

NEW BEGINNING... XV



I HAVE SEEN THE LORD - MARY MAGDALENE

WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

...tion And The Life.



HE IS NOT HERE. HE HAS BEEN RAISED!

YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD. LORD JESUS, HELP US WALK IN YOUR STEPS.

THE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH

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

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING FOR EASTER?

It was over 20 years ago that we were given a gazebo. It was a bit larger than most as the kind donor knew we were frequently running Summer events in the parish, and in the vicarage garden. It had good use in the next parish too, and it came with us to Worcester. Then last September son number one asked to borrow it for a major family event at their church, where again it worked really well. The week following they had a children's birthday party, so could we leave it with them till after that? "No problem," we said.

But there was a problem. They had some heavy rain, and the gazebo was still up in their garden. It collapsed in a rather sad crumpled heap under the weight of the rain water pooled up in the awning. Several of the poles were bent, and some of the plastic joints were broken too. "Sorry Dad!" was the message that came with the photo on Whatsapp. "We'll replace it."

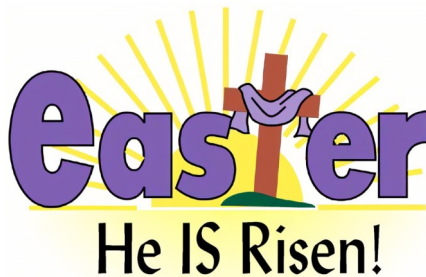
But that model or something similar was nowhere to be found on the internet. So I set about trying to replace just the damaged bits, spurred on by the discovery that we

still had the original instructions, including a telephone number for customer care. Of course the number was long dead... mirroring my growing gloom about the gazebo!

But throwing it away (especially something that had served us so well for so long) really went against the grain. So how about Freecycle? And looking on skips outside so many people's houses? Again to no avail! But I did find - at the back of the cupboard in the shed - a carrier bag of the right plastic joints (acquired from somewhere I can't remember when!) that work with this gazebo frame. So now the one remaining issue was the bent poles. Another closer inspection made me think there was nothing to lose by trying gently to straighten them. Well, they will never look like new, nor be totally straight again, but it worked.

Is it too fanciful to call this a resurrection?

Something that we had come to believe was damaged beyond repair and "dead" now lives again, and we're looking forward to using it very soon.



Perhaps even this coming weekend when son number one and family are staying with us while catching up with friends?!

Of course the resurrection that Christians celebrate every Easter is far, far more powerful and thrilling than getting our old gazebo back into working order. When his friends saw him breathe his last, and buried in a tomb, then his life was over, and everything he'd been trying to do, along with all their hopes and dreams. The last thing they expected was to ever see him alive again. But they did, because he was!

Some reckon that the gospel accounts infer a certain level of strangeness and mystery in how people encounter Jesus after his resurrection. How could he suddenly appear in the upper room, when the doors and windows were locked?! Why was Mary Magdalene in the garden, and the couple on the road to Emmaus, so slow to recognise him? What's clear is that the appearances on their own did not convince everyone. Thomas needed to see the scars in his hands (more likely his wrists) and his side. [Mmm.. our "resurrected" gazebo will always have some scars too!]

But the big question is always there: So what? If Jesus really did come back to life again, what does it mean? What difference

does it make for people living today, amid all the struggles and brokenness and darkness of today's world?

There's no point bringing the broken gazebo back to life unless we use it, and we will! And if we believe in Christ who died and then rose again, we must live it.

So, I wonder how this might work out for you?

What can you do to demonstrate what resurrection means? Can we counter to all the negative news by making more good news stories?



*Lord, when today believers
are persecuted,
bombs are falling, & drought
is destroying
the food of millions,
grant us the courage not
to be overwhelmed,
but to go where you send us,
do what you ask of us,
and be the disciples you
call us to be. AMEN.*

Church Mission Society, 2022

Each of us occupies a unique set of circumstances: what are you and I called to do there, to make a difference for God's Kingdom?

