

# Parish Church of Barbourne St. Stephen

Visit our website [www.st-stephens-church-worcester.org.uk](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Opening Hymn: 479** Make Way

**Readings:** Isaiah 35:1-10 R. Goddard  
James 5:7-10 M. Orton

**Gradual Hymn:** 111 Christ is the World's Light

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11:2-11

**Sermon**

**Intercessions:** R. Holdsworth

**Offertory Hymn: 383** Lord Jesus Christ

**Communion Hymns:**

**522** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**187** The Servant King

**595** Peace is flowing like a river

**Final Hymn: 217** God is working his purpose out



**Next Sunday - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8.00am - Said Holy Communion**

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 J. Swindin  
Romans 1:1-7 J. Swindin

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Intercessions: Clergy

**10.00am - Family Service**

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16 N. Wake  
Romans 1:1-7 G. Hill

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Intercessions: D. Anwyl-Hughes



Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served in church following the service. Why not stay for a drink and a chat. It's a chance to get to know everyone.



## GOOD COMPANIONS

Meet in Church at 2.30pm



### Next meetings:

12<sup>th</sup> December - Meet up at the Cathedral to see the Christmas trees (2.30pm)

23<sup>rd</sup> January - AGM

## A Better Way to Give Regularly to Church

The Church of England has introduced a new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), administered by a charity controlled by various Dioceses and based in Gloucester. The new scheme should be a win-win situation - better for givers, and better for the church. There is a small supply of booklets at the back of Church. If you want to know more, speak to Andy or Richard Hemmings, or look at PGS's website:

[www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk)



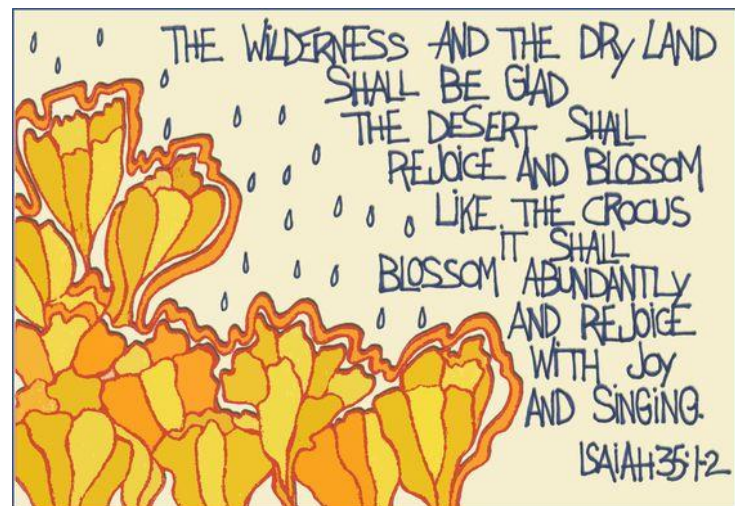
## Church Services this coming week.

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion

### Zoom only services

Monday & Wednesday 8.20am Morning Prayer

Tuesday & Thursday 5.30pm Evening Prayer



**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) ★

## Open Church

**Thursdays** 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Saturdays** 10.30am - 12.30pm



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

For church hall bookings contact Michelle Walsh at [mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com](mailto:mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com) or 07961 097497

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## **Christmas by Sir John Betjeman**

*The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.*

*The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say..... 'The  
church looks nice' on Christmas Day.*

*Provincial Public Houses blaze,  
Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze,  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.*

*And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.*

*And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.*

*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?*

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

*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.*

## **Carol Singing at Care Homes**

has been confirmed as follows:  
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - 2pm** at St  
Stephen's Care Home, 3pm at  
Noele Court

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - 2pm** at  
Northwick Grange (19 Old  
Northwick Ln, WR3 7NB), 3pm  
at the Willows (2, Tower Road,  
WR3 7AF)

As always, please do just turn  
up - in festive attire if you have  
any!

**Sue Lyall's funeral** will take  
place at 1pm on Wednesday  
14<sup>th</sup> December, at St Stephen's  
Church.

**Lia Senatore has kindly  
crafted a range of items with  
Christmas theme**, which are  
available to purchase (in a  
lovely display) at the back of  
Church. Lia has asked us to  
emphasise that profits will go  
to church funds or charity.

## **Tea & Coffee Rota**

Ruth is compiling the new Rota for serving tea and coffee after the 10am service for the period January to June 2023. We really do need some more helpers. If you aren't currently involved but think you might be able help please could you have a word or email her at [ruth.scotson@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.scotson@gmail.com)

## **Cost of Living Crisis**

In response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis we will be collecting child and adult size coats, hats, gloves and scarves to be donated to those in need. If you have any items to donate – there will be a box at the back of church.

Worcester Trussell Trust have specifically suggested that a supply of new Hot Water Bottles would be really helpful so there will be a separate collection box at the back of church for these also. Thank you for your support.

**Church Deep Clean** Iris and team will be carrying out a deep clean in church on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm – 4pm. If you're able to offer some help, even if only for an hour, they'd be delighted to see you.



**It's time to unwrap our Christmas shopping list - and here's a flavour of what's on it:**

DRIED STUFFING, GRAVY GRANULES, BREAD SAUCE, CANNED HAM, CHRISTMAS CAKE, CHUTNEY, CRANBERRY SAUCE, PICKLED ONIONS, CHEESE BISCUITS.

You can download the full list from our website. <https://tinyurl.com/2p83y8p4>

**Thank you for your continued support of local people in crisis.**