

# M THE MAGAZINE

35p

---

ST BARNABAS with CHRIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

---



**MAY 2023**

## ST BARNABAS WITH CHRIST CHURCH

### PARISH STAFF:

Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Northall (074838 07432)  
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader):  
Julie Berrow (07733 226061)  
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](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)

Registered Charity number 1158894

## THE LORD IS HERE, HIS SPIRIT IS WITH US

Our Annual Church meeting falls on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May this year, and the more I reflect on this, the more appropriate it feels. The fifth Sunday after Easter Day is marked as *Rogation Sunday* in the Church of England's calendar of festivals. The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday that follow are marked as *rogation days* and then it is Ascension Day, the fortieth day since the resurrection. Rogation is an ancient church festival which places a church as the heart of its community, and its wellbeing. The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning 'to ask'. The Book of Common Prayer explains that Rogationtide is "especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry."

Since medieval times there has been a tradition of *beating the bounds* of the parish, praying for God's blessing upon the crops and thus the well-being of that particular settlement. Throughout my ordained life, I have quietly carried on this tradition on, in Oxford, in Stourbridge and in

Warndon. I walk the parish perimeter, as best as is safely possible, as a way of praying for the entire community, asking that for God's goodness to nourish every endeavour which enables people to flourish. This year, I will be beating the bounds of St Barnabas with Christ Church as well. I've checked my maps and have worked out my route, and greatly look forward to prayer walking in this ancient way. I love this collect and invite you make it your Rogationtide prayer too, this year:

*Jesus, Son of David,  
make us a priestly people;  
clothe us in righteousness,  
make us fruitful,  
and give us hearts to shout for  
joy in your salvation;  
we pray in the power of the  
Spirit.*

I am well-known for saying that '*none of us is as wise as all of us,*' and I am excited by the opportunities that are beginning to open us for us. For me, an Anglican parish church should have a strong sense of calling



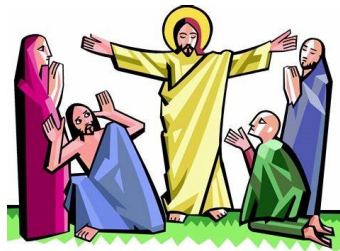
# ROGATION SUNDAY

and vision of itself within its local community, & be characterised by strong intergenerational relationships and generous inclusive hospitality. Whilst carrying its own flavour, I think a parish church needs to cherish different streams of Christian worship, giving space and permission for these to develop and flourish. This makes enabling and releasing all kinds of ministry gifts such a joy. The longing that I have always brought to parish ministry is that the local church reaches out to God for healing and miracles and provision, and is faithful in calling people to share in the hospitality of God. This means a commitment to training and equipping people to contact, to nurture and to disciple those who they are most likely to encounter.

Ultimately, any parish church is a steward of the presence of God amongst his people --- sacred space and common ground. I believe these twin values are the wellsprings for a renewed and ever-deepening wholeness for all who know our churches as the 'thin' and precious places that they are. St Barnabas and Christ Church always have been places of connection in our communities. When we gather for worship, when we bow our heads in intercessions, when we serve and bless families at the turning in their life journeys, we are simply saying, "the Lord is

here, his spirit is with us" to all who live and work within the parish boundaries. To be a parish church is a glorious thing. And on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, we will once again celebrate all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we are going on to do, to live out this precious vocation in which we share.

With my thanks for all that you are and all that you are doing  
*Revd Sarah Northall*



## **ASCENSION DAY INVITATION**

On Thursday 18th May there is a Deanery Communion Service (with guest speaker Canon Stephen Edwards) celebrating the Ascension at 7.00pm at Hallow Church.

If you are planning to go to this, you are cordially invited to stop off at 214A Henwick Road at 5.45pm for soup and a sandwich.

RSVP [sue.sykes@cantab.net](mailto:sue.sykes@cantab.net)  
01905423487  
Sue Sykes



## **THE CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III EVENTS AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL**

Join us for Evensong at 4pm on Sunday 7th May with a county celebration of the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM The Queen Consort. The service will be led by the Dean of Worcester, the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson. The sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Worcester and Lord High Almoner, the Right Reverend Dr John Inge.

The Dean and Chapter are delighted to be joined by the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Chair of the County Council and the Mayor.

A Civic procession from the Guildhall will arrive at the Cathedral at 3.50pm.

*All are warmly welcome to Evensong, with a Coronation theme, including hymns, readings, sermon and the National Anthem.*

## **CORONATION EVENTS IN WORCESTER**

Worcester is to mark the King's Coronation in style: the Guildhall will be lit up in red, white and blue and the ceremony will be shown live on a big screen in Cathedral Square between 10am and 3.30pm on Saturday May 6. People wishing to attend are advised bring their own chairs.

The Guildhall will also show the Coronation on a big screen in the Lower Hall between 10am and 4pm. People are welcome to take along food and soft drinks.

Monday May 8 sees thousands across the country take part in The Big Help Out. Worcester Cathedral is inviting residents to come to the Cathedral between 11am-2pm to meet its volunteers and find out how they can get involved.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**



Christian Aid Week starts on Sunday 14th May - there will be envelopes at the back of church if you wish to make a donation or take for your neighbour

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will take place during the 10am service on Sunday 14th May. *All are welcome to come along!*

## REMEMBERING SHEILA



I first met Sheila over 45 years ago. I had recently started to attend St Barnabas and Sheila came along a few months later. We both had young children and would meet up for a cup of tea and a chat. It didn't take Sheila long to offer help at church events and so very good at helping to run the social events and was very good at roping in others to help .

M&S was Sheila`s place of work and one day I was shopping for some items and bumped into her in the department and she looked at what I was buying and promptly said make sure you buy underwired as you are quite heavy, I think many can relate to her speaking her mind whether

we wanted to hear it or not that was just Sheila being Sheila.

We had our ups and downs as many of us do but somehow we always stayed friends and with changes to the Clergy Sheila got more involved in the life of the church and took me along with her convincing me to join the PCC and helping with other activities.

When my daughter was 5 years old I had a very severe asthma attack and the vicar at the time was Hayward Osborne who took me to the GP, He asked Sheila to pick me up but when she got there we were told I needed to be admitted to hospital straight away, Sheila bless her said she

needed to let others know what was happening and without thinking went to use the doctors phone only to told she must wait as he had to ring the hospital first, Sheila took me to the hospital and then with Sandy Osborne's help made sure my family was ok, they even took over the running of my daughters 6<sup>th</sup> birthday party that weekend as I was still in hospital. I could never thank her and Sandy along with Annette Strain for giving Pippa a lovely 6<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If anyone needed help, Sheila would always make sure help they got.

Over the years families change and when her husband became ill with cancer Sheila always put on a strong face even though many of us knew she struggled at times, but Neil, Alison and Louise came first. Losing Neil hit Shelia hard but she was relieved that his pain was at an end

Both myself and Sheila became close to Hayward, Sandy and their growing family and helped each other whenever possible, our children could often be heard along with the Osbornes running around the rectory playing hide and seek [the rectory was twice as big then.

Recently we all knew Sheila was struggling with her health both

physically and mentally

Her diagnosis of PSP [progessive supranuclear palsy] was hard for Sheila and it became obvious she had been struggling for a time . Sheila could always be a little difficult at times but her illness bought about a real change both mentally and physically.

For a while I and Marion were able to take her out and about to various garden centres to give her a change of scenery but in the end it was getting harder and harder to get her in and out of the car was we just shared tea and cake at her house.

Then of course after several falls she had to go into Latimer Court, where thankfully several visitors from church did their best to keep her spirits up.

Both Marion and myself spent part of everyday her last week with Sheila, Alison and Louise which we all found very hard. I am pleased my long time friend is at peace but find it hard not to see her each week.

I know both Alison and Louse are grateful for all who visited Sheila on a regular basis from church and for all who remembered her in their prayers.

*Bye my lovely friend.*  
*Pam Instan*



*Above:* On Palm Sunday we processed round the block before going into church



*Below:* On Good Friday we met in church for hot cross buns before making our way to town for the Passion Play—photo with big screen shows Bishop John being crucified with Christ

*Opposite page:* On Easter Day we gathered round the Easter fire then renewed our Baptism vows during the service.







## MISSION FUND LENT DONATIONS

The PCC have approved the following donations from the Mission Fund allowance:-

### *BISHOP JOHN'S LENT APPEAL:*

This year is for our Diocese link with the Anglican Diocese of Peru. There is increasing political unrest and violence, together with the extremely high Covid mortality rate and severe poverty. Revd Luis Vizacarra is seeking to help and support those who need help the most by providing soup kitchens and funds towards medical costs.

### *CHURCH URBAN FUND:*

This is a National charity, working with local leaders, churches and other faith groups throughout England. The aim is to build flourishing communities, so that everyone across England can access support when they need it most.

*BEHIND THE SMILE:* This local charity was founded by Gaynor and Andy Pritchard in memory of their son Zac. Until they moved to Gloucestershire, they were very supportive members of our congregation. The charity's aim is to bring people together – those who need a listening ear – to have their unheard words heard, providing someone to listen to them whenever needed.



*THE MYRIAD CENTRE:* This local charity is based in St. George's Walk and provides specialist and much-needed respite care for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their families. The centre urgently requires expansion for client activity rooms and supporting functions and the aim is to be able to increase the number of clients from 16 to a maximum of 25. Our donation will fund one month of a weekly session of Music Therapy for their clients, which is incredibly beneficial as a sensory experience.

### *WORCESTER CITY*

*WELCOMES REFUGEES:* this new charity has been set up by our church member Chris Russell and is under the guidance of Worcester City Council. The aim is to welcome and help the approved refugee families settle in their new homes, with items such as food, clothing and toiletries. The charity is organising a 'welcome' by providing a box of dates to every refugee following the end of Ramadan 2023.

Once again, sincere thanks to our Sunday morning congregation and Planned Giving friends for your continuing support.

*Ann Bryant (Chairperson) Jackie Campbell and Marian Bailey.*

## IMAGINE

Sleep comes easily. No street lights on this 'off the beaten' track. Only blackness and near silence.

Another day lights.



Inside the cottage reds and oranges accessorise the greys and whites of the furnishings and paint. The spaces are small and hold you in a holiday embrace.

Outside, the new gate latch evokes the countryside with one small satisfying click.

The local hens bypass the mended gate and peck the tiny front garden. Jumping back up and over the dry stones of the wall they do their usual escort duties along the path to the bridge.

Up the hill jackdaw silhouettes perch in the tall trees beside the grey tarmac of the old railway line, and occasionally attract attention with a fly past. The abandoned tunnels glow a greyish blue at intervals, displaying the makeup of their ancient walls.

Higher up in the farmlands paths meander to and around old buildings. Large black cows hide,

and seek, peeping over whitened rocks and walls, the occasional straggler breaking their silence when falling behind the ambling herd.

On the moors the water is dark and the peat is black. It is rich and earthy, inviting a hand to touch it, a spade to dig it and seeds to grow in it.

Springy purple heather stands strong against the winds and weathers of these exposed uplands.

Thick tufts of bright green grass are painted randomly with reddy orange brushstrokes and an Impressionist sun-setting landscape stretches ahead.

The light is changing and the eye is drawn to a far distant field of sheep. Each tiny fleece reflects the now golden sunlight as its owner stands and grazes.

The sky is wide and watercolour washed in the blue shades of a fading, cooling evening.

Time to return to the warm indoors.

Another night darkens.  
*Margaret Gandon*

## I'M NOT DONE UNTIL I'M DONE

*This article is taken from the Spring 2023 CMS magazine*

Anti-FGM campaigner Ann-Marie Wilson shares her hard-won wisdom on how to keep going in mission.

An incurable cancer diagnosis. Living with chronic pain. Plus pursuing an immense, often-misunderstood, calling. If anyone could be excused for giving up, it might be CMS mission partner and anti-FGM activist Ann-Marie Wilson. We asked her a basic question: how do you keep going? Following is distilled practical wisdom from a woman who refuses to give up.

### **Look to Jesus**

I think Jesus doesn't give up, because he was sent by the Father for a purpose, a job to do. And I too was sent with a purpose and I haven't given up – because the job's not done. Which doesn't mean it's not difficult. But I wouldn't dream of giving up. I'm not done until I'm done.

### **Remember your purpose**

I'm helped by the fact that my calling began with hearing the audible voice of God. I know it's not that way for everybody.

I was volunteering in West Darfur when I met a girl, Fatima, age 11. She'd undergone FGM (female genital mutilation) at age

five and at age 10 she was raped and became pregnant. We helped her give birth safely.

Realising Fatima was one of thousands of FGM victims impacted me greatly. I was due to return to the UK and I cried out to God: "Who's going to look after these girls when I've gone?" And he said: "You are."

I figured God hadn't talked to his HR officer. I wasn't nearly qualified for this. But I'd heard his voice and I didn't want to be like Jonah – if you run away from God you never really escape. I spoke with people from my church and others, recognising that I was a white woman wanting to work in the majority world and I needed to discern what part I was called to play in eradicating FGM. I had to be humble and re-train completely. Ann-Marie (far right) with a Maasai community in Kenya that abandoned FGM

I wasn't called to do everything; I was called to do my part. I've kept this in mind as I've merged the charity I founded 10+ years ago with another charity, and step back from being chief executive for a more advisory role. By grace, I do so with love.

### **Be truthful about struggles**

Of course, I get tired. Or overwhelmed. I can get frustrated at the systems that



keep women oppressed. It can be tempting to give up, but never on God. Because he's called me and he's with me in all my difficulties. And he helps me learn from them.

### **Not giving up doesn't mean not resting**

I make space for rest days weekly. Sometimes people say there's too much work and no time to rest. But the work you do when you're exhausted is slow. I say this as a recovering workaholic – rest should be part of our discipleship. God rested and if we trust God we will take rest and Sabbath seriously.