You see, there is so much more than trusting in heavenly life after death, important as that is. Jesus teaches his followers to pray: "Thy kingdom come.. on earth as in heaven".

For me, whatever I am called to do and to be, Jesus' resurrection means we never give up hoping and believing. Do you remember the astonishing declaration which Job in the Bible makes when having to deal with awful experiences of pain and loss, along with the additional wounds inflicted by his (well intended) friends: "I know that my Redeemer lives!" God is still to be trusted.

See you at the WORCESTER PASSION PLAY on Good Friday in Cathedral Plaza!

Andy

Revd Andy Gandon
21 March 2023

PS Hope you like the cover of this Mag. It's from a series of contemporary "Stations of the Cross" which we used through Good Friday and Easter in a previous setting.



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 morning 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.

See page 5 for details of all the Easter Events in the Cluster.

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies/flowers in memory of a loved one are £3.50 each. If you would like one, please put money in envelope and write name on the front and give to Churchwardens by Palm Sunday, 2nd April.



WORCESTER CITY WELCOMES REFUGEES (WCWR)

In response to the government resettlement schemes in 2016 for the resettlement of vulnerable Syrians and in 2021 with the resettlement of Afghans, and recently support for asylum seekers, Worcestershire County Council has been active in supporting these schemes across the county with several families and individuals resettled in all the county's local districts.

WCWR is a voluntary organisation working alongside the County Resettlement team and other agencies to support those who have been resettled in Worcester City. Such support is very wide ranging – from decorating and refurbishing properties the Council has made available, befriending, teaching of English, helping with health issues, school visits, finding voluntary work placements to name a few. (And if you are involved in an organisation or know of an organisation which would like some voluntary help please get in touch – details below).

Churches across the City have responded generously in kind and money to appeals to help families start their new life here. The families who came to live on



Astwood Road in 2016, have all moved on to new homes, learnt English, have jobs, cars, new babies, passed the citizenship exam and are now applying for British Citizenship. St Barnabas was there to meet their needs.

But needs continually change and fluctuate and with Ramadan quickly approaching the Muslim community in Worcester, has donated a large number of boxes of dates (dates are high in sugar, and good to consume after a day of fasting to restore low blood sugar levels) so that hopefully every asylum seeker in the city can maintain their fasting practice.

On a very practical level, current specific needs that WCWR has been advised of is for NEW undies and NEW socks – for men, medium sized only. If you would like to make a donation please contact me (01905 724334) or leave a donation at the back of St Barnabas Church. If you would like more information about WCWR please have a word with me or contact WCWR direct:

welcomesworcester@gmail.com.

Thank you

Ann Russell

CLUSTER EASTER EVENTS



PALM SUNDAY 2nd April
10am **Something Else Sunday**

Monday 3rd April
11am **Chrism Eucharist at the Cathedral**

HOLY WEEK

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th &
Wednesday 5th

7pm **Quiet Hearts, Quiet Minds**
Reflections for Holy Week with contemplative silence and a service of Compline led by Sarah

MAUNDAY THURSDAY 6th April

11am Easter Eggstravaganza for families at St Wulstans
7pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist
8pm Bonfire Vigil in St Wulstans Vicarage garden (till dark)

GOOD FRIDAY 7th April

8.45am Cluster breakfast at St Barnabas, with a pilgrimage into the city for the
10.30am Passion Play in Cathedral Square
2pm An Hour at the Cross --- readings and reflections for Good Friday at St Barnabas
7.30pm Bonfire Vigil in St Wulstans Vicarage garden (til dark)

EASTER EVE Saturday 8th April

7.30pm Bonfire Vigil in St Wulstans Vicarage garden (til dark)

EASTER DAY Sunday 9th April
6am Dawn Service around the bonfire in St Wulstans Vicarage garden, with a bacon butty breakfast to follow
10am Communion for Easter Day with Sarah and Andy at St Barnabas

No midweek service until
Wednesday 19th April

BEHIND THE SMILE



This charity runs peer support groups for anyone experiencing mental health on Wednesdays 2pm-4pm at St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street Worcester and on the last Friday of the month 6pm-8pm at St John's Youth Centre, Swanpoole Walk, Worcester.

