

Parish Church of Barbourne St. Stephen

Visit our website www.st-stephens-church-worcester.org.uk for information about services and forthcoming events

Welcome to our church, especially if you are a visitor or a newcomer

Sunday 26th April 2026

Easter 4

Opening Hymn: **59** At the name of Jesus, every knee...

Readings: Acts 2.42-47 Pat Kendall
1 Peter 2.19-25 Meriel Orton

Gradual Hymn: **706** The Lord's my shepherd

Gospel: John 10.1-10

Sermon

Intercessions: David Anwyl-Hughes
To the bidding: Lord in your mercy
Please respond: **Hear our prayer**

Offertory Hymn: **699** The King of love my shepherd is

Communion Hymns:

478 Make me a channel of your peace

475 Loving shepherd of thy sheep

Final Hymn: **745** To God be the glory



Next Sunday – Easter 5

8.00am – Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 7.55-60 Clergy
1 Peter 2.2-10 Clergy

Gospel: John 14.1-14

Intercessions: Clergy

10.00am – CONNECT SERVICE



AFTER SERVICE REFRESHMENTS – 10.00AM

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served in church following the 10.00am service. Why not stay for a drink, biscuit and a chat. It's a chance to get to know everyone. **A warm and friendly welcome to all.**



CRAFT & CHATTER (Every 4th Saturday of the Month)

10.30-12.30. We run alongside Open Church. If you knit, crochet, sew, or craft, do come along. **Open to all**

GOOD COMPANIONS Meet in church at 2.30pm

4 May Early Bank Holiday **No Meeting**

Tuesday 12th May - Minibus trip to Gloucester - £12



JUNIOR STARS New Sunday School on the 4th Sunday of each month during the 10am service. Ages 4-11.

• Bible Stories • Craft • Music • Prayer • Prayer



A Better Way to Give Regularly to Church

The Parish Giving Scheme is administered by a charity controlled by various Dioceses. There are booklets at the back of Church. You can speak to Richard Hemmings or go: www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk

Church Services this coming week.

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion

Zoom only services

We will be taking our Easter break from Midweek Zoom and will resume again on Monday 13th April.

Prayers for Those in Continued Need: Barbara Hellicar, Joyce Pringle, Rosie Goddard and Adrina and Alan Price.

Open Church

Thursdays 10.30am - 12.30pm

Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm



Praying Together in Word & Silence

Regular prayer meetings are held on the **1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month. 9.30am-10.10am** in the Hartley Brown room (entrance back door).



LITTLE STARS ★ For babies to pre-schoolers and their parents/carers meets in church every Thursday ★ afternoon in **term time** from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Further details from Michelle Walsh (details below) ★

If you have any items for the notice sheet please e-mail them to: mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com Please send by **Thursday 10.00am** if you wish it to be included in the following Sunday's notice sheet.

For church hall bookings contact Michelle Walsh at mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

APCM - Our APCM will take place this year on **Sunday 17th May at 11.30am in church**

following the 10.00am service.

Questions are welcome but will need to be submitted at least one week beforehand. Do please make every effort to stay on for this.

There are **4 vacancies for PCC** (3 for 3 year and 1 for 2 year) and also **3 vacancies for Deanery Synod** (all 3 year).

If you are interested or have any questions, please have a conversation with either William Harwood, Ruth Scotson or Kevin Maltby.

Nomination forms can be found at the back of church. **Completed forms can be given to the above (or clergy) to be left in the vestry.**

Rev. Lindsey on Sabbatical

Rev. Lindsey will be away on sabbatical from Monday 27th April to Sunday 9th August.

In her absence please contact Michelle Walsh, our Parish Administrator at:

mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com or on 07961 097497, who will direct your enquiry accordingly.

Poetry Reading – During Open Church

Prov. start date: **Saturday 16th May**

Speaking Allowed! 10.45 – 12.15

Contact: t.charman1@btinternet.com

Electoral Roll Under Church Representation Rules the Church Electoral Roll has to be revised each year before the APCM. The revision for 2026 will take place before the 1st of May 2026.

The revised Roll will then come into force for the APCM on 17th May 2026.

Anybody who wishes to be a candidate or to vote for Churchwardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod members to represent this Congregation and Parish must be on the Electoral Roll.

As this is a revision, new application forms need only be filled in if members have changed name, address or contact details in the last 2 years, or if members of the congregation wish to join the Electoral Roll having joined our Church. Forms are available at the back of Church along with a box for completed forms.

Please see Paul Kennett for any questions.

