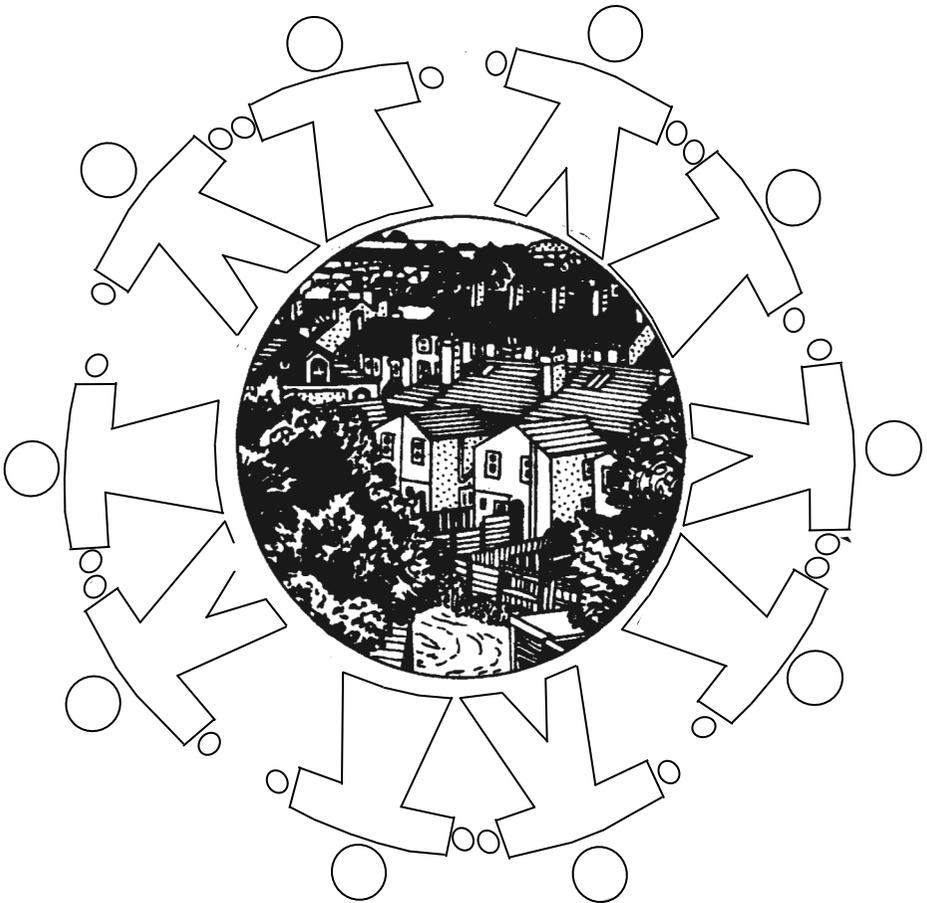

M THE MAGAZINE

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



JUNE 2021

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Vicar: Revd Julieann Watson (23785)
Missioner Sue Martyr (25466)
Churchwardens (St Barnabas & Christ Church):
Mary James (455214)
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
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	8.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer
Wednesday	11am	Private prayer (for 1 hour)
Friday	11am	Private prayer (for 1 hour)

If you would like to receive our written material for a Sunday - please place your request through Revd Julieann:

julieann.watson2019@icloud.com

PARISH OFFICE:

To book a baptism or marriage (or to have banns read), Parish Office is held in church every Wednesday 6.30-7pm (resumes on 16th June)

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

WELCOME TO JUNE

Summer is just around the corner, but we've been having some wild weather haven't we!

Thankfully it's not been as wild as the Autumn of 1987, when fifteen million trees in the south of England were felled by the 'Great Storm', including 700 at Kew Gardens in London. Amongst those in Kew to be damaged was the Turners Oak. This huge tree was lifted clear out of the ground and dropped limply back in it's hole.

The team at Kew propped the huge oak up to make it safe and while they cleared away the rest of the destruction and left it as a lost cause. However, after three years, when they finally got around to attending to the Turners Oak, they discovered it had not only survived but had thrived and has since grown substantially.

After some investigation, they realised that the very process of being lifted and dropped had allowed vital oxygen into the roots and caused new life and health for the tree - a discovery that has now shaped tree care internationally.

This modern parable feels relatable for me.

