

# 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 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Trinity 8**

Opening Hymn: **113** Christ triumphant

Readings: 1 Kings 3.5-12 R. Scotson  
Romans 8.26-39 P. Kennett

Gradual Hymn: **701** The kingdom of God

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Sermon

Intercessions: Clergy

To the bidding: Lord of all creation

Please respond: **teach us your ways.**

Offertory Hymn: **37** Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Communion Hymns: **147** Do not be afraid (Choir)

**478** Make me a channel

**383** Living Lord

Final Hymn: **728** Thine be the glory



**Next Sunday – Trinity 9**

**8.00am - Said Holy Communion**

Readings: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14 D. Fulbrook

2 Peter 1.16-19 D. Fulbrook

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Intercessions: D. Fulbrook

**10.00am - Family Service**

Readings: Daniel 7.9-10,13-14 B. Cox

2 Peter 1.16-19 N. Humphries

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Intercessions: J. Gerrard



## **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Meet in church fortnightly at 11.00am

(10.45 for Tea/Coffee) **Next meeting:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July

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:**

We will be taking a break until 4<sup>th</sup> September – When Anne Lawrence will be talking about a Project in Africa



## **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

## **A Thank-you from Andy and Viv**

A huge thank-you to everyone who has made the past couple of weeks such a wonderful send-off for us. The celebration after last Sunday's service was so moving, and your generous gifts have left us humbled. We've also received so many other cards, gifts and kind words: it would be impossible to thank you all individually, but we are very grateful, and move on with many happy memories, and a deep sense of how much we will miss you all.

## **Praying for Growth**

Last week, the Diocese launched a dedicated period of prayer that our churches will grow both spiritually and numerically over the coming years. We pray that more people will come to know the love of Jesus and join us in our life and worship; as well as continuing to pray for our parishes, schools and all those who are already part of the Diocese. There are some Praying for Growth prayer cards at the back of church. Do please take one for inclusion in your own reflections and prayers.

## **SAVE THE DATE.....**

### **Autumn Fayre - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

If anyone would to volunteer to help at the Autumn fayre (who hasn't already offered) then please let Lindsey, Michelle, Ruth or Kevin know. If anyone would like to join our next fayre planning meeting we will be meeting in church at 24<sup>th</sup> August, 3.00pm.

**Bunting** - If anyone had any spare bunting they would be willing to donate or lend, please bring to church in a named bag. Thank you.

## **Here are a few of the items needed from the 2023 shopping list.**

CEREAL, NOODLE POTS, CREAM CRACKERS, WET & DRY DOG FOOD, MIXED HERBS, TOMATO PUREE, TOMATO/BROWN SAUCE, TEA, COFFEE, UNISEX TOILETRIES, NAPPIES (SIZE 5-7).

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

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



## **Serving Team.**

It's wonderful to see the many ways in which people bring their gifts to enhance our collective worship, through welcoming, music, reading and leading intercessions, providing refreshments, and in many other ways, too. One area in which it would be especially helpful to have some more support would be in the Serving Team, which helps to set up around the altar and assists with the smooth running of the Eucharist. David Anwyl-Hughes has very generously led this aspect recently, but to support Lindsey especially as the church moves into vacancy it would be fantastic to have some more hands on deck. There is a range of important but not difficult tasks, and it is absolutely something for which no previous experience is required, as training is provided! If you might be able to help, please speak to David or Lindsey.

## **Families**

*Families are funny things,  
Hard to understand when growing up,  
They arrive in many component parts  
Then when gone, live on in our hearts.*

*Families are contrary things,  
They can build us up or knock us down,  
With different ways of giving life's start,  
They can work together or drive apart.*

*Families can be surrogate things  
Relying on each other for safety or life;  
As people who live or work very closely together,  
Or welcoming strangers at the end of their tether.*

*Families are mysterious things,  
Familial love knows no boundaries;  
Held together by an invisible bond,  
Could be X or Y; or a broad colour band.*

*Families are peculiar things  
In how each looks and where they fit.  
Feelings may be tender, or perhaps of little matter;  
But can badly hurt when hearing snappy chatter.*

**Teresa Charman**