### **Remember blessings**

When I started, this was really pioneering work. Back then, churches didn't know what the initials FGM meant, never mind being prepared to hear me speak about such a graphic subject. So I'm grateful for the early successes and blessings – which weren't always the same things.

### **You can't go it alone**

To resist giving up, we need people to encourage and

challenge us. We know different people have different skills to bring to the table. And not just people in the present, but I also draw inspiration and sustenance from missionary pioneers who have gone before me. During the pandemic, due to my health I shielded for 18 months and was pretty much on my own. So I know the weariness isolation brings.

### **Glimpse grace**

When I think of things I find difficult to accept, like my health or my singleness, I have to really press in to God. I've had to give up the hope of having children, which I would have liked. I do have seven godchildren, which gives me joy. And God has given me the opportunity to train and serve as a midwife in Pakistan and Nigeria. I've helped 10 women give birth. God brings fulfilment in amazing ways.

Recently, I had a hip replacement that went horribly wrong and I now have paralysis in my leg and constant pain. It's something I

*Continued on next page*

have to put up with, but it doesn't make me want to stop. I have to make sure people understand that I'm not Superwoman; I need more help than I used to. It's tough to be vulnerable but probably a good thing.

### **Stay curious**

When I was diagnosed with cancer in 2015, I saw an oncology psychologist. I told her I'd made a bucket list of 96 things I still wanted to do in my lifetime. She said most people with cancer wait until it's too late to make this kind of list. After my first chemotherapy session, I did my first bucket list activity: I went to a ballroom dancing lesson and got spun around by the instructor across the wooden floor.

I've now done all 96 things. To commemorate my 60th birthday I've come up with 60 more things, including some exotic travel I couldn't do during the pandemic. I don't want any part of me to feel like it's time to check out – I feel proud of the things I've been able to do and that I have followed my calling and, come what may, that feels like a special place to be.

### **Pray together**

*Pray for Ann-Marie as she works for an FGM-free world and advocates for disability awareness.*

*Pray also that she will have continuing wisdom in how best to use her time and energy.*

## **PASSION PLAY**

This year's Worcester Passion Play was as wonderful and moving as last year. Photos below show the preparation and performance - Andy & Margaret Gandon both had parts in the performance.





## TO OUR ADVERTISERS

who continue to support us

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

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALL

To make your booking for parties, meetings, clubs, Baptism receptions



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  
IN WORCESTER

We are looking to recruit new members.  
Be part of a movement with the power to change things for the better.

**JOIN US NOW**

**1ST MONTH FREE!**  
**£46 PER YEAR THEREAFTER**

**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



Supporter  
Friendship  
Friendly  
Affordable  
Inclusive  
Community Hub  
theWI  
Rainbow Hill  
Worchester  
Contact: rainbowsec@wfedwi.org.uk



# Worcester Funeral Service

## 01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Craig is available 24 hours a day.  
Please call for any assistance.



Unit 6, Kilbury Drive,  
Worcester, WR5 2NE

Golden Charter   
Funeral Plans

[WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk](http://WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk)

# E J GUMERY & SON Funeral Directors

Independent, Family Funeral Directors

- ◆ Established 1870
- ◆ Helpful & Efficient  
Personal Service
- ◆ Private Chapels
- ◆ Pre-Payment Plans



Tel: 01905 22094  
24 HOURS

68, 70 & 72 Ombersley Road  
Worcester WR3 7EU

[www.ejgumery.co.uk](http://www.ejgumery.co.uk)  
E-mail: [enquiries@ejgumery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ejgumery.co.uk)

## *Are Your Locks Behaving Badly ?*

All Locks Opened, Repaired  
Serviced, Supplied & Fitted  
Doors Adjusted & Realigned  
UPVC Door Multi-Point  
Lock Repair Specialist  
Additional Security For  
Garages, Sheds & Gates  
High Security Lock upgrades

- NO CALL-OUT CHARGE •
- FREE ONSITE ESTIMATES •
- NO VAT ON LABOUR •

For More Advice Call Stewart

### THE LOCKSMITH

01905 570 999 07871 44 20 11

Local Reliable Independent Locksmith

[www.locksmithworcestershireshire.co.uk](http://www.locksmithworcestershireshire.co.uk)

## TOLLADINE SERVICE STATION

Tolladine Road  
Worcester WR4 9AZ



- Family business for 40+ years
- Repairs & Servicing to all makes  
& models of cars/light  
commercials & 4x4
- Latest Diagnostic Equipment
- Expert & friendly advice offered
- We offer a free collect & deliver  
service to surrounding area.

01905 24213