After two precious years with you in St Barnabas, my family and I are getting ready to move out of Worcester to Leicestershire for the next stage of our ordination training. We feel a little out of control - a bit like we're being lifted up and dropped - but I hope that despite this disturbance we will experience surprising new ways to 'grow' once we land.

We've all experienced a storm this last year and are feeling a lot of uncertainty and loss. In a way, we've all been uprooted from the ways and rhythms we used to enjoy. But now, as we return to something more familiar, I'm hopeful that, while we must still take time to grieve, there may also be surprising new sources of life. The pandemic has not been an experience any of us would have asked for, but now, my prayer is that new growth might begin again.

May you be truly blessed this month.

Steve O'Rourke



To see a short film from the BBC about the Turners Oak, search online for 'The oak tree in Kew Gardens that taught the world a lesson'.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The *diocesan office* will be moving at the end of May. From 1 June the new address will be 16 Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester WR1 2RS

CHURCH OFFICE



For people wanting to book a baptism or a wedding (or have banns read), the Church Office will resume on

Wednesday 16th June in church at the usual time of 6.30-7pm.

HASSOCKS

The PCC has decided to remove the burgundy and blue hassock kneelers from church and dispose of them. We have not been able to use them during the pandemic anyway, but it is recognised that we have far more hassocks than we will ever need or use, and they can be considered to be cluttering up the church building unnecessarily. The embroidered hassocks, which were usually donated 'In Memory Of' a loved one, would be retained and cleaned.

If anyone would like to have one or more of the hassocks as a souvenir, or for recycling of the stuffing, or composting, or whatever, please contact the churchwardens.

THE DIOCESAN NEWS

You'll find the details of all these on the Diocesan website: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/events-training/diocesan-online-training/faith-pictures-taster-day.php>

Those who care about and pray for our schools: we have six schools in our parish and an active chaplaincy:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/praying-for-our-schools.php>

Those who love needlework/ sewing, knitting, weaving etc:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/morogoro-sewing-academy-microfinancing-partnership.php>

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/stunning-textile-artwork-at-hallow-chuch.php>

Those ECO-Minded:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon#na>

WHITSUN PILGRIMAGE

On Bank Holiday Monday, 31st May you are welcome to join members of the ministry teams of our Cluster group on a Pilgrimage around the three parishes. *Full details on page 11*

FROM THE MISSION HOUSE:

The Friday shop will be closing and we have the return of the Breakfasts at Tolly 9-10:30am £3.50 for a Full English. Starting 11th June.

We will still have free fresh food available ie bakery and veg depending on supplies from FairShare and Neighbourly schemes. We also intend to have some groceries in stock for people in need.

So please any donations like breakfast cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, cooking oil, beef stew/curry in a tin, UHT milk, coffee, tea, tinned fruit, washing powder, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, would be appreciated. Phone: 07582243155 Sue Martyr.

Thank you for all those that support us in any way.
Sue Martyr

*A meditation: Purple days:
Look and feel, what do the
images present?*



WHAT IS THE BEST TONIC?

There may be a few answers to this question, but it is no surprise that being outdoors is the best 'pick me up' and medicine available! It costs nothing and is definitely good for you! The benefits have been noted especially over the last fifteen or so months, during the pandemic, although not everyone has been able to get outside, not even into a garden. Being out in the fresh air has been proven to improve mental health and general wellbeing. Cares and worries can be put to one side and a happier mood is experienced. There is a greater sense of peace and calm. It is a time for creative and positive thinking. Nothing physically strenuous required, as even taking a walk is beneficial. Take your time and be mindful of your surroundings – the rustle of leaves, birdsong, the patterns on tree bark. It's time to reconnect with nature. No need to buy vitamin D supplements! Being in sunlight is free and can be fun! Children love the outdoors and nothing is better for them than getting wet or muddy as they search under stones or logs for mini-beasts. What are your favourite outdoor sights and sounds? Maybe it's looking at the lovely cloud shapes, sunrises or sunsets; the sound of water as it splashes over pebbles in a stream or the sound of the waves



as they march up the beach.

Recently, Chris and I have been fortunate enough to be able to get away in our caravan, having all the facilities we need on board. It sounds very grand, but our first week away was a stay on the Royal Estate at Sandringham. We certainly connected with nature here as we were able to take several forest walks and in one day we spotted over a dozen jays – normally you are lucky to see one! We also saw a number of muntjac deer. One memorable evening, just before 10:00, there was a terrific hailstone storm and looking out the ground was covered as if by snow. It looked quite magical in the lights of the site and made me think of scenes of Narnia from the film 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'.

