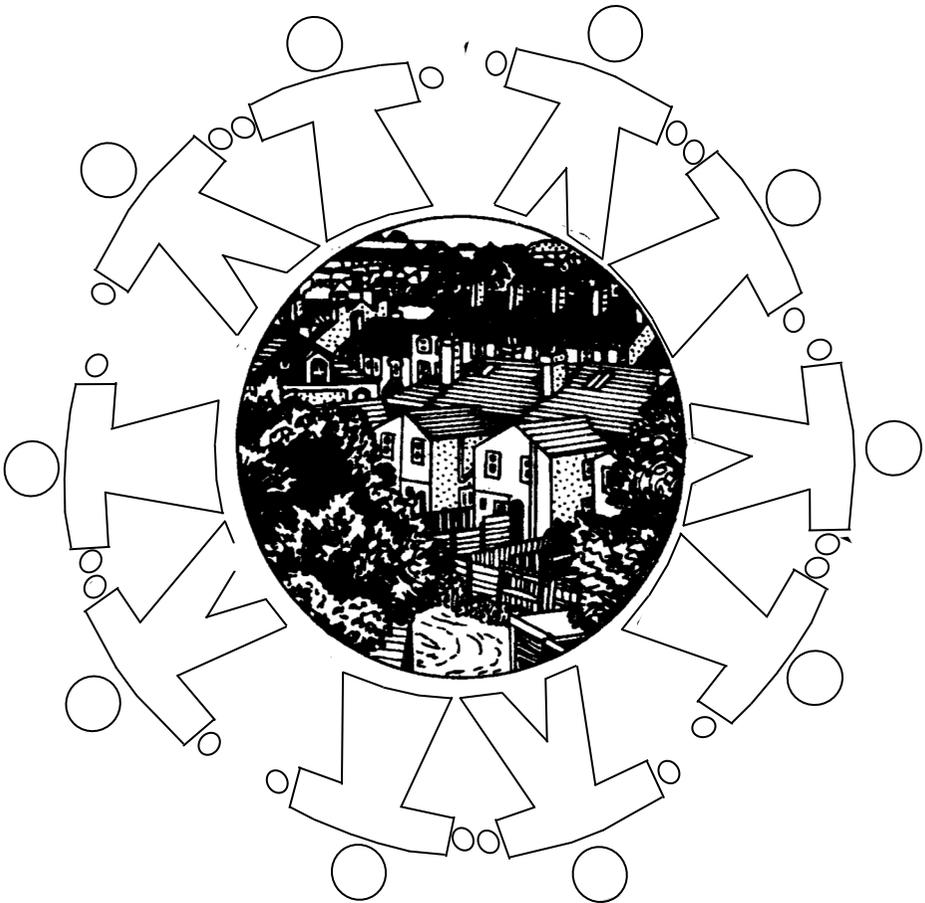

M THE MAGAZINE

35p

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER



DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF:

Team Rector: Revd Julieann Watson (23785)
Missioner Sue Martyr (25466)
Churchwardens (St Barnabas):
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	9.30am	Church opens
	10am	Eucharist
	6.30pm	Public Bible reading & Prayers for the world
Monday	Closed	
Tuesday	8.45am	Celtic Morning Prayer
	6.00pm	Common Worship evening prayer
Wednesday	10am	Church opens
	10.15am	Eucharist
Thursday	2-3pm	Private prayer
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	Closed	

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

julieann.watson2019@icloud.com

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

CHRISTMAS: AND IS IT TRUE?

So asked the late Sir John Betjeman in his poem *Christmas*, from the book *A Few Late Chrysanthemums* published in 1954.

The poem is everything a Christmas poem should be: cheerful, amusing, light-hearted, but also profound and deeply Christian. It is immediately accessible yet, upon further reflection, of much deeper meaning.

The poem has eight verses, of which I only have space to consider the last three. Verse six is a seemingly conventional (yet most reflective) retelling of the Mystery of the Incarnation:

*And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of
all,
Seen in a stained-glass
window's hue,*

*A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for
me?*

Verse seven that follows seems most apt in this year of “Coronavirus Christmas” as it gently dismisses the peripheral accretions of Christmas (“those tissued fripperies”) much of which, in 2020, we are likely to have to forgo. Each year many express their desire to concentrate on “the real meaning of Christmas”; perhaps in 2020 we can seize the chance!

*And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas
things,
Bath salts and inexpensive
scent
And hideous tie so kindly
meant,*





In his final verse Betjeman concludes with the heart of the matter: “this single Truth”, namely the teaching of the Apostles and the Eternal Gift of Christ in the Eucharist. As expressed in 1 John 1:1 (one of my favourite Bible verses): “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life.”

