

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 17th December 2023

Advent 3

Opening Hymn: **124** Come Come Come to the Manger

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 David Anwyl- Hughes
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 Meriel Orton

Gradual Hymn: **522** O Come O Come Emmanuel

Gospel: John 1.6-8, 19-28

Sermon

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

Offertory Hymn: **187** The Servant King

Communion Hymns:

686 The Angel Gabriel (choir)

129 Come O Divine Messiah

305 In the Bleak Midwinter

Final Hymn: **268** Our God Reigns



Next Sunday - Advent 4/ Christmas Eve

8.00am - Said Holy Communion

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16
Romans 16.25-27

John Swindin
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Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

Intercessions: Clergy



10.00am - Family Service

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16
Romans 16.25-27

Rosie Goddard
Ruth Scotson

Gospel: Luke 1.26-38

Intercessions: Robyn Rooney

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 and a chat. It's a chance to get to know everyone.



GOOD COMPANIONS (Meet in church at 2.30pm)

Next meetings:

Meetings will resume in 2024 – Dates to follow.
All are welcome.



A Better Way to Give Regularly to Church

The Church of England has introduced the 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 Richard Hemmings, or look at PGS's website:

www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk



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



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

If you have any items for the pew 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 pew sheet.


For church hall bookings contact Michelle Walsh at mwalsh.ststephens@outlook.com or 07961 097497

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Announcement from the Bishop

The Bishop of Worcester is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Lindsey Coulthard as Priest in Charge of Barbourne, St Stephen. The licensing will take place on Sunday 4th February at 4pm. Please remember Lindsey and Ian in your prayers.

Gifts for under the tree

We are collecting new gifts for the  Salvation Army to distribute to needy families. Please leave under the Christmas tree for delivery on 17th December. There will be a board for Christmas cards and a donation box for those who would like to write one card for all.

Christmas Church Clean We're planning to have a Church clean on Tuesday 19th Dec 1.00-3.00pm to get our Church ready for the Christmas services. Please come and join us if you can - even if only for an hour. Everyone is welcome with festive refreshments provided!

Calling all Calligraphers! St Stephen's maintains a Book of Remembrance. This involves adding the names and date in Gothic script using registrar's ink as well as ensuring we keep the date current throughout the year. Our book is situated in front of the Lady Chapel next to the Prayer Board. If you're interested in assisting to keep this record up to date or in keeping the page(s) current, please can you reach out to Lindsey or Michelle at your earliest convenience?

Hearing Loop System A huge thank you to Paul for sourcing and installing our new Hearing Loop System. What a difference it's made to users. Thanks also to those who have kindly donated towards the cost of the system.

CHURCHYARD CLOSURE

The Churchyard will be closed from **6pm Tuesday 19th December to 4pm Wednesday 20th December** to allow Tree Maintenance works. No unauthorised pedestrians or vehicles will be allowed on site during the closure.

Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December

Holy Communion at 10.00am with "pop up" Nativity
Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve-Sunday 24th December

Holy Communion at 8.00am and 10.00am
4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day-Monday 25th December

Holy Communion at 8.00am and 10.00am

St. Stephen's Day

Tuesday 26th December

Holy Communion at 11.00am

Sunday Stars - Help Required

November marked a six-month milestone for our new worshipping community in Sunday Stars and we realise we are in need of someone to come alongside us and serve refreshments as the families arrive. If this is a ministry, you feel you could offer once a month, please speak to Lindsey, Robyn or Dot.



Never mind a white Christmas. We're just dreaming of a festive season where no-one goes hungry and everyone enjoys a taste of Christmas. You can help us by donating something from our Christmas shopping list.

DRIED STUFFING, BREAD SAUCE, CANNED HAM, CHUTNEY/PICKLE, PICKLED ONIONS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, CHRISTMAS CAKE, MINCE PIES, CHEESE BISCUITS/CRACKERS, CHEESELETS/TWIGLETS DRUM, CHOCOLATE BOX SELECTION, BOXES/TUBS OF CHOCOLATES, BOXES/TUBS SWEETS, BOTTLES OF CORDIAL, DRIED FRUIT

www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk

The Foodbank were extremely grateful to receive 10 bags of essential food and Christmas goodies this week, along with a whopping £140 donation. Thank you so much to everyone who donated.