A week in Northumberland followed with, one day, a walk on the beautiful beach at Bamburgh with magnificent views of the castle on the sunniest of our days. It was wonderful to see the sea and to listen to the waves. A day visit to Alnwick Gardens later in the week was another treat – fascinating water structures and fountains and a Poison Garden to walk around! What else did we see during this week? We spotted sandpipers,

Canada geese, swans, goldfinches, rabbits, a hare and a deer. No sign of a red squirrel unfortunately, although they are in the area. Of course the Northumberland landscape was awesome!

We live in a beautiful country and don't always appreciate our more immediate surroundings of Herefordshire and Worcester-shire.

Why not get your daily dose of nature's tonic and reap the benefits!

Judy Ford

HALF TERM FUN AT CATHEDRAL

There's a host of free family fun at the Worcester Cathedral.

From *Saturday 29th May until Sunday 6th June* you can meet King John! You'll need a smart phone & data connection: there will be a QR code to scan located near to the tomb. The villain of every Robin Hood tale, King John is most famous for sealing Magna Carta, which some historians regard as the first step towards England's constitutional monarchy.

There will also be crafts available from *10:30am – 3pm Tuesday – Friday*, where families can have a go at creating their own stained-glass window or brass rubbing.



SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

A deeply spiritual experience awaits visitors to Hallow Church when it hosts a captivating exhibition of textile artwork and flower displays.

Something to Talk About will weave together a beautiful mix of textile designs ranging from 3D felt creations and Celtic-themed artwork to paintings on silk and Elizabethan costumes.

Beautiful flower displays will also adorn the church to help create what promises to be a spiritually uplifting experience for visitors to the free event which will run over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

There will also be artwork from Hallow Primary School as well as a plant stall & refreshments.

The church will be open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, 11am to 5pm on Sunday and 10am to 4pm on Bank Holiday Monday.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Top left: Rhianne used her popcorn making machine to illustrate her sermon!

Other pictures: Max, Jack, Noah and Julieann flew their kites to catch the wind after the service.



TIME FOR SCHOOL

Over the last year, many families around the parish will have experienced the difficulties and frustrations of interruptions to schooling and its possible longer term effects on children's and young adults' lives. But how would we feel if schooling was just not going to happen because you could not even afford to buy the basic items you need?



- toothpaste
- bars of soap
- towels
- pencil cases
- notebooks/exercise books

Items can be left at the back of St Barnabas Church or you can drop them off at my house – 120 Astwood Road. Or please phone Mary James (01905 455214) or me (01905 724334), we are happy to collect.

St Barnabas church is again supporting Mary's Meals Backpack Project which helps to make it possible for children to attend school and in addition by offering school meals, also ensures a daily, healthy meal.

We would like to have the backpacks ready for Sunday 5th September.

Many thanks for your support.
Ann Russell & Mary James

At the end of our last appeal we had a very generous donation of bulk stationary materials which will handsomely kickstart this year's appeal. Set out below are the items we would like to collect to make up 12 backpacks.

- children's school backpacks
- boy's shorts 6-7 year old
- boys t shirts/polo shirts 6-7 year old
- girl's dress; skirt and polo shirt 6-7 year old
- flipflops/sandals
- toothbrushes



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.

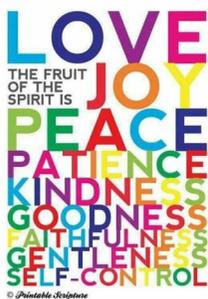
Find us on; <https://behindthesmile.care/>
Facebook @behindthesmile.care
Twitter @BehindTheSmil17
Instagram @behindthesmile4

PLANNED GIVING: WAYS TO PAY

This is an update of a talk and magazine item I delivered a couple of years ago, which I hope you won't mind if I bring to you again. My usual annual talk in church concentrates on renewing our personal weekly and monthly giving, which essentially pays for the day to day running costs of the church, paying our parish share, paying our bills, buying essentials, and so on. This article is more about *how* we pay our giving to church.

Those of you who are already in the Planned Giving Scheme currently make your offering by one of three methods, either envelopes containing cash on the plate or monthly standing order through your bank or by direct debit. And these might be Gift-Aided or they might not, depending on your circumstances.