*No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth
compare*

*-
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and
Wine.*

Mark Watson

This month's Eco Target:



Remember the garden birds
They, too, need food
and water

GOD ON THE LINE

A new free telephone line is being set up by St Nicholas and St Wulstan's churches and we are invited to be a part of it.

Offering readings, prayers, music, thoughts for the day, and diocesan podcasts, this telephone line will be free to anyone who has a phone and can dial a number.

It has already been tested by Revd Sarah of St Wulstan's who has been using this way of reaching out into her parish community and congregation since lockdown.

This way of reaching out to everyone in our community and church family is surely the most inclusive and accessible way for us all to hear and receive God's word for our lives: and especially as we are entering the darker season of winter, mid winter... and.... January.

Watch out for more information!!
Revd Julieann



The Rectory commemorates
Remembrance 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR: A MUSE FOR 2020

As we approach a new year, as always, we look back over the year just gone.

I wonder what our memories of 2020 will be? There will be the choices of the film editors of course: thanking the NHS, hospitals being built, empty streets, people covered in PPE, maybe some lovely footage of the countryside and people exercising, walking, being socially distanced. But what will your choices to recall be? If you were a film editor putting together memories of the year, what would you include?

Just asking.....because in the future, when we are asked by those of a younger generation, what do we remember of it, it is important that your story and memories are told, and only you have that! And it's important because of one subject, or value, which I don't think society is very good at understanding and as a result is being threatened before we've had a good go at holding on to it: and that value is Freedom.

Freedom is one of the Diocesan Kingdom values: as we recall the scripture (or the song) "It was for freedom that Christ has set us free".

Freedom of memory, freedom of

movement, freedom of speech; freedom to be ourselves; freedom for others; freedom to believe or not to believe; freedom of choice: freedom to do, or be, freedom from....freedom from harm; freedom of information. And so on.

Yes, we hear a lot about all our freedoms in debates, the news, and maybe from the pulpit: but what does freedom really mean? I think it's a tricky value compared with the other of our kingdom values of love, compassion and justice. We can be very sure what these values mean and what they look like and how to express this for another. But what about freedom?

I think 2021 could be the year when we as a people, as a society, as a church, think about freedom.

What do you think?
Revd Julieann
December 2020



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN DURING ADVENT

6.30-7.30pm in Church

29th November:

final chapters of Luke's Gospel

6th/20th December:

John's Gospel

About the films in short:

The Lumo Project is a world wide mission project which aims to film the Gospels in all languages.

Film adaptation of all 4 Gospels
Winner of UK Christian Film Festival 2015

A short trailer about the films:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF2ze5Jlrd4>

The making of the films:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yqUxYHDcjk>



**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.

Find us on; <https://behindthesmile.care/>

Facebook @behindthesmile.care

Twitter @BehindTheSmil17

Instagram @behindthesmile4

Fair warning: the website is helpful but it is American: the films we show are not!!

Comments from our own congregation:

"they bring the stories alive"

"that's really good!"

"I hadn't realised that....."

"it just goes to show what the lectionary misses out"

No booking - just come - all welcome!!



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Sat 5th December—Sunday 3rd January (excl Christmas Day)

Avenues of glittering Christmas Trees within the beautiful setting of the Cathedral Cloister.

*Christmas Concert by Candlelight
Saturday 19 December*

Christmas concert by candlelight in the stunning setting of Worcester Cathedral, performed by the Cathedral Choir. Pre-booked tickets essential.

More information from Worcester Cathedral

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS IN AND AROUND ST BARNABAS CHURCH

BEYOND THE WALLS

Messy Church online activities including Christmas 'bags'

From 18th December:

Semi-life size nativity scene with lights

Outdoor Christmas tree inviting prayers

Sun 20th/Mon 21st December:

5.30 - 6.30pm

Outdoor Carols (*from PA speaker and if restrictions allow: mulled wine*)

Come and go as you please!

