

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

St Barnabas Road, Sutton, SM1 4NP

www.stbarnabassutton.uk

www.achurchnearyou.com/sutton-st-barnabas

BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL AND OTHER ENQUIRIES

Please contact one of the Churchwardens

WHO's WHO?

VICAR:- Position currently vacant

CHURCHWARDENS:-

Mrs Eleanor Holley 07871 489350
email:- stbarnabasbunnies@hotmail.com

Mrs Sally Bramdaw 020 8643 8749
email:- sally.bramdaw@btinternet.com

PCC SECRETARY:-

Mrs Sally Bramdaw 020 8643 8749
email:- sally.bramdaw@btinternet.com

PCC TREASURER & PLANNED GIVING OFFICER:-

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email:- stbarnabashontreasurer@outlook.com

HALL BOOKINGS:- email:- stbarnabashalls@gmail.com

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:-

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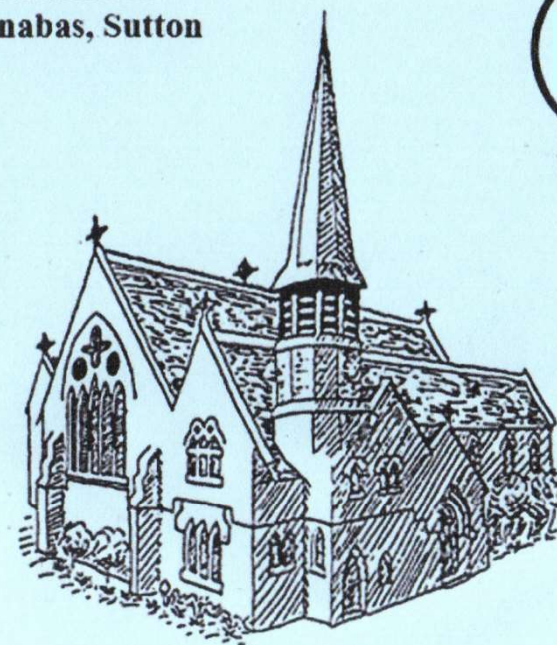
Paper copies of the Magazine are available to purchase in Church, price £1.00. Digital versions can be emailed (cost 50p each; £2.00 per annum) - please contact the Editor.

Winter 2024

St. Barnabas news

The Magazine of
The Parish of
St Barnabas, Sutton

DIGITAL
VERSION



SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCH

10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with a Bible Story for Children in the Halls

Children, accompanied by their parents or carers, are read a Bible Story in the Halls during the 10.30am Communion Sunday Service. Everyone goes into church at the time of the Communion (except on 1st December [Christingle] & 29th December and 30th March [Mothering Sunday])

"WEDNESDAY WALK-IN"

The Church is open on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month from 10.00am to 12 Noon. It is for everyone and is a community initiative which aims to open the church building which is a warm, welcoming space. It is a lovely sociable, friendly and enjoyable event; refreshments are available. **EVERYBODY WELCOME**

BIBLE STUDY

Also, at 10.00am, in the Lower Vestry the 2nd Wednesday of each month, there is Bible Study. **EVERYBODY WELCOME**

OPEN SATURDAYS IN CHURCH

The Church is open on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9.30am to 12 Noon; Morning Prayer is said at 10.00am.

ST BARNABAS ACTIVITIES & ORGANISATIONS

The St Barnabas Mothers' Union meets regularly throughout the year
Contact: Janice Clarke (020 8661 1016); [See also Page xx]

For details of **Scouts, Cubs & Beavers** linked to St Barnabas:
www.scouts.org.uk/groups/10011871?loc=SM1%204RY&slug=5th-Sutton-%28St.-Barnabas%29

For details of **Guides, Brownies & Rainbows** linked to St Barnabas:
Contact:- Zöe Crimmings 07740 704068

Additional notices can also be found at www.churchinsutton.net/news.htm



THE REVEREND DAVE BILLIN WRITES

"Spin the wheel" said the TV game show host, triggering events over which the contestants had no control. Similarly, our lives are affected by events that we cannot control; but though we cannot control the events, we can and should manage our response.

My previous letter mentioned my response to my heart attack and the treatments that followed. I decided that rather than taking several months off sick and then returning to ministry for only a few more months before the time came for me to retire, I should resign at once. I imagine my sudden departure took you by surprise.

Certain people's roles become more burdensome when there is no vicar, and I am sorry about that. The churchwardens have to find stand-in ministers for the services, and someone has to choose the hymns. The church council will probably have to prepare a Parish Profile document, and perhaps devise wording for a job advert, after a meeting with the Archdeacon.

To some degree every regular worshipper is affected by my departure. In the absence of a vicar, there will be changes from week to week in the manner in which services are led and sermons are preached. And when someone is appointed to replace me, more changes are likely to follow. Change is disconcerting but inescapable.

Looking back, I spoke of change in the first of these letters, written in August 2019. I thanked you for your welcome, and said I wanted to get to know everybody. I wanted us to be better organised, based around people's strengths and skills. And I mentioned the need to tackle the repairs to the buildings and the provision of church toilets. I hoped for the church choir to be re-established.

Some things have changed, some not. We still have no choir, and our organist has retired. The repairs are still incomplete, awaiting full funding, but we have finished the toilets. I remain grateful for the welcome I received at St Barnabas. I now thank you for the many messages of support during my illness.

The wheel of life spins, and we are buffeted by change. I must worship somewhere else, and adapt to active retirement. You must find a way forward, with God's help, without me. Thank you, and God bless you all.

David Billin

18th November 2024

Eternal God, we thank you for the Revd Dave Billin and for our life - together with him in this congregation and community. As he has been a blessing to us, so now bless him as he begins his retirement. Grant him peace and contentment, leisure and good health and a richness of life that comes from knowing you as Creator, Redeemer and Comforter. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

>>>>>>>>

Dave Billin after his licensing service at St Barnabas on 20th June 2019. The special cake with a picture of the East Window was made by Eleanor Holley for the occasion.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

On Monday 18th November, Moria Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, met with the Parochial Church Council and told them of her plans for the future of St Barnabas. She is hopeful that a new vicar will be in place by the middle of 2025.



Official Christmas light switch on
At 4.30pm

Saturday 30th November 2024

Homemade craft stall ~ Pre-loved toys stall
Festive refreshments ~ Fun & games

3.30pm-5pm

St Barnabas Church,
St Barnabas Road, Sutton

RIDE & STRIDE

On Saturday 24th September Michelle and I took part in the annual Ride and Stride event where you are sponsored to visit as many churches as possible in the course of the day. Michelle and I interpreted this event a 'Ride the bus and walk' event (our knees not getting any younger) and we included any place of worship, regardless of religion.

It was a glorious day for an adventure, and off we set from my flat in Cedar Road. We quickly took in the Quaker Meeting House (1) and Synagogue (2) in Cedar Road, the London Shepherd Church (3) near the station, then on to the Sutton Baptist (4), Trinity Methodist (5) and St Nicholas C of E (6) churches. We cut through the High Street to the Salvation Army Church (7) at the bottom, then hopped on the 154 Bus to St Barnabas Road. We walked to the top of the road to Our Lady of the Rosary (8) and then back to St Barnabas (9) for a very welcome cup of coffee and slice of home-made tea loaf.

We then walked via the Welsh Chapel in Lind Road (10) then to the main road for a 407 Bus to Carshalton Ponds. Here we called in at All Saints (11) which was having an open day with several local artists exhibiting their wares. We then walked through the park and up to the station where we passed The Holy Cross Catholic Church (12) and had a quick half lager shandy in the Railway Tavern (it was a warm day after all!).

Leaving the pub, we walked past the West Street Evangelical church (13) and on to Wrythe Green. Nipping into the Sainsburys and buying a sandwich, we then had a picnic lunch on the move whilst on a 151 Bus. Getting off just before the start of Worcester Park High Street, we took in St Matthias Catholic Church (14) and Christ Church with



Ahmadiyya Mosque (19) at South Morden.

It turned out that the mosque was having an open day and so we were invited in for a tour. We had a great guide, very knowledgeable and open to answering all our questions. I loved standing in the main prayer room under the dome and seeing it from the inside. Awesome space. Michelle was fascinated by the proximity to the trains. It turns out that the minaret is actually faux. It was built to disguise the tall chimney which was a remnant from the dairy which had the land previously. It would have cost more money and caused too much interruption to the passing trains to remove the chimney, so they disguised it instead.

At that point, following the impromptu tour, we decided to call it a day on our trip. So, our total was 19 places of worship. We managed to raise sponsorship of around £280 (including gift aid) which will be split between the St. Barnabas Roof Fund and Surrey Churches Preservation Trust. Thanks to all who contributed.

Sally Reed

Editor's Note: Jonathan Leigh (Pearl Essex's nephew) also visited 8 local churches that day. He had been at St Barnabas the previous week and had kindly played the organ that Sunday (and the next Sunday as well!). In grateful thanks for his efforts (both walking and playing the organ), members of the congregation sponsored him, in total, £67 plus Gift Aid.



L – R: Sally Reed,
Michelle Reed and
Jonathan Leigh

SAD ENDING OF THE BUNNIES

In 2018 it was agreed that Eleanor Caple (Ellie) should set up and run the St Barnabas Bunnies on behalf of St Barnabas Church. At the time Eleanor was a nanny but had Fridays free so she was able to start a Toddler and Mum's Group in the 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Scout Hut on Friday mornings from 9.30am. The London Borough of Sutton gave a grant of £600 to help her on her way.

The Group began in July that year and, since that time, it has been very successful, serving the new mum's in the local area. Many were very lonely, tired and struggling with the prospect of looking after a new little one.

The sessions consisted of playing, bubbles, songs and dancing and crafts, often about bunnies, and chattering. Eleanor was helped by a loyal band of ladies from the Church including Sally Bramdaw, Lesley Caple, Sue Davis, Sue Stewart, Beryl Thirtle, Shirley Tillman, Danni Massingham, Rosemary Walsh, Jennie Reed, Iris Clifford and Carol Davison with the help of Peter Brown, Peter Redding and Sheil Bramdaw doing the heavy lifting and cleaning up. Each week there was tea, coffee and homemade cakes which were really popular. Eleanor even kept the Bunnies running through Lockdown with Zoom activities.

However, recently Eleanor had the opportunity of working full time at a nursery which was an offer she could not turn down so she was no longer able to run The Bunnies. As there was no one else suitable, of the right age with the right skills, unfortunately, the Bunnies has had to shut.

On 20th September the last session for The Bunnies was held with



a free session for everyone. Over 30 Mums came bearing gifts and cards for Eleanor, including flowers, a Bunnies' mug, photos and a token. The volunteers were presented with a pot plant or chocolates from the Mums and Sue Davis made one of her fabulous cakes.



The messages in the cards showed how much all the Mums had appreciated The Bunnies and included the following comments: *To all the volunteers at St Barnabas, thank you for all the kindness, cakes and play. Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication. You have created such a special community at St Barnabas Bunnies. It's helped get me out of the house during the early days with a new baby, and has been the highlight of the week for me and the boys! We've made lovely friends here and feel part of the community. Thank you for everything: the hot coffee, the delicious cakes, for holding the baby so I can pop to the loo! And for all your support and kindness. Thank you so much for running such a wonderful, friendly group over the years. I've been lucky enough to come to the group with both boys from the start. I'll remember many of the sessions with fond memories and will miss coming and seeing you all. Fridays were always fun. Thank you so much for everything. You made Fridays so fun by looking after one child so I could play with the other one.*

We all wish Eleanor well in her new full-time position after six glorious years with The Bunnies.



BEETLE DRIVE AND FISH & CHIPS

On Saturday 21st September, St Barnabas Church held a Beetle Drive and Fish and Chips Evening in aid of the St Barnabas Roof Fund. 34 adults and children attended and a jolly good time was had by one and all. There were whoops of excitement when a 6 was thrown for a body and a 5 for a head and, of course, it was difficult to get six 3's for the legs!!



At the end of each game the highest scorer on each table moved clockwise and the lowest scorer moved anticlockwise which gave everyone a chance to meet other people.

At six o'clock on the dot, Sally and Sheil Bramdaw came in with the fish and chips from the Chip Inn in Westmead Road.

After the meal, the raffle was drawn, after which another two games were completed by those who did not have to put children to bed!

Thank you, Sally Bramdaw and your helpers for organizing a wonderful social occasion, the result of which raised £244 for the Roof Fund.

READING THE BIBLE

Although there was no priest available to take the Morning Service on 27th October, as it was Bible Sunday the Revd Anne Doerr, Area Dean arranged for our churchwarden, Eleanor Holley, to read from notes for a sermon prepared by the Bible Society.

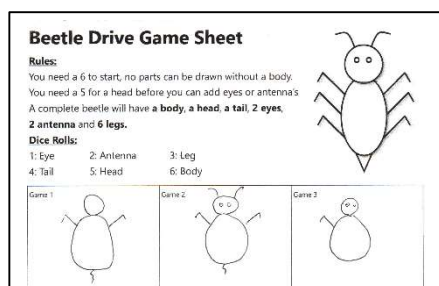
The sermon was based on the second reading that day ([2 Timothy, 3. 14–4.5](#)) when Paul urged Timothy to remain faithful to the teachings he had learned, some from infancy. It's likely that those truths had been passed down to him by his grandmother in the same way as the Christian teachings are passed down to many of us today.

Not all of us are called to preach from a pulpit, but we can all share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others in some capacity. In fact, one of the most effective ways of sharing Jesus with others is simply by opening our homes to them and eating a meal together. Others might find opportunities to share about God in a sports club, at the school gate or in our workplace. In our country, we are blessed in that we can meet openly in our places of worship without fear of being shut down or persecuted in some way. Sadly, this is not the case elsewhere in the world

The word of God is described ([Hebrews, 4.12](#)) as being 'alive and active'; we can read the same passage a number of times, yet the Holy Spirit can illuminate something different to us each time we read it.

The Bible says, 'All scripture is God-breathed' but how do we deal with parts that we disagree with or don't understand? Do we simply ignore them or do we grapple with their context and meaning? Reading the Bible in community, such as a Bible Study group can be an excellent way of going deeper into God's word, as it provides us with the opportunity to learn from one another and ask difficult questions.

At St Barnabas, there is a Bible Study Group which meets monthly at 10.00am in the Lower Vestry on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Please feel free to take part if you are able to.



A TAIZÉ SERVICE

On the evening of Wednesday 2nd October Patricia Butler led a Taizé Service in the Chancel in St Barnabas Church arranged by the Mothers' Union which was attended by 15 people.

Patricia has attended several week and fortnightly retreats in the Taizé Community in France, even with her children and enjoys this type of worship.

The Taizé Community was started by Brother Roger from Switzerland during the Second World War. Taizé became a place for sheltering Jews and others fleeing from the Nazis.

The Chancel was lit with candles, there were readings, prayers and chanting and times of silence for reflection plus piano Taizé music played by Marilyn Curtis. The service was very peaceful, reflective, spiritual, meditative and a welcome escape from the hubbub of every day life.

A BUSY WEEKEND

The weekend of 12th & 13th October turned out to be a busy one.

MOTHERS' UNION ENROLLMENT

On the Saturday morning Elizabeth Chandler was enrolled as a member of St Barnabas Mothers' Union Branch by Father John Francis at the beginning of the Southwark Diocesan Council meeting held at All Saints' Church, Hatcham Park, near New Cross Gate. In the photo Elizabeth (centre) was joined by Comfort Idowu-Fearon, the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocesan President (2nd from the right) and three other members of St Barnabas Mothers' Union Branch.



ST BARNABAS HARVEST SUPPER

In the early evening, St Barnabas Church held its Annual Harvest Supper in the Church Halls. Eleanor Holley, Jennie Reed, Sue Davis and Sue Stewart put on a lovely harvest meal of jacket potatoes with various fillings and accompaniments, plus a variety of desserts all donated by members of the congregation.



Sally Bramdaw compiled a wonderful harvest quiz which was won by Helen Reed's table. There was also a harvest colouring competition, which was won by Jade Holley (pictured here with her daughter, Luna holding the winning colouring). There was also a raffle.

A very enjoyable social event which raised £365.37 for the Roof Fund.

ST BARNABAS HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On the Sunday morning it was Harvest Festival. The service was taken by the Revd Mel Wynn from Springfield Church, Roundshaw. Sally Reed had made a wonderful harvest display. Mel brought along visual aids for her talk to illustrate the parable of not storing your treasures in barns. The harvest gifts donated were taken to the Sutton FoodBank.



HAND SIGNS FOR THE COMMANDMENTS

On Sunday 20th October in "Bible Stories for Children", they learnt an easy way to learn the Ten Commandments by counting on their fingers. Then, at the end of the morning service, they showed the congregation who joined in with them.



1 2 3 4 5 (hold up 5 fingers then put hand over eyes)

1. There is only one true God.
2. Never bow down to anything except the one true God.
3. Watch your words especially when you use God's name.
4. Stop and go to church.
5. Honour your Father and your Mother and any other adults in authority.



6. Do not murder



7. Do not commit adultery.
(Marriage is for 2 [on the right];
it doesn't involve those on the left)



8. Do not steal.
(in some lands
they cut off thumbs)



9. Do not lie.
(5 [left] is not 4 [right]
& 4 [right] is not 5 [left])



10. Do not be greedy and
want other people's
things.

THE TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (END OF LIFE) BILL

The Bishop of Southwark sent this letter on 25th October.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you during my convalescence[#] in advance of a Private Members Bill which is due to be debated in the House of Commons at the end of November. The contents of the Bill have yet to be published, but its intention will require amendment of the Suicide Act 1961 to allow for medical assistance in meeting a patient's request for death. We understand that the focus will be on the terminally ill. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, and the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations have made a joint declaration against the Bill. A similar Bill introduced in the House of Lords in July was opposed by a range of Christian leaders and by those of other faiths. Bishops in other dioceses have been writing to their people in similar terms.

The Bill's promoters wish to relieve acute suffering in terminal illness. Others want provisions extended to cover chronic suffering. These are both laudable aims worthy of serious and informed discussion. For others again, this is about the autonomy of the individual and a desire to extend the realm of personal choice as end of life approaches. This too raises important philosophical and theological questions. The issues involved are hugely emotive whichever side of the debate one is on and where the topic comes up, it is beholden on us as Christians to conduct ourselves graciously and with courtesy, listening carefully to people's stories and experience.

While individual Anglicans undoubtedly weigh matters differently, the Church of England itself does oppose assisted dying/suicide and in the General Synod has voted overwhelmingly twice against the practice in 2012 and in 2022.

Additionally, as yet, little consideration has been given to the impact of assisted dying legislation on the medical profession.

My concern is two-fold. The first is that issues of life itself and of care in dying are insufficiently addressed in these debates. Palliative care (a medical approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness) relies heavily on the charitable sector in this country. Indeed, the Hospice Movement with which I have been closely associated for many years is chronically underfunded but a wonderful example of expert medical provision and loving care extended to those coming to terms with their mortality (as well as to their nearest and dearest) who are seeking ultimately a dignified dying. In Southwark we give thanks for the pioneer work in this area by Dame Cicely Saunders who founded St Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham. Hospice UK found in 2017 that 100,000 individuals died without palliative care who would otherwise have benefitted from it. We need more investment and research in palliative medicine. We fear that an option of assisted dying will reduce this priority.

Secondly, where assisted dying/suicide has been introduced in other jurisdictions, the provisions for this have expanded over time. In Oregon, the list of illnesses which may apply now includes arthritis and diabetes, neither of which are usually terminal. Several other places include poor mental health as a reason.

I believe that it should be recognised that assisted dying will have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable in our society. Those who can afford high quality care and/or have caring supportive families will be less likely to consider this option. Those whose families have neglected them or who implicitly or directly pressure them for venal reasons will be vulnerable to the message that their life should end. Women are disproportionately vulnerable to coercive relationships.

In Oregon in 1998, 12% of those surveyed and availing themselves of assisted dying reported that they felt themselves to be a burden. In 2023, this figure was 43%.

Should you wish to raise these or any other matters with your Member of Parliament - and I encourage you to do so – you can do so by identifying their name and contact details at <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

You may wish to express support for the Bill. Please remember if doing so, not to indicate that such a position represents the Church of England but your personal position.

Please contact your Area Bishop or, while I am convalescing[#], my Chaplain, the Revd Dr Alun Ford, if these matters raise pastoral issues for you.


Regardless of where your deliberation takes you, please commit everything to prayer and know that you are being held in prayer, not least that as you consider what it means to minister to the sick and to prepare the dying for their death, you would better know the God who accompanies us through death and into resurrection and new life.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8, vv 38 & 39)

Comfort one another with these words.

May God bless you,



The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun,
The Bishop of Southwark

See Parish Pump, page 28



RONALD McDONALD HOUSES

As part of Mothers' Union outreach work, I help with Tea at Two, going to Evelina Children's Hospital Neonatal Ward (next to St Thomas') about once every six weeks, taking homemade cakes to the parents and siblings of the premature babies and having a chat with them. As many of them come from far away, even from as far away as Glasgow on 30th October, they can stay at the Ronald McDonald House very near to the hospital whilst their child is very ill or their baby very premature. We are often told by the parents about how good and helpful the Ronald McDonald Houses are.

On 30th October, some of the volunteers had the opportunity to visit the Ronald McDonald house for the Evelina. The idea of these houses started in 1974 in Philadelphia, USA and they were originally funded by McDonald's. The late Queen Mother opened the first Ronald McDonald house in the UK and Catherine, Princess of Wales has visited the Evelina house. There are now 15 such houses in the UK, four of which are in London.



The house for Evelina was opened in 2016. It is built on land which is part of Lambeth Palace. There are three floors and 59 rooms for parents and children, three of which have facilities for the disabled including one with a hoist. There is a large playroom downstairs for children to play, each floor



has two kitchen/dining rooms, with shared fridges and freezers



with separate compartments and laundry rooms.

It is free to stay in the house but no meals are provided. However, milk from two farms, eggs,

foodbank food and any food not eaten at Gregg's is donated to the families. The Queen Mothers' Clothing Guild also donate clothes.



The cost of running the houses, well over £600,000 a year, is paid for by corporate donations plus donations by families who have stayed there. Even patients with a longterm illness are allowed to visit with their parents and family if they are given a medical certificate by the hospital. However, if there are too many people needing to stay near the hospital, they are put in Gassiot House which is paid for by the NHS.



The one thing that really struck me was the caring, loving and empathetic manner of the staff helping the parents who are going through such difficult times. Working there is a real vocation. Just before we arrived, they were supporting a family whose child had just died. It is so uplifting to realise that, in unknown places, such love and care is happening.

As Kelly, our guide and employee said, "The hospital takes care of the babies, but Ronald McDonald takes care of the families"

Janice Clarke

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 10th November the church was full to the rafters with Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides and Brownies all with their flags, plus the usual congregation for the Remembrance Sunday Service.



The church had been beautifully decorated by Sally Reed, especially the Chancel and even the children had painted paper plates with poppies which were displayed in the Memorial Chapel. The service was taken by the Revd Charles Cotton who preached about what makes people good, kind and generous. He quoted from St John's Gospel, "Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends", explaining that Jesus laid down his life for us so that we can be forgiven and share in everlasting life.



Wreaths were laid at the high altar by representatives of the Church, the Scouts and the Guides and there were even poppies on the fence of the Memorial Garden in the church drive.



At the end of the service, after the flags had been paraded to the back of the Church, the Revd Charles Cotton said the following prayer which he had used in the chapel of the House of Commons (see next page).

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Holdfast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

In the evening, the Trinity United Reformed Church hosted a performance of "The Armed Man", a Mass for Peace by Sir Karl Jenkins, sung by The Trinity Festival Choir, which included Cathy Brown, and at which some of our congregation were present. Again, Trinity Church was really full. It was one of the best performances of this familiar piece that I have ever heard. There were drums and two trumpets, a young girl cellist playing a solo and a saxophonist playing a jazz version of Dido's Lament by Henry Purcell, plus the talented organist, Mark Laffin. The work was particularly poignant with everyone's thoughts on Ukraine and Gaza and everyone's longing for Peace in the World. Again, the evening ended with the prayer "Go forth into the world in peace".

At the end of the service there was a retiring collection for The Disasters Emergency Committee and The Middle East Humanity Appeal. The majority of the funds will go to Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank where millions of people are displaced and desperately need humanitarian support.

Janice Clarke

FIRST WORLD WAR CAKE



Following Humphrey Clarke's talk to the Mothers' Union in November about St Barnabas Parish during the First World War, Sue Davis had cooked three cakes from recipes of that time. One was a trench cake which was made and sent to soldiers in the trenches by post in a tin box. How welcome that would have been for those poor young soldiers to have a taste of home.

St Barnabas Church also sent Christmas and Easter Cards to the serving soldiers on the front line and in hospital and some of the grateful thank you letters received were also read out.



1914 Seed Cake
with lemon icing
Very popular treat



1914-1918 War Cake
No butter and no egg

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025
Friday 7 March
A service for everyone!

At the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue, Sutton
at 10.30am

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*

INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242

THE LONGEST YARN

In 2004 Harry Kulkowitz and his son came over from the USA and stayed at Tansy Forster's home in Normandy for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and returned each year for the next 16 years. Harry was even presented to President Obama for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. It was then that Tansy knitted a "topper" for her gate which gave her the idea of knitting and crocheting the whole story of D-Day for the 80th Anniversary.

She advertised on Facebook for fellow knitters to join in with her project. Mostly British individuals, knitting clubs, and postbox knitting bombers but also knitters from Belgium, France, Canada and the USA volunteered and the whole task was completed in nine months.



There are 80 tableaux on display showing the whole D-Day story. Some of the wool used came from the unpicked jumpers of the men who actually took part in D-Day.

When I heard about the exhibition on Breakfast Television, I thought I must see it and admire the women's craftsmanship and knitting. On our third attempt Humphrey and I actually saw the exhibition when the display was in the Royal Garrison Church in Aldershot. The skill of the knitting was astounding, but what struck me most, as it did my daughter, Elizabeth, who saw it in Southwell Minster, was the story of D-Day which I did not know well and it was both very moving and poignant.

On 31st October 2025, to commemorate Remembrance, the Mothers' Union will be showing a film of all 80 tableaux and what each one represents, so if you did not get to see the exhibition this Autumn you can have a chance to admire it. Everyone is invited, so please come along and join us then.

Janice Clarke

REED'S RAMBLINGS

To say 2024 was an eventful year – certainly from a Reed perspective – is something of an understatement. As readers of my previous Ramblings will recall I have always tried to include something with an amusing element but given what has happened in 2024 I will desist from this format to start with in this contribution.

The year started with the two conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East continuing to challenge our belief that good would prevail above evil and that our prayers would be heard by God and that sanity would make the aggressors see sense and the wars would end. Well, this hasn't happened yet and we all despair for the future of God's world.

After elections resulting in two major changes of political control both here in the UK and recently in the USA, I will try to avoid giving my own views on these changes but certainly here in our own country one of the major issues at our general election was what should be done about the NHS. Our own recent experience regarding Jennie's inpatient care in Croydon University Hospital (I still call it the Mayday) has given us an insight into what ails this megalithic organisation. Please don't get me wrong – the treatment and care given by the medical professionals to Jennie cannot be faulted both in ITU and on the recovery ward. However, it became clear to us that the problems that need fixing - certainly in that hospital - are a) shortage of staff; b) bureaucracy and c) bed blocking. Relating to c), but certainly not least, is the lack of provision of what I will call social care both in house and when a patient is discharged. I believe that this problem should be a priority task for the NHS because if addressed meaningfully will result in a health service which is vastly improved.

Turning to the issue of the Archbishop of Canterbury's resignation,

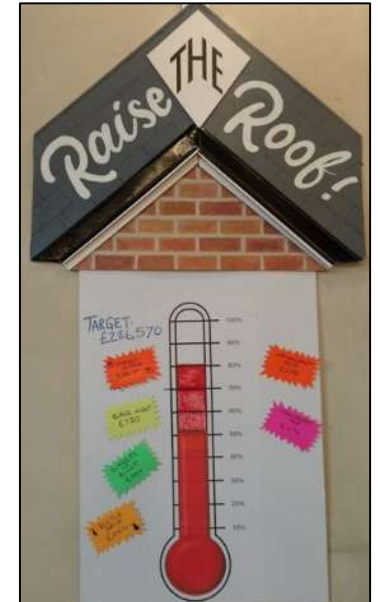
I suggested with tongue in cheek to one of our churchwardens that, given that St Barnabas is looking for a new incumbent and wishing David Billin all the best in his retirement, perhaps, as Justin Welby is now at a loose end, asking if he is available – just joking of course and enough said!

To end, I offer you the thought that, as we approach Christmas, we should not despair but pray to our Lord that with God's help this planet and all its inhabitants will survive the evils of this world, e.g. war, famine, poverty not to mention climate change etc. and that our descendants will prosper.

A Happy & Blessed Christmas to you all, Graham Reed

THE SOUTH VALLEY ROOF – AN UPDATE

I last reported in the summer edition of the Magazine on the progress of fundraising for the urgent major repair of the South Valley Roof of the Church and other sundry important, mainly masonry, repairs needed to the Church. Since then, awards totalling £49,000 have been made by four grant bodies (Marshall's Charity, Garfield Weston Foundation, Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and the Southwark Diocese Buildings for Mission Scheme) and, along with further donations and fundraising events, just over 80% of the target of £286,570 needed has now been reached. Further grants are being sought; donations are still being accepted and fundraising events being arranged. **“Don't despair, we're nearly there!”**



Humphrey Clarke

OUR FAVOURITE PRAYERS

On 27th November, St Barnabas Mothers' Union will be leading Midday Prayers in the Harvard Chapel in Southwark Cathedral. As part of the service, the members have chosen their favourite prayers.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen *(The prayer of Alcoholics' Anonymous, chosen by a member in memory of her late husband.)*

Lord, help me this day to be joyful; to keep the faith and to do the little things, Amen *(Chosen by Marjorie Udall [Aged 97] – a prayer she says each morning to help her carry on.)*

Lord God, we pray for our world that You have created which is being destroyed by war, famine and crime. We ask that Your peace and blessing will rule in it. We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

O God our Father, we are preparing to celebrate the birthday of Your Son, Jesus Christ. While we recall His coming as a baby in a stable in weakness and humility, may we be reminded that, one day, He will come in power and glory. We make this prayer to You through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, Amen *(Both chosen by Cathy Brown)*

My God cannot be overwhelmed. He can never be sunk like an ocean liner or battleship. He can never be annihilated - that was tried once, but the grave lost its grip. He can never be squeezed into a container or locked in a cell. He can never be reached by climbing a building. He can never go missing, fall out of heaven, or be pushed out of earth. He can never be confounded or bewildered. He can never be manipulated into loving because

He is love and His love is constant and inextinguishable. He cannot be made less holy, even by our sins when he makes us one with Him, inhabiting us. He will always be holy and pure, despite being our substitution. He cannot be prised off when holding us and cannot be distracted when hugging us. He does not age or become forgetful, except for in His forgetfulness of love and mercy towards our erring.

God can't cease to be, even when His own creation fails to acknowledge Him and erases Him from the books. History and science books are written by mortals, but God's display of splendour in the skies above, and His handiwork on the earth below irrefutably testify of His skill, intelligence, power and wisdom. Before there was paper, He wrote in rocks and rivers and mountain and trees. His signature is in every animal; domestic and wild. He has inscribed His name on and in every living thing. Nothing grows unless he sustains it. God cannot feel fear because His is manifest peace. He does not worry about what people think of Him, nor does He feel the need to control. He shares His authority with us; with us who are capable of betraying Him! He is not abstract or distant. He is everywhere; occasionally loud but usually quiet. Except, if we strain to hear His kingdom, His realm, we might hear His rejoicing, laughing, dancing and partying; even His weeping. He is a feeling God, full of emotion. He cares deeply about His creation. He lives to meet us in our stillness and quietness, for that is where we come to know His heart is beating, for us and through us.

My God will outlive other gods. And not only that, He has adopted us to live with Him, forever.
Amen

(Chosen by Rosemary Walsh & Pam Green; written by their friend, Rachel and said at the start of Young Mums' Bible Study.)

Circle me Lord, keep strife without, keep peace within.
Circle me Lord, keep fear without, keep trust within.
Circle me Lord, keep evil out, keep good within.
May I walk in the hope of your kingdom.

Fill me with Light and Love
Be with me all through this day
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen *(Chosen by Shirley Tillman)*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen
(Prayer of St Francis of Assisi [Prayer for Peace] chosen by Elizabeth Barnes)

One member, who was a victim of domestic abuse, chose this next prayer. She said that the hardest thing to do as a victim of domestic abuse is to forgive that person who has harmed you. It took her a long time to understand that, in forgiving, we are not excusing or condoning the wrong that has been done to us. We are trusting God to bring justice.

God of mercy, as You have forgiven me, help me to forgive.
I want to live with an open heart, free from bitterness.
Where I have been wronged, I trust you to make things right.
Where I am in pain, I ask You to bring healing.
As I forgive the one who has hurt me,
I choose to let go of anger and resentment.
And with a thankful heart, I walk into freedom,
Amen.



3RD SUTTON (ST BARNABAS) GUIDES NEWS

In National Parliament Week, 18th - 24th November, 3rd Sutton (St Barnabas) Guides invited the Mayor of Sutton, Cllr Colin Stears to join us to help the Guides with a Guiding activity 'Treasury Takeover'.

The girls found out from the Mayor how a council is made up of different departments having to share a budget and how tricky it can be when budget cuts are made. The Guides split into different groups to pull together a pitch of why their departments (Social Services, Highways, Leisure, Frontline Services and Education) shouldn't have their budgets cut. Once the Guides pitched, they then had to vote for which department should take more of a budget cut; unsurprisingly it was agreed on Highways - it doesn't affect the Guides at the moment, really does it!



However, what was a surprise was that Education didn't get any votes for a budget cut which shows that they do value their education!

Great evening with some interesting conversations - well done Guides and thanks to the Mayor who attended....and on his birthday!

Zöe Crimmings

PARISH PUMP

The Bishop of Southwark, The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun was rushed to hospital on the evening of Tuesday 1st October after he was injured when a taxi in which he was travelling, made an emergency stop. He had been attending the installation of the new Area Bishops of Kingston and Woolwich in Southwark Cathedral. Following surgery, he needed a period of convalescence.

Congratulations to Arie Bueno-Mistriotis, aged 6 on the occasion of his baptism on Sunday 6th October by the Revd Steph Nadarajah from Worcester Park. He was supported by his parents, Dimitrios Mistriotis and Lucinda de Campos Bueno (*standing next to him in the photo below*) and his God Parents.



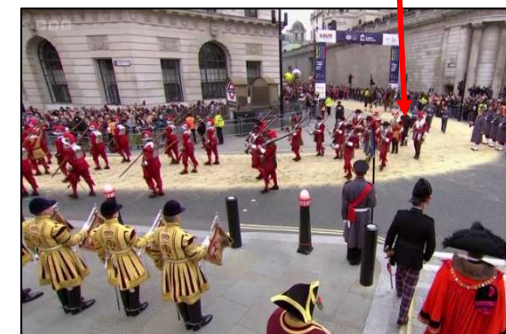
Congratulations to Vanessa and Kevin Philips on the birth of their second child, Benjamin, born on 12th October, weighing 8 lbs 2½ozs, a baby brother for Sebastian. Vanessa brought cake

to church for everyone to celebrate the birth.



Congratulations to Carol Davison who was 76 on 19th October. She brought a lovely cake to church to share with everyone.

Congratulations to Eddie Driver ("Badger" of the 5th Sutton [St Barnabas] Beavers) who took part in the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 9th November as part of his voluntary rôle as a community first responder. He walked in the procession with the Pike Bearers, some of whom were over 80 years of age.



RIP Brenda Richards, former CMS Missionary and Lay Reader and a St Barnabas Churchwarden (1978 - 1984) who died, aged 103, on 15th November at the nursing home in Bognor Regis where she has been living now for several years. Although she moved away from Sutton more than 25 years ago, she always thought of St Barnabas as her church and kept in touch with its news. She was also a long time benefactor of St Barnabas Church. It's always sad when someone like Brenda goes to her deserved eternal rest. One cannot grieve too intensely given over a century of her life but we give thanks to God for her life and especially what she did for St Barnabas over many, many years. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. David Hall remembers that Brenda's mother was a frequent visitor to his mother at the Halls' family home at 25 Sutton Grove. (See Page 32)

MOTHERS' UNION 2025 PROGRAMME

Everyone is welcome to all meetings and events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Mon 2 nd December (11.00am)	MU Diocesan Advent Service at St. John the Evangelist Church, Caterham Valley
Fri 20 th December (12 Noon)	MU Carol Service & Christmas Lunch in St Barnabas Church Halls.
Tue 18 th February (2.00pm)	Missionary in India & Dressing in Saris, a talk by Ann Fernihough in St Barnabas Church Halls
Wed 5 th March (10.00am)	Bring & Buy & Coffee Morning at 6, The Crescent in aid of "Away from it All" (AFIA)
Fri 7 th March (10.30am)	World Day of Prayer Service prepared by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands at the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue
Tues 25 th March (10.00am)	Lady Day Service in the Memorial Chapel, St Barnabas Church
Mon 14 th April (2.00pm)	"Hymns We Love" – a talk on "Thine be the Glory" in the Memorial Chapel, St Barnabas Church
Fri 30 th May (2.00pm)	Agape Meal celebrating a 90 th Birthday & a Diamond Wedding in St Barnabas Church Halls.
Wed 11 th June (8.00pm)	"A Mothers' Union Toolbox", a talk by Liz Pullen, former MU Southwark Diocesan President, at 7 Kings Lane
Sat 21 st June (11.30am)	Diocesan Festival Eucharist Service (including Cathy Brown's recommissioning as a Trustee) In Southwark Cathedral
Sat 19 th July	Summer Outing - Tour of Hampton Court with a Blue Badge Guide
Sat 9 th August (2.00pm)	Mary Sumner Day "Summer of Hope" Cream Tea in St Barnabas Church
Sat 30 th August (10.00am)	Wave of Prayer in St Barnabas Church
Fri 31 st Oct (2.00pm)	"The Longest Yarn" – a film of the depiction of D-Day in 1944 in 80 panels of knitted figures in St Barnabas Church Halls
Bible Study - 2 nd Wed monthly at 10.00am in Lower Vestry, St Barnabas Church	
Midday Prayers - 4 th Wed monthly (ex December) 11.45am – 12.15pm in the Harvard Chapel in Southwark Cathedral	



COME & ENJOY A BURNS NIGHT SUPPER



in
**St Barnabas Church Halls,
St Barnabas Road, Sutton, SM1 4NP**

on
**Saturday 25th January 2025
at 6.30 for 7.00pm**

in aid of the St Barnabas Church Roof Fund



**Not been to a
Burns' Night Supper
before?**



There will be three courses: a Starter (Scotch Broth),
a Main course (Haggis[#], neeps [turnips] & tatties
[mashed potatoes] with whisky cream sauce) &
a Sweet course (Clootie Pudding [steamed pudding with
dried fruit and spices] & Custard).

all served in the traditional Scottish way
with a Piper, the Selkirk Grace and the Address to the Haggis

[#] vegetarian haggis available (advise when booking)

**The evening will also include
Poetry, a Robbie Burns Quiz
and Scottish Cèilidh Dancing**
(the dances will be walked through first)

and a cash raffle



Scottish dress optional

Tickets £20.00 (by cash, cheque or bank transfer)
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please contact either Dorothy or Sue to confirm your
ticket/place by **Sunday 5th January 2025**

Dorothy Hannam - dryhoot@yahoo.co.uk Sue Davis - suedavis0@hotmail.co.uk

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 30th November 3.30 – 5.00pm	Official Christmas Lights Switch On See page 3
Sunday 1st December 10.30am	Children's Society Christingle Service Please bring an orange
Monday 2nd December 11.00am	Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Service at St John the Evangelist Church, Caterham Valley
Tuesday 3rd December 11.30am	Funeral Service of Brenda Richards at St Wilfrid's Church, Ellasdale Road, Bognor Regis
Sunday 8th December 4.00pm (Carols at 5.00pm)	Carol Service preceded by tea & cake in St Barnabas Church
Friday 20th December 12 Noon	Mothers' Union Carol Service in St Barnabas Church Halls.
Wednesday 24th December 4.00pm	Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Service Children can come dressed as a Nativity character.
Thursday 25th December	Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30am
Saturday 25th January 2025 6.30 for 7.00pm	Burns Night Supper in the Church Halls See Page 31
Tuesday 18th February 2025 2.00pm	Missionary in India & Dressing in Saris a talk by Ann Fernihough in St Barnabas Church Halls
Wednesday 5th March 10.00am – 12Noon	Bring & Buy & Coffee Morning for "Away from it All Holidays" at 6, The Crescent
Friday 7th March 2025 10.30am	World Day of Prayer Service at the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue See Page 20
Saturday 22th March 2025 3.30 for 4.00pm	Fish & Chip Supper in aid of The Rivers Trust in St Barnabas Church Halls

FROM THE ST BARNABAS' REGISTERS

BAPTISM

6 October 2023

Arie Bueno-Mistriotis



ORGANISATIONS MEETING AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALLS

St Barnabas Pre School

Contact:- Phone: 020 8661 8927 or email
stbarnabaspreschoolsutton@gmail.com

Kumon (Maths & English classes)

Contact:- Yumna Joubaily (07941 265988)

Pilates

Contact:- Lorraine Thurlow (07958 356035)

Yoga

Contact:- Carly O'Connor (07852 986922)

Model Railway Club

Contact:- Dave Smith (01342 712078)

The Bradley School of Chess

Contact:- Wendy Bradley w.bradley5@live.com

Wishing you a blessed Christmas

from
the Churchwardens
and
the St Barnabas
Parochial Church
Council.

Whatever your age, why
not get out your crayons
and colour in this
Christmas Scene