The cash in the envelopes has to be counted and banked, the church treasurer has to add the plate collections and the standing orders into the accounts, and the Gift-Aid Co-ordinator (that's me) has to enter the giving into our gift-aid computer records and submit a quarterly claim to HMRC to get the gift-aid back. This is not a problem, we have



well-organised processes to deal with all of this which work very efficiently.

I'd like to concentrate a little on the third alternative, giving by direct debit from your bank through a system

called the Parish Giving Scheme or PGS for short. This is a scheme which is operated as a partnership between the various dioceses, administered centrally and cost effectively out of an office in Gloucestershire, funded by the dioceses at no cost to parishes, but still delivered at parish level.

This alternative to envelopes or standing orders collects your giving by direct debit, similar to how many of you will be paying your gas, electricity and telephone bills. The direct debit gift goes off to PGS on the first of the month, they collate it together, claim the gift-aid where appropriate, and send both back to the parish in an itemized report by around the middle of the month. Much less work for the treasurer's team and the Co-ordinator.

Annual renewals, and increases where appropriate, are handled between you the giver and PGS, who will alter the direct debit if

necessary, no need to contact the bank. And new to this system this year is the option for you to regulate your PGS payment on-line, as well as by phone or e-mail.

You can probably tell that, for those of us who are involved in processing the giving, envelopes and cash are the most labour intensive method, standing orders less so, and Parish Giving Scheme virtually labour-free.

Several of your PCC members have already signed up PGS, but there's room for plenty more.

I'm not going to bore you with any more detail than that, this is not an attempt to get you to change if you are happy with what you do now, it's just an offer of a second or third option if it would suit you better. There is no need to change, but if the idea should strike a chord with you, I'm happy to talk with you, and I've got some very good literature I can hand out.

Thanks again for your patient listening, and God Bless.
John Dentith (W 21348)



CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE

Churches Count on Nature runs as part of Caring for God's Acre Love Your Burial Ground week from Saturday 5th June – Sunday 13th June.

I/We hope to spend a relaxing hour in the church grounds during this week, spotting bees, butterflies and other insects that may be attracted to the shrubs and flowers that we have in the borders; also looking out for birds using the trees. A blackbird was singing beautifully in the holly tree a while ago.

As Eco reps we are considering how we can attract more wildlife to the church 'green' and to do this count would give a good indication of its visitors at the moment. It's rather like doing the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' in January each year!

With the unpredictability of our weather we cannot put a particular day in the diary when we hope to be at church that week, but if you feel like joining us just let me know. Maybe a visit with the children for a shorter length of time to suit yourselves is best for you. Let us know how you get on!
Judy & Chris

MISSION FUND GROUP



The PCC have approved our request to make two donations this month from the Mission Fund

allowance. Both charities are to help with the education of young people living in under privileged countries, enabling them to have a much better future.

One of our church members has a relative connected with a charity called *UK Bangladesh Education Trust*, which is soon to be known as Education for Change (ukbet-bd.org). Their aim is to ensure all child labourers have access to education. The charity encourages employers to allow the children who work for them to attend their workshops, where they are taught basic literacy and numeracy with the aim of building up their competencies and enrolling them into school or vocational training and out of child labour. It is a tiny charity that has developed a formula that works and can be replicated anywhere.

Worcester Diocese Link with the Diocese of Morogoro: *The Morogoro Sewing Academy: Microfinancing Partnership*. Up to 44 students from across the region attend the Sewing Academy each year. The aim of

the Microfinancing Partnership is to help to fund the Sewing Academy students after they graduate to set up in business. This will allow them to purchase a sewing machine locally and invest in materials to help them start a business in their own area. This is a worthwhile venture to help these graduates start out and enable them to show others the true value of sewing and even teaching others how to sew.

Our thanks, once again, to everyone who supports the Mission Fund.

Ann Bryant



HOLLAND HOUSE

Holland House reopened on 17th May and a number of events are being planned for the summer and autumn, including Quiet Garden Days which will be monthly through the summer.

Other events are being added to the programme and are advertised on the website: www.hollandhouse.org – do take a look!

More info: 01386 860330



WHITSUN PILGRIMAGE

*Bank Holiday Monday
31st May from 12pm to 3pm*

Join us for as much or as little as you choose! If you are not able to walk with us, join us at one of the churches along the way for a few moments of prayer: if not in person, then pause wherever you are at the times set for prayers.

11.55: ST BARNABAS WR3 8NX

We gather together as members of the various churches outside St Barnabas Church on Church Road, for our cluster pilgrimage.