For more info go to:

<https://behindthesmile.care/>

Facebook @behindthesmile.care

Twitter @BehindTheSmil17

Instagram @behindthesmile4

EMAIL SCAM

Please be aware that at the moment scam emails are being sent seeming to come from friends. *Do not click on any links unless you are sure they are genuine.*



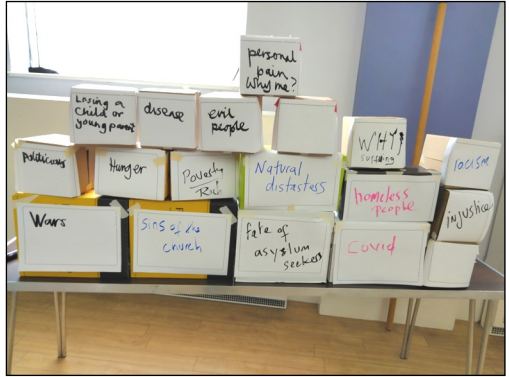
Above left: A colourful display board showing aspects of Taiwan at this year's World Day of Prayer.

Above right: Sue Sykes made some delicious Taiwanese honey cake to sample and enjoy.

Below: Enjoying a cuppa following Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Opposite page: Sue Sykes and Sue Martyr build a wall of shame with the help of those present at the recent *Something Else Sunday* at Christ Church







MISSION FUND NEWS

The terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria last month were devastating – each news report brought more and more information as to the severity of the situation.

The Mission Fund Group decided that we should help financially as quickly as possible and it was decided to donate to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC). Many charities are members of the DEC and donations are distributed to where the emergency aid is most needed. A donation of £500 from the Mission Fund was approved the Standing Committee and below is the acknowledgement from DEC:

“Thank you for donating to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Thanks to your generosity, DEC charities and their local partners are responding, working with locally-led relief efforts in Turkey and Syria. Your support is helping provide emergency aid such as shelter, food, clean water and medical care.

Your gift will make a real difference, providing urgently needed aid to help those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. DEC charities continue to assess the ever-changing situation to ensure aid get to the people who need it the most.

Your donations are enabling DEC charities to respond rapidly as well as support families affected in the months and years to come as the

lasting impact of the crisis continues.

You can stay updated on the work of DEC by visiting the website: www.dec.org.uk or following on Facebook and Twitter.”

Sincere thanks to every member of the Planned Giving Scheme and the Sunday Services plate collection for your continuing support.

Ann Bryant

RESOLVED

I wrote the poem opposite some time ago about so called Writers' Block. Sometimes just getting started on a piece seems almost impossible and this was the result!

I recently found the little note my mother sent when she had read it. She was struggling with mobility at the time and imagined making the poem her own. By inserting the word 'walking' (more miles) instead of 'writing' (more lines) she happily gave herself a personal goal.

This got me thinking. I wonder which goals might resonate with you? How about read more books, pray more prayers, sing more songs, smile or laugh more often, sleep more hours, bake more cakes, or even eat more veg!

Enjoy.
Margaret Gandon

WRITING BLOCKS

I
I need
I need to
I need to write
I need to write more
I need to write more lines
I need to write more lines again
I need to write more lines again please
I need to write more lines again please help
I need to write more lines again please help me
I need to write more lines again please help me to
I need to write more lines again please help me to start
I need to write more lines again please help me to start off
I need to write more lines again please help me to start off afresh
Joyous result right here & now we have some success & I am writing
Result right here and now we have some success and I am writing
Right here and now we have some success and I am writing
Here and now we have some success and I am writing
And now we have some success and I am writing
Now we have some success and I am writing
We have some success and I am writing
Have some success and I am writing
Some success and I am writing
Success and I am writing
And I am writing
I am writing
Am writing
Writing



