

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 25th February 2024

Opening Hymn: **388** Shine Jesus Shine

Readings: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 Rob Holdworth
Romans 4.13-25 Rosie Goddard

Gradual Hymn: **159** Father I place into your hands

Gospel: Mark 8.31-38

Sermon

Intercessions: Judith Gerrard

To the bidding: You speak what is true:

Please respond: **and the truth can set us free.**

Offertory Hymn: **285** Here I am Lord

Communion Hymns:

71 Be still and know that I am God

187 From heaven you came helpless babe

666 Spirit of the Living God

Final Hymn: **275** The Lord of the Dance



2nd Sunday of Lent

Next Sunday – Lent 3

8.00am - Holy Communion

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17 Rose Adams

1 Corinthians 1.18-25 Rose Adams

Gospel: John 2.13-22

Intercessions: Rose Adams



10.00am - Family Service

Readings: Exodus 20.1-17 Kevin Maltby

1 Corinthians 1.18-25 David Anwyl-Hughes

Gospel: John 2.13-22

Intercessions: David Anwyl-Hughes

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.



SUNDAY STARS



Informal Worship for Little Ones and their Grown Ups.
Meets on the first Sunday of the month from 9.00-9.30.
In the Bishop Allenby Hall (next door to the church)

GOOD COMPANIONS (Meet in church at 2.30pm)

Next meetings: 4th March - Howard Robinson illustrated talk 'Mappa Mundi' / 18th March - Alan Wildman 'Worcester Castle and County Prison.'

A Better Way to Give Regularly to Church

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is administered by a charity controlled by various Dioceses. The new scheme is a win-win situation - better for givers, and better for the church. There are 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

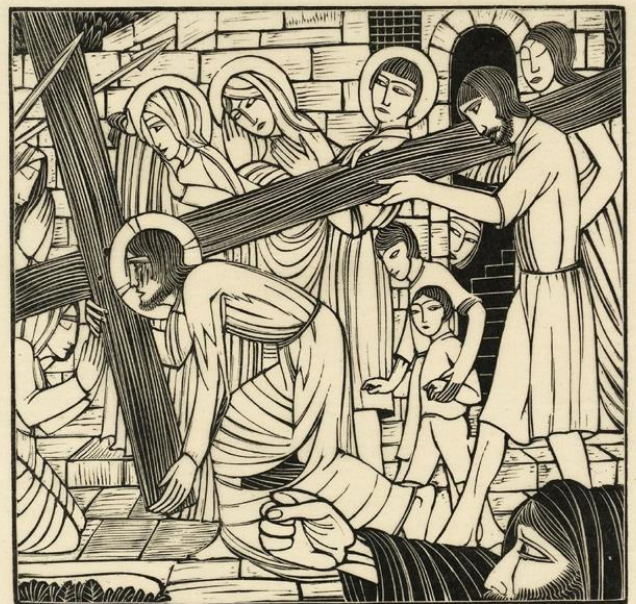
Church Services this coming week.

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
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

Thank you from Lindsey!

A huge thank you to all who worked so hard to make my Licensing Service here so special; it was a truly wonderful occasion filled with the love of God. Thank you also for the many cards, gifts and good wishes I've received - and for the very generous gifts you presented me with last weekend. Our journey together continues and it's a tremendous privilege to lead and serve you.

Endometriosis Fundraising Concert - Saturday 2nd March – 7.00pm. St Stephens.

Hattie Amos will be performing here in church with some very talented local singers, as well as Starbuck Youth Theatre Company, in a fundraising concert. There will be a huge variety of songs with something for everyone to enjoy and refreshments are provided at the interval. All proceeds to the Endometriosis department in Worcestershire. Hattie would love to see lots of lovely familiar faces there, and share in our love of music and the wonderful NHS. 7.00pm on Saturday 2nd of March Tickets £10 (£8 concessions).

Tabletop Sale – Saturday 9th March

In the BA Hall 10a. – 12pm

Sale for a second classroom in Zambia.

All donations welcome of books, clothes, toys, bric-a-brac etc. Please come and support this event in the Hall on 9th March from 10 to midday. Thanks Margaret.

The Foodbank are currently low on **Pasta**.

For the full shopping list please visit;

www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk

There is a Foodbank collection box at the back of church for any donated items.

FOODBANK – NEW!

Want to support our foodbank's use the brilliant **Give Today website** to order the items we urgently need - these will then be delivered straight to our door 😊 Right now we need items including baked beans, apple juice and long-life milk. You can order any of these and more online 🙌

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Craft & Chatter – Every 4th Saturday

10.30am – 12.30pm

Craft and Chatter starts on **March 23rd** 10.30am-12.30pm and will continue thereafter, every 4th Saturday of the month.

It will be held in the church and will run alongside Open Church.

If you knit, crochet, sew, paint or any type of craft you are welcome to come along and spend some time with like minded people. It is open to all and all ages but children must be accompanied by an adult and supervised by them.

So bring along family and friends. Any questions please do ask me, Kim Neale.

Why do we cover crosses, crucifixes and statues during Lent?

As we enter the season of Lent, Christians around the world will enter with us into a time of self-examination, penitence, study and preparation for Easter. And you may have noticed that the crucifix and other statues and images around the church have been veiled with a purple cloth.

The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different and it can be rather startling at first. The veils are hard to miss and serve as a reminder to get ready! They may seem out of place, even counterintuitive and it may seem especially strange that the crucifixes are covered but through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing.

The images being withheld from sight build within us a sense of longing for Easter Sunday when all are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, and we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26