November 29th Advent Sunday

Prayers at the Advent

Wreath: *YouTube & BLT*

10-11am Church open for private prayer

6.30pm: Final chapters of St Luke's Gospel (film adaptation) in church

IN CHURCH

Sundays 6th - 20th December

10-11am Church open for private prayer

The Gospel of John (film adaptation) in church 6.30pm

During Advent midweek:

Julieann offers prayer and readings each evening: *voice recordings circulated by email some of which will be on the weekly BLT*

First week:

Celtic saints in a season of

preparation

Second week:

From the Iona Community

Third week:

Night Prayer with Jim Cotter

Fourth week:

Compline (Common Worship)

Wednesdays 10-11am

Church open for private prayer

20th December

Double issue BLT

Christingle *pre-recorded*

Midnight Eucharist

with blessing of the crib (*pre-recorded on YouTube Channel*)

St Barnabas Church

Celebrant/preacher: Rev Andy/

Rev Julieann

Organist: John Hocking

Candlelighting: Mark Watson

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day

Eucharist *-live-streamed from St Barnabas Church*

Celebrant/preacher: Rev

Julieann/Rev Andy

27th December: St John the Evangelist

Eucharist: Rev Julieann

no recordings/no BLT

Wednesday 6th January:

Epiphany

Eucharist: Rev Julieann



ANIMALS AND THE NATIVITY

Is this the nativity scene that you picture at Christmas time? I am sure that most of us have this type of image in our minds. St. Matthew and St. Luke are the only two Gospel writers to record the birth of Jesus. Matthew tells us only of the Wise Men's visit and Luke the visitation of the shepherds. But we do not hear of Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem with a donkey. We do not read of any animals being present at the birth of the baby. We do not have the Wise Men travelling on camels. So I wonder where our imagery comes from; even some famous paintings show animals at the scene?

There may be a clue in the word 'manger' mentioned in Luke 2 v7. A manger is a long trough from which animals fed. Yet Matthew 2 v11 mentions the star stopping over the place where the young child was, saying 'They went into the house', no mention of a stable. There were no guest rooms were left in Bethlehem, and so Mary and Joseph were forced to stay in a room for animals instead. Many houses at that time were simple in structure. The family shared the house with their animals, themselves sleeping on a raised



platform at one end. Not considered as pets, these animals were like our farm animals – sheep, goats and cattle. So as you begin to receive Christmas cards, I wonder how

many will show the Nativity scene with animals present? Where did this idea come from? Research tells us that animals first started to appear in religious texts around the seventh century. I quote:

A series of early Christian stories that informed popular religious devotion, including what's known as the Infancy Gospel of Matthew, attempted to fill in the gap between Christ's infancy and the beginning of his public ministry. This text was the first to mention the presence of animals at Jesus' birth. It described how the "most blessed Mary went forth out of the cave and entering a stable, placed the child in the stall, and the ox and the ass adored Him." This description, subsequently cited in several medieval Christian texts, created the Christmas story popular today. The Nativity scene, recreated today in towns and churches worldwide, was originally conceived by St. Francis of Assisi. Francis in 1223 sought permission from Pope Honourius III to do something

'for the kindling of devotion' to the birth of Christ. As part of his preparations, Francis 'made ready a manger, and bade hay, together with an ox and an ass,' in the small Italian town of Greccio.

So children (and grown ups), why not find Nativity scenes to print and colour from the internet – there are many to choose from that include animals, completing the nativity image that we have today. Set up a Christmas gallery at home! Visit a local Nativity Scene and take a photograph! Bodenhams Arboretum plans to have its usual Nativity trail, but check the website!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and wonderful Christmas time.
Judy

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN WORCESTER



As usual we are making up boxes for the homeless people in Worcester.

If you would like to fill a box it should be ready by Sunday 13th December.

All contributions much appreciated!

*Mary James 01905 455214,
mary_e_james@btinternet.com*

★
JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

*Shared by Rebecca Borillo,
written by her daughter during
her school days:*

Look with seeing eyes this
Christmas
Look with seeing eyes and see.
The old and lonely who have no
one
No one but you and me.
Too proud to ask a favour
Too tired to really care.
Friends and loved ones long
since gone
With whom they used to share.
So take them to your heart this
Christmas
If chance should come your way.
Say come my friend and
neighbour
Share with us your Christmas
Day.

PCC of ST BARNABAS wi



Revd Julieann Watson
Team Rector



John Dentith
Lay Chair/
Diocesan Synod



Rachel Chalmers
Churchwarden



Julie Berrow



Jackie Campbell



Graham Sugden



Ann Bryant

Following the recent and much delayed Annual Church meeting the new PCC are pictured above—we welcomed new members Julie Berrow and Marian Bailey

th CHRIST CHURCH 2020



Mary James
Churchwarden



Sheila Bright
*Secretary &
Diocesan Synod*



Claire Summers
Treasurer



Marian Bailey



Sue Martyr
Missioner/Deanery Synod



Pam Instan



Helen Platt

LETTER FROM ASSIUT, EGYPT CHRISTMAS 1916

..a good day for the men. The previous week to Xmas I was out shopping, and going round to all the native schools, convents, consuls, in fact, anywhere where they had flags and decorations. Went into one large shop and begged a lot of large cardboard boxes to cut out shields. Bought coloured paper and had the men making paper chains. - then instead of having meals in the dining hall, (a stuffy matting hut) we decided to decorate and lay tables out in the open on the verandah, which runs round one side of the block of buildings.