12.00: With the midday bell chiming, we set off on the first leg of our walk. Christ Church is part of the St Barnabas parish and well under a mile away. We estimate 15 minutes walking time.

12.20: CHRIST CHURCH WR4 9QW

We pause for open-air prayers, giving thanks at Christ Church for the mission around Tolladine, & the families supported here.

12.30: We make our way up the Tolladine Road as far as the turning onto Ambleside Drive, passing the Mission House and gathering at Three Ways Point. It is less than a mile and we estimate 15 minutes walking time.

12.45: THREE WAYS POINT WR4 9NG (opp Ambleside Drive).

The only place where our three parishes intersect. A few yards beyond the Ambleside Vets. We pause here to pray for our cluster and give thanks for the friendships that are making our ministries and mission flourish.

12.50: We set off walking just over a mile through the footpaths to reach St Nicholas. We expect this to take 30 minutes.

13.20: ST NICHOLAS WR4 0SL

At St Nick's we will have our lunch and a comfort break. Please bring a packed lunch.

13.45: We start our afternoon session with prayers at St Nick's giving thanks for its ministry and mission in Warndon Villages.

13.50: We set off on the orbital pedway footpaths to St Wulstans, a mile away. We estimate a leisurely 25 minutes walking time.

14.15: ST WULSTANS WR4 9PA

We pause at St Wulstans to pray for the congregation and the church's presence on the Warndon estate.

14.25: We set off for the final leg, climbing back up the mile or so to St Barnabas. We estimate 25 minutes walking time.

14.50: ST BARNABAS WR3 8NX

We close our pilgrimage with open-air prayers, giving thanks at St Barnabas for its ministry and mission at the heart of Rainbow Hill, and the ringing of a 3 o'clock bell.

THE 2021 HEROES! *continued by Mark Watson* or TWELVE EARLY CHRISTIANS WHO DESERVE TO BE BETTER KNOWN

We now consider two “giants” of the Third Century AD, both of whom bequeathed a large volume of writings to the early Church.

(9) Origen (AD 184 – 253)

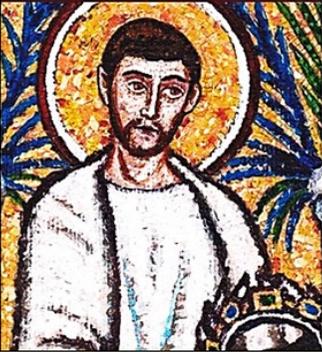
Origen is the first of our “heroes” to have been born into a Christian home. Indeed, his father died for the Faith in AD 203 and only his mother’s intervention prevented Origen from suffering the same fate. He is also distinguished by the fact that he spent much of his life as a layman, including the assumption of the role of headship of a Christian school in Alexandria at the remarkably early age of 18. His later life was more quarrelsome: he fell out with his own Bishop (of

Alexandria) and instead sought ordination to the priesthood from the Bishops of Caesarea and Jerusalem. As a result of this he made Caesarea his home. He suffered torture under the Decian persecution and died of his wounds shortly afterwards. His legacy to the Church is the vast volume of writings he produced – over 2,000 treatises – which has led him to be described as “the greatest genius the early Church ever produced”.

(10) Cyprian of Carthage (AD 200 – 258)

Cyprian was a wealthy nobleman and distinguished lawyer before his conversion to Christianity in AD 246. This high-profile background ensured rapid promotion in the Church, leading

Saint Cyprian of Carthage



“He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the Church for his mother.”

Thaschus Cæcilius Cyprianus
Bishop of Carthage, martyred AD 258 during the persecution of the emperor Valerian

Quote taken from Saint Cyprian’s Treatise
On the Unity of the Church



to his consecration as Bishop of Carthage. Like Origin, Cyprian too suffered under the Decian persecution, but as a Bishop he also had to deal with the vexed issue of the re-admittance to the Church of those who had denied Christ during the period of persecution but who later wished to be re-instated. Cyprian was eventually martyred - in his own bishopric of Carthage - under the persecution unleashed by the Emperor Valerian. Cyprian was a prolific writer; some of his quotes remain familiar nearly 1,800 years later:

“He can no longer have God for his Father, who has not the Church for his Mother.”

“Be constantly committed to prayer or to reading Scripture; by praying, you speak to God, in reading, God speaks to you.”

Next month we will conclude this “2021 Heroes” series of 12 early Christians by considering: (11) John Chrysostom and (12) Augustine of Hippo.
Mark Watson



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