

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**Advent 1**

## **8.00am – Holy Communion**

Jeremiah 33.14-16 / 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Clergy

Gospel: Luke 21.25-36

Intercessions: Clergy

## **10.00am - Connect Service**

### **Songs:**

Longing for light we wait in darkness - Christ be our light

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair

Be still for the presence of the Lord

This little light of mine



## **Next Sunday – Advent 2**

### **8.00am - Holy Communion**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4

Colin Magee

Philippians 1.3-11

Colin Magee

Gospel: Luke 3.1-6

Intercessions: Clergy

### **10.00am – Family Service**

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4

Pat Kendall

Philippians 1.3-11

Nigel Wake

Gospel: Luke 3.1-6

Intercessions: Judith Gerrard



## **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, biscuit and a chat. It's a chance to get to know everyone. **A warm and friendly welcome to all.**



## **CRAFT & CHATTER (Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month)**

10.30-12.30. We run alongside Open Church. If you knit, crochet, sew, or craft, do come along. **Open to all.**

## **SUNDAY STARS**



Informal Worship for Little Ones and their Grownups

Meets on the first Sunday of the month from 9.00

9.30. In the Bishop Allenby Hall (next to the church)

## **GOOD COMPANIONS (Meet in church at 2.30pm)**

**Monday 2nd December** - A shared lunch in Church at 1.00pm



## **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](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

# THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

## **Would you like to host the holy family for one night during Advent?**

This year we are going to have a Posada. But what is a Posada? Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn' and is also the title for a Mexican Advent celebration in which two young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travel from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the new-born baby be given a room. The idea has been updated so that nativity figures travel around the parish from place to place, staying at a different house every night, finally taking their place in the church at the Crib Service, ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day. We have been blessed with a lovingly created, hand knitted holy family - courtesy of Carol Amos and they will begin their journey around the parish on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Who will be first to host them? Sign at the back of church.

**Philomusica "On Christmas Night"** A Christmas concert including music by Bob Chilcott and other festive favourites on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm **Tickets £10 on the door, under 16s free.**

## **Carol Singing in our local Care Homes**

This year we'll be singing in six care homes with our neighbours from Claines and St. Georges Churches. Please join in as and when you can - there is no need to commit to all the sessions. Christmas jumpers and/or headwear optional!

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Fernhill House Care Home - 2.30pm

The Bemont Care Home - 3.30pm

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

St. Stephens Care Home - 2pm

Noele Court - 3pm

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

The Willows Care Home - 2pm

Northwick Grange Residential Home - 3pm

**Prayer Diaries** for Dec- March are now available

## **Christmas Shopping List:**

DRIED STUFFING, CANNED HAM, CHUTNEY, PICKLED ONIONS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, CHRISTMAS PUDDING, CHRISTMAS CAKE, MINCE PIES, TUBS OF CHOCOLATES, SELECTION BOXES, BISCUITS FOR CHEESE, NUTS, GRAVY.



## **Church Clean Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10-12.**

Please come and join us spruce up the Church as we prepare for lots of special events over the next few weeks. Everyone is welcome and we'll have some seasonal refreshments.

Please take a look in the lost property box to see if you've mislaid any items. Unclaimed items will be removed after 15th December. Ruth & Iris.

**Team Advent Study - Week 2** This week will be hosted by Claines Church and led by Rev Jennie beginning at 7.00pm and finishing by 8.30pm. We will be looking at Mary's song - The Magnificat.

## **A few words about Sustainable Church Flowers - What does it mean?**

**Sustainable flowers are:-** **LOCAL** - 'grown, not flown', minimising travel miles and supporting local growers and suppliers **BIODEGRADABLE** - SCF encourages the exclusive use of biodegradable and compostable material.

**SEASONAL** - use only flowers, foliage and dried that are available in their natural season **FOAM-FREE** - SCF encourages the complete elimination of all types of floral foam, even those which claim to be 'bio'. Floral foam, or Oasis, is a microplastic held together by a mixture of chemicals known to cause biological and environmental damage.

More detail at: <https://www.suschurchflowers.com/>

## **Ecumenical Advent Carol Service - Sunday**

**1<sup>st</sup> December** The North Worcester Wedge Group of Churches is holding an Ecumenical Advent Carol Service at Ombersley Road Methodist Church this evening at 6pm. The service will be followed by light refreshments. Do come along and support if you're able to. All are welcome.

## **A new Children's Youth and Family Minister**

Rev Lindsey and Rev Sarah are delighted to announce the appointment of Heather Minto to the post of Children's Youth and Family Minister to work across our three parishes. Heather and family moved to Worcester about a year ago in response to a call from God to serve this community. We are really looking forward to her joining us in the new year. Please continue to pray for Heather as she prepares for this new role.