Thank you from Lindsey

Thank you so much for all your cards, emails, and messages of care and prayer. I'm sorry not to have been able to respond to you all, but your words and gestures have upheld me this last week. Please continue to keep me in your prayers over the next few months and know that I'll be praying for you too.

With every blessing, Lindsey.

Problems, Grit and Pearls

*Problems could be likened to pearls,
They begin with grit at their core;
To irritate in shell or shoe, or
When overwhelmed with things to do.*

*Worse if not dealt with fairly soon,
Allow time to consider what's best -
Take problem apart, shoe off to shake -Regroup,
think through when fully awake.*

*The clearest answer may be ignored;
But grit reminds us to be alert.
Courage and determination whirl -
No grit, no resolve, may mean no pearl.*

Teresa Charman

Our current Shopping list:

TINNED MEAT, TINNED FISH, TINNED FRUIT, LONG-LIFE, FRUIT JUICE, LONG-LIFE MILK, PASTA SAUCE, RICE, CEREAL, SAUCE PACKETS, INSTANT MASH, MIXED, HERBS, POWDERED MILK, COOKING OIL, COFFEE, TEA BAGS, SOAP, TOOTHPASTE, SHOWER GEL, MENDES DEODORANT, TAMPONS, NAPPIES SIZE 6&7.

The Foodbank are particularly short of:

CUSTARD, TINNED FRUIT & RICE PUDDING

For Full List visit: www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk

Foodbank – GIVE TODAY WEBSITE

Order the items we urgently need - these will then be delivered straight to our door 😊

<https://www.givetoday.co.uk/worcesterfoodbank/>

Your incredible support helped us feed 15,201 people last year - with around 1 in 3 of these being children (5,172).

Thank you to everyone who has donated food, money or their time to combat hunger in our city.



Rob's Auxiliary Pathway update - Almost there, but what then?

It seems a long time since Lindsay gave me a piece of paper titled 'Auxiliary Pathway' and asked me to give it some thought! Since then there's been a lot of soul searching and hard work done, but after Easter I'll start the final term of the Pathway, which means only four more Wednesday evenings and two more all-day Sundays and a couple of assignments. Almost there! In addition to my last Pathway dates and assignments, I've got one more interview with the Bishop, but I'm told to be optimistic that all will be well, and that I should be confident that I will be ready to be priested on 27th June.

I want to say that I could not have got to where I am without the great example, support and wisdom of dear Lindsay, who herself has had a lot of work to do to get me this far. She's been a tower of strength, pastorally incredibly supportive, and as always she's gone way beyond the call of duty.

I'd also like to say how very, VERY grateful I am to the whole congregation for all your prayers, words of encouragement, and support, including in those times when the going seemed hard.

It's remains my simple wish to be a good servant to St Stephen's, and God-willing (and Bishop-willing!) I hope that it will help the church that I will be able to preside.

Of course I still have a lot to learn practically, and there's also another 2+ years of training and development for anyone who is priested, that I would start this coming Autumn. If I am to do this well, then I will need your ongoing prayers, encouragement, and support (and your patience while I wear the 'L plates' as it were!).

I also need your help to avoid taking on too much, as secondly, and equally if not more importantly, I'm also conscious that I am supposed to have retired, that I will soon enter my eighth decade, and that Julia has for a long time been waiting very patiently for me to give proper time to her. I can't let her down after 45 years of long legal hours, and I'm determined not to, but we are part of the St Stephen's family and although we will occasionally be away at weekends and will have holidays like most people who are retired, I'm determined to play my part in what for me is voluntary work, as so many others do, for God's glory and for the good of the church and our community.

Rob

St Mark's Church – Morogoro

Following on from our conversations with Bishop Godfrey it would be wonderful to form a group who could lead on this partnership to grow and develop our links with St Marks.

If you're interested in being part of this group or are interested in visiting next year, please speak to Kevin or Ruth.

Thanks to Kevin, there is also a display at the back of church with some general information, demographics, and images of Rev Pendo and her team.

Do please take a look while you enjoy a coffee after the service.

New prayer diaries

New prayer diaries for March – July are now available to collect from the back of Church.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rob Holdsworth's Ordination as Priest
Saturday 27th June at 2.00pm at Worcester Cathedral.

All are very welcome.

Are you looking to join a day-time Home Group?

We meet every Friday from 2-4pm (term time only) in the Northwick area and would love you to join us for fellowship and study of scripture. Please speak to Colin Magee or Rob Holdsworth if you're interested.

Campaign QR Code

The QR Codes on the end of each pew give details of our current Campaign. It is hoped that this will generate donations from occasional visitors towards the next phase of Compassionate Church - The installation of new accessible toilets in the Tower Room.

The Giving Envelopes are still available at the back of church.