We made the verandah a picture with flags, paper chains, shields and palm leaves all interlaced along the railings. Late Saturday night I had word that down in a grain warehouse in the town were 45 turkeys and 8 geese, all alive and kicking, and waiting to be eaten, presents from the people round about for the soldiers.

Sunday morning I picked out half a dozen men and sent them down with knives and a transport wagon, to kill the birds and bring them to the barracks. Here I erected a big screen by the cookhouse, inside which I had a party ready for plucking. The men were waiting in the cook's hut, to clean and truss the birds, so that we soon had them laid

out and ready for the pot. Men quite enjoyed getting their own xmas dinner ready, and were lucky to eat such fare. We only have a trench fire, and a small home made oven, yet by 10.45p.m the cooks had the whole batch cooked and laid out in my room.

My room contained that night -

45 roasted turkeys and a
roasted geese
1000 oranges in a blanket
50 heads of cabbage
100 pounds of cheese
100 pounds of currant cake
60 small packets of butter
14 eight pound tins of plum
pudding
20 pounds of nuts, almonds
and barcelonas
400 eggs
200 pounds of beef
50 pounds of jam



That wasn't bad, was it? Enough to get little Mary comfortably tight. Not much room to move, and a glorious mixture of smells, but had to keep them there in case anything got stolen.

Hawks and cats and dogs are everywhere, and things have to be locked up. Hawks swoop down and take anything they see lying about especially in the meat line. On xmas day

everything went splendidly, and men had a good feed for once since they left England. What do you think of our menu for active service?

Breakfast - eggs, bacon, cheese, marmalade

Dinner - roast beef, turkey, cabbage, onions, potatoes, plum pudding, oranges

Tea - cake, jam, nuts, cheese, oranges

Supper - finished off all the leavings



Everybody was satisfied, and one man when late for guard after tea, gave as his excuse that he could not fasten his belt.. xmas night we had the usual concert, out in the open with lamps hanging among the decorations on the verandah and among the trees.

Quite an exciting day till we sang the National Anthem and auld lang syne. We seargants were waiters, cutters up, and servers at dinner for the men, and nice fun we had. Quite a busy time, but it was well worth it.

*Samuel Smith, born 1884, away at war 1914-1919 (Gallipoli, Malta, Egypt), married 1920, died 1970 aged 86 years - and my dear grandfather
Margaret Gandon*

MISSION FUND NEWS

The Mission Fund Group usually meet a few times each year to discuss donation giving, but this hasn't been possible since March. However, thanks to Zoom, we have been able to meet recently and it was very successful and enjoyable! The minutes of the meeting have been sent for PCC to discuss and approve at their next meeting. A list of Christmas donations will be in the February edition of the Church Magazine.

This Christmas is going to be very difficult for millions of people across the whole world with the Covid-19 pandemic, but it is much more serious and difficult for the poorer, under developed countries as they try to manage the pandemic.

One of our Mission Links is with Friends of the Holy Land, who keep us in touch with their volunteers' work there. Bethlehem has been in lockdown since early March, following an outbreak of coronavirus there. Bethlehem is silent, completely deserted and employment almost non-existent. There can be no pilgrimage for millions of Christians who visit Bethlehem and the Holy Land this year.

Cont on next page

LOCKDOWN: HOW CAN WE COPE?

In the Bible Society – Word in Action winter magazine, I read with interest that Jesus’ first disciples shared lockdown too! They gathered in an upper room, too frightened to leave town. It was there that the risen Christ came to them.

Today His presence can still bring hope and replace doom. We read that ‘We have to navigate a new world dawning, with Christ on board.’

So how can we cope with lockdown, ready to live in a different world? Perhaps some of these ideas may be of help. I’m not an expert and they are not in any particular order of importance!

- Go for a walk – nature can be a real tonic!
- Practise mindfulness – live in the moment, taking more notice
- Read a favourite book
- Listen to uplifting music
- Watch favourite TV programmes
- Do some colouring – it can be relaxing!
- Do a jigsaw or any kind of puzzle
- Do some baking



- Chat to a friend/s on the phone or by Zoom/FaceTime etc
- Do some knitting/crochet – perhaps for a charity
- Try meditation
- Eat and sleep well
- Think positively – not always easy!
- Have a plan for the day/week

- Accept the things that you cannot change
- Take pleasure in each day – it’s God’s gift to us!

Judy



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

MISSION FUND NEWS

Cont from page 12

We pray for our Christian friends living in Bethlehem this Christmas, facing continuing sickness, unemployment and uncertainty.

Sincere thanks to those who support the Mission Fund throughout the year.

We pray for a very happy and peaceful Christmas everywhere.

Ann Bryant

ADVENT WREATH

Folks!

How about using this fun cut out and colour Advent Wreath as the weeks go by?

Look out for our Advent Sunday service on YouTube (St Barnabas Church, Worcester) when the first candle will be lit!

Julieann



TOLLADINE MISSION NEWS

Fruits of the Mission House

We started growing pumpkins and gourds with the intention of a big All Hallows gathering however, as time went on we managed a small physically distanced pumpkin carving under the gazebo in the garden with very brave guests and a display in the drive honouring the dead.



Remembrance

I stood outside the Mission House opposite Vernon, aged 84, who was smartly dressed with beret and blazer on. Joined army aged 18 served as a transport driver, trained at Norton, Worcester, moved to Salisbury Plain and then to Germany returned home due to ill health. Thanks Vernon

Due to Covid Vernon was unable to distribute poppies as usual so he handed them to me, which I used as a memorial outside the Mission House (see picture)



Christmas for Christ



Free Friday Shop

The shop has continued to operate during Lockdown 2 and unfortunately more people have visited, meaning more hardship is evident.

We have been blessed by lovely donations of money, food, and books and stocking fillers for our Christmas T@Tolly bags, some just left anonymously on the doorstep of the Mission House, so thank you for all of that.

The Tolladine Mission has been nominated for Lidl's Newtown Rd shop, Tackling Hunger Campaign. Meaning you take a leaflet from their stand, which is near the furthest till, take it to the checkout where it's scanned and whatever you donate they will match it. At the end of the campaign we will collect all the produce. I think it ends soon though. It sounds a little complicated but it does work, I've tried it!

Thank you for everyone's continued support. May you have the Advent you need and feel the glory of Angels around you. *Sue Martyr*

FREE Friday food shop

11-12



Church door, far end of Tolly Centre.

Physical distancing, masks, hand sanitiser all in place

Run by the Tolladine Mission, donations by FairShare and Neighbourly and other kind people
Fb Tea at [tolly/tolladine mission](https://www.facebook.com/tollytolladine)

THE WORCESTERSHIRE VETERAN'S HUB

Opening Times

Mon: 10:00 -14:00
 Tues: 10:00 - 14:00
 Wed: Appointments
 Thurs: 10:00 - 14:00
 Fri: 10:00 - 14:00

Place

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 The Trinity
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 WR1 2PN
 Call: 07539754457

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 Mentors/Caseworkers
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STEPWAY CIO Registered charity in England and Wales: 1186465 HQ: The Trinity, Worcester. WR1 2PN Phone: 07539754457 Email: info@stepway.org Website: www.stepway.org



STEPWAY

Supporting all Veterans in civilian life

CIO Registered charity in England & Wales: 1186465

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim of the **FREE** Community Project is to provide the Veteran Community with a sense of purpose and belonging. Utilising a collaborative structured work ethic that fosters integration into the local community, promoting both physical and mental wellbeing.



DAYS

Monday
Thursday
Saturday

Other days by prior arrangement

TIMETABLE

Arrival 10.00

Work Brief / Jobs 1000 -1200

Lunch 1200 -1300 on site

Work / Debrief 1400-1430

Depart 1430



PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Please bring

- Full Water bottle
- Wear clothing appropriate to weather conditions
- Sensible footwear

other equipment will be provided

JOBS

We aim to make tasks fun and adaptive for all, they are allocated on the board on the day and will vary on weather and season.

Opportunity to learn Beekeeping, horticultural tasks and grow your own produce.

PLEASE EMAIL OR TEXT THE **STEPWAY** PROJECT LEAD KIRSTY FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO BOOK YOUR PLACE:

EMAIL: kirsty.bleasby@stepway.org

TEXT: 07966632053



STEPWAY CHARITY



Andy Hall shovelling fallen autumn leaves for mulching and compost at the Stepway Garden: a Team of Army Veterans - working together, looking out for each other. You can find out more about their work at <https://www.stepway.org/> A lovely job you're doing there Andy!

Pictured below, the team who fed the Homeless folk.

This is a Community Building Programme for all (see the pictures on the leaflet). If you are interested in helping with this project be in contact as the leaflet says, or me: Revd Julieann 01905 23785/07772 857154/julieann.watson2019@i cloud.com



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