain!



MISSION FUND NEWS

Two Donations have recently been approved by the PCC and donated in memory of Sheila Bright and Judith Ford.

For many years Sheila served on the PCC and Standing Committee, taking on many extra duties, including Church Warden and Church Secretary. The donation was made to her family's chosen charity, PSP Association. The charity relies solely on voluntary donations and provides support to people suffering with PSP and their families, together with funding research into the causes, treatments and eventually a cure.

Judy, together with the husband Chris, was our Eco Church representative. They both

worked tirelessly with the Eco Church Project on behalf of St Barnabas, resulting in achieving the Eco Church Silver Award for St Barnabas. The donation has been made to the Eco Church Project charity, which has over 6,000 church members, working together to care for creation and help awareness of the growing economical crisis throughout the world. Judy was also a member of the PCC and was our current Church Secretary and a previous treasurer.

We thank you, Sheila and Judy, for your loyal service to St Barnabas Church over many years.

Ann Bryant

On behalf of the Mission Fund



Mindful blackberry
colouring: see page

SHARED GIVING 2023

Talk given on the 16 July by John Dentith

As I started to write this in early July, I checked on the weather forecast for July the 16th, the day of my talk. I was hoping for bright, cheerful sunny weather and blue skies, but the best the

BBC could offer me was 'light rain showers and a gentle breeze'. Well, I suppose that was a fair metaphor for at least some of what I have to say. So let's start with some good news.

This time last year I was worried. The forecast politically was all doom and gloom, Partygate, Westminster musical chairs, and in particular the huge emphasis on the cost-of-living crisis. So included in my encouragement to you to review your giving to church was a heartfelt plea that you should try not to balance your finances by reducing your giving to church. After all, the church was facing the same cost of living crisis.

It has to be said, you rose to that challenge magnificently. Some of us increased our giving (Thank God) and more of us, most of us really, stayed the same, but by the year end nobody had actually reduced. That's very impressive, and speaks volumes about your

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR** 
{proverbs 3:5}

commitment to this church. Same again for this year please!

The message I've tried to communicate over the last twenty-odd years hasn't changed much, if at all. The Christmas message

doesn't change, the Easter and Pentecost messages don't change, so why would this? Regular listeners will have heard me talk about the need for Shared Giving, about the fact that the bible encourages us to tithe our income, that is, give 10%. Some people do exactly that. I've often heard Bishop John say that he's happy to tithe. The Church of England more modestly asks us all to commit to arriving eventually at a giving level of at least 5% of take-home pay, and you'll have heard me stress about the need to give every week or month even when we can't get to church, and about using this annual review to try to move further towards our 5% even if we start from a figure that's nowhere near it. All very familiar stuff.

I was convinced, and basically still am convinced, that if we live by shared giving, fair to everyone giving, and we all try to move towards our 5%, the finances will take care of themselves, And for

most of that twenty year period we've done well enough. The only downside is that quite a few of us don't achieve our 5% and dare I say some folks seem content not to. (Whisper it quietly).

The problem is, if we don't sensibly renew our giving, we become very vulnerable financially. We've been grateful for the income we get from the church hall, and the support we had last year in grant aid particularly, but that doesn't offer our church stability. **You do.**

Yes, the fair shares and the 5% and the other stuff is important, but rather than go into it here, I've got some notes I could send you, if you want to hear more. It's an important message for all of us, no matter how often you've patiently listened to me harping on in the past, and as I said last year, in amongst the worry and the gloom and doom, there is also good news.

Chief among the gloom and doom, especially recently, is the people we've lost, some committed and important people. We love them and we miss them. On the other hand, the good news is the gentle, but noticeable, increase in new people coming to church, or in some cases returning. It's so good to see you, you wouldn't believe. What I need to do

now is encourage **you** good folks, encourage you to commit to giving to this church at a realistic level and regularly.

We can arrange this by direct debit, or you can instruct your bank by Standing Order. (These days, especially since lock-down, giving by cash or envelopes is less common, but still possible). Whichever suits you is fine, and I can help you with the details. And if you're a tax-payer who can Gift Aid, I can help you with that as well. All very simple and straight forward, it just needs you to take that step and say 'Yes, I'm in, I want this church to continue to grow'. Now that would be a fitting tribute to those we've lost!

Four years ago, in an optimistic frame of mind I said this: Most of all, the reason for my optimism is YOU. My firm belief is that you will wish this church to continue to grow and prosper, and maintain its finances on an even keel. In this place so much has happened of a positive nature in recent years that we are poised, as if standing on the edge of the diving board, ready to move forward in confidence to tell people what a great church this is, what a great family to belong to, how perfect we all are. (well, you know what I mean).

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

And we've come

through Covid since then!

So - thank you so much for listening. Thank you for continuing to support this church and our mission here. Thank you for bringing to our church that financial stability we spoke of. Please pray about your own finances but also pray about church finances, please read my notes about sharing the responsibility and maybe, just maybe, check your 5%.

And please God let us all retain or somehow regain a sense of positivity, so that we can support this church as cheerful givers! Crisis? What crisis? Amen



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**Something else Sunday
10.00 am**

**CREATION SUNDAY
3rd September
St Barnabas Church
WELCOME**



ST BARNABAS CHURCH

**EXHIBITION of ARTS & CRAFTS
CELEBRATING LOCAL TALENT**

Also on display will be Sara Hayward RCA's wonderful Stations of the Cross paintings

**Saturday 9th September 10am-4pm
& Sunday 10th September 2pm-4pm**

We would welcome any church neighbours to exhibit their arts and crafts—*more info from:*
07914 875861/mary_e_james@btinternet.com

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
ALL WELCOME!**

PEOPLE OF INTEREST CONNECTED WITH WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Read about some more people with connections to Worcester Cathedral:

William Hamilton, 2nd Duke of Hamilton (1616 - 1651)

The English Civil War general who fought for the Royalist cause and died of his wounds at the Commandery, where he was taken following the Battle of Worcester in 1651. A memorial to Hamilton can be seen on the wall in the North Quire Aisle and his body is buried in front of the High Altar.



Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley (1867 - 1947)

The Worcestershire County Councillor and MP for

Bewdley who became three times Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Baldwin's ashes and those of his wife Lucy, are buried in the Nave of the Cathedral near to the West Door.

Sir Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)

The English composer born at Lower Broadheath just outside

Worcester who lived much of his life in the county and composed pieces for the Three Choirs Festival. A memorial



plaque and the Elgar Memorial Window can be seen in the North Nave Aisle. Designed by Archibald Keightley Nicholson, the window depicts Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius'. The composer's baton and autograph are also on display in the Library.

The Worcester Pilgrim

In 1986, an excavation at the base of the Cathedral's south-east tower pier, revealed the burial of a skeleton now known as the Worcester Pilgrim. The remains of the Pilgrim's boots and staff are now on display in the Crypt. Research suggests he may be Robert Sutton, a dyer and Bailiff of the city who died in 1454.

DISCLAIMER

Please be aware that the PCC of St Barnabas with Christ Church does not vet the advertisements in this magazine.



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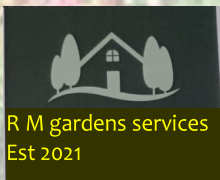
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WHERE DO WE MEET?
The Rainbow Hill Community Hub
12 Astwood Road, Worcester. WR3 8ET

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

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