

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Lent 2

**Opening Hymn: 59** At the name of Jesus

**Readings:** Genesis 12.1-4a B. Cox  
Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 N. Humphries

**Gradual Hymn: 209** God forgave my sin

**Gospel Reading:** John 3.1-17

**Sermon**

**Intercessions:** D. Anwyl-Hughes

**Offertory Hymn: 665** Spirit of God within me  
[tune: Ellacombe, The Day of Resurrection]

**Communion Hymns:**

**245** He became poor (Choir)

**163** Father of heaven, whose love profound

**187** From heaven you came

**Final Hymn:**



**Next Sunday – Lent 3**

**8.00am - Said Holy Communion**

Readings: Exodus 17.1-7 P. Curtis  
Romans 5.1-11 P. Curtis

Gospel: John 4.5-42

Intercessions: P. Curtis

**10.00am - Family Service**

Readings: Exodus 17.1-7 K. Maltby  
Romans 5.1-11 R. Scotson

Gospel: John 4.5-42

Intercessions: V. Greenow



John 4.5-42



The woman said to Jesus  
"Where do you get that living water?"

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:**

**6<sup>th</sup> March** - 'Five reasons I'm an Anglo-Saxon enthusiast' by Kevin Maltby.

**20<sup>th</sup> March** - Afternoon tea at Wild Goose café

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meet in church fortnightly at 11.00am (10.45 for Tea/Coffee)

**Next meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

**A Better Way to Give Regularly to Church**

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), administered by a charity controlled by various Dioceses and based in Gloucester. 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)



**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

**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

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## **Lent Groups**

Lent groups have now started but if you'd still like to participate and just haven't managed to speak to anyone yet – it's not too late to join. Please speak to Andy, Lindsey or Margaret.

**Tuesday Evenings** in church from 7.30-9.00 – looking at 'A Cross in the Heart of God by Sam Wells and/or **Wednesday mornings** from 9.15-10.00 meeting at Pump House Car Park WR1 3EZ, for 'something a bit different'. An outdoor walk with prayer and devotion to draw us closer to God through creation.

## **Bulb Planting Events - 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March** **10am-12.30pm.**

Bulb planting to commemorate a loved one, to celebrate or just to enhance our churchyard - with chosen flowers. Please bring along a trowel. Refreshments available.

## **Philomusica Concert - 18<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm** **St Stephen's Church.**

Choral music by Elgar, Parry, Vaughan Williams & Howard Goodall. Tickets from £10.

[tickets@philomusica.org.uk](mailto:tickets@philomusica.org.uk) or on the door.

Accompanied children under 16 are free.



## **Here's a flavour of what's on our first shopping list of 2023 - a year that promises to bring immense challenges for many struggling households across our city.**

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS, CEREAL, TINNED POTATOES, TINNED VEGETABLES, TINNED FRUIT, TINNED RICE PUDDING, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE, LONG-LIFE MILK, CREAM CRACKERS, TEA BAGS, WASHING UP LIQUID, SHAVING FOAM OR GEL, SOAP AND NAPPIES (SIZE 5-7).

You can download:

[Updated-shopping-list-January-2023.pdf](#)

or view the full list on our website:

[www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk)

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

## **'Veiling' during Lent.**

You may have noticed last week that the crosses, crucifixes, statues and some other images have been covered with purple cloth. These will remain in place throughout the season of Lent until Easter. Why do we do this? 'Veiling' as it's called is an ancient tradition, although some churches do it only towards the end of Lent. It's a stark visual reminder that all the glory in our faith - which we represent through these crucifixes and images - comes only because of what Christ suffered for us. It's also a way of simplifying things so that our attention is especially focused on Jesus during these weeks. This reflects the way many people give things up during Lent, ideally to make space for a greater focus on God, and it also creates a sense of anticipation. We want the veils to be removed, and that reminds us of the glory which God has in store for us, which we long for. As St Paul said, 'Now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.' (1 Corinthians 13.12)

The veils will be dramatically removed for Easter, as we celebrate with joy the resurrection of Jesus, and the hope he brings.

## **'Stand by Me' Concert - 25<sup>th</sup> March** **7.30pm. St Stephen's Church.**

A varied programme sung by talented local performers and students. An opportunity to come together and share in our gratitude for the wonderful NHS. Opera, musical theatre and contemporary styles in the programme so there will be something for everyone to enjoy. As March is **endometriosis** awareness month, there will be a short presentation from endometriosis specialist consultant Angus Thomson who will explain a bit more about the condition and why funds and recognition are so important. All proceeds to be donated to Endometriosis services in Worcestershire. Refreshments during the interval. Tickets (available on the door) - £10.