ROAD TO EMMAUS



One of the most cherished stories we have of Easter season is a tale of two friends, travelling from Jerusalem to their home village. This is a wretched return to Emmaus for them, walking the lonely seven miles, reflecting sadly about all that had happened in the last few days. They had pinned their hopes on something that was now shattered and broken. At least they had each other. As these two friends talked together, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. Although they were kept from recognising him, it's as if their conversation has summoned him, compelled him to draw near. That's actually hardly surprising, for Jesus himself had said that where two or three gathered together in his name, he would be there in the middle of it.

These two friends on the Emmaus Road give us a picture of our lives as pilgrims, telling us that "*we are people who spend our lives going someplace, going to God, and whose path for getting there is the way, Jesus Christ*" (Eugene Peterson). The Emmaus Road challenges us though to see that this pilgrimage is something we undertake in community, in relationship with others. The two walk together and make room for a third. At the story's climax, they then rush

back to Jerusalem to tell the wider group of friends what they have discovered about the risen Jesus in the midst of their friendship. And in the upper room in Jerusalem, as they all talked together, they found the story was deeper and more glorious than they had dared imagine. And while they were together, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "*Peace be with you.*" Things shattered were restored and that which was broken was made whole.

Poet Wendell Berry challenges us to *practise resurrection*. Our friendships are a good place to start. We need to practise resurrection in our relationships. We need to build bridges of friendship that are strong enough for Jesus to walk across. That was the idea behind the name I chose for the Christian group in my secondary school: *The Bridge Club*. In retrospect this may have been a mistake, because the posters were always being defaced with the words *Poker* scrawled over the word *Bridge* in marker pen, but the name still spoke of how important friendship is. Relationships, whether deepened, widened, renewed, initiated or repaired, all carry the

same explosive potential – that they will tell the story of resurrection to a world hungry for the hope that things shattered can be restored and that which is broken can yet be made whole.

Revd Sarah Northall



BISHOP OF DUDLEY'S TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Excerpt from an article by Bishop of Dudley Martin Gorick:

I have recently returned from the Holy Land, where I had the privilege of co-leading a Diocesan Pilgrimage.

The land of Israel/Palestine has long been a contested one, and we were very conscious of current tensions. Scripture invites us to 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem' and that is still needed now. It was a joy to meet with members of the Christian community in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, particularly the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum, who helped prepare and bless the Oil of Anointing for use at the Coronation of King Charles III.

The oil was made using olives from the Holy Land and was blessed in the Aedicule (shrine) of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

But early on Sunday, some of us got up at dawn and made our way through the winding streets of the Old City to arrive again at the Holy Sepulchre. Quiet this time, except for the chanting of the Coptic clergy, we were able to ascend the hill of calvary, to kneel and pray before the shrine, and to touch the rock of Golgotha, still bearing the split from an ancient earthquake. We then moved to join the slowly moving queue at the aedicule, the site of the tomb and of the resurrection of Jesus. It is small and you stoop to enter. I prayed for you all in that place.

I had been once before as a parish priest. I'd gone early that morning too and was thrilled if rather overawed to get the chance to enter that 'holy of holies' for the very first time. That time I remember clearly hearing words from Mark's gospel: "He is not here. He is Risen!"

Whether in the Holy Land, or here in Worcestershire or in Dudley, Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen and ascended Lord is with us still.

May the joy of our Risen Lord be with you and those you love, this Easter and for ever more.



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

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

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Coffee & Chat
between 10.45-11.45



all welcome!



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Ladies of Worcester

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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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XV NEW LIFE AND a

WITHE O DEATH'S YOUR VICTORY?
WITHE O DEATH'S YOUR STING?

I AM THE resURRection

WE adore you, O Christ, & WE BLESS you BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS