



# St Barbara's Newsletter

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

June–August 2017

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## Encouraging Good Neighbours

**St Barbara's are funding an exciting new venture called the Good Neighbours Project. Jessica Moore is the newly-appointed co-ordinator for the Earlsdon area and she told us more:**

### ***What is the Good Neighbours Project? How did it start?***

It's a new project in Coventry, supported by a partnership between HOPE Coventry, Age UK Coventry and Together for Change. The project is running in different neighbourhoods across the city. St Barbara's decided it would offer financial support to start it up in Earlsdon and Chapelfields. It links volunteer befrienders to those older people who would benefit from a little extra friendship because they are at risk of being isolated.



Jessica Moore

### **Who can get involved?**

Anyone who can offer friendship is welcome as a volunteer, we carry out DBS police checks and start with an introductory session but no experience is necessary. A befriender is not designed to replace carers and does not provide personal care. The friendship relationship is a chance for 30-60 minutes a week to enjoy time together in ways that seem natural and comfortable, maybe having a cup of tea, going for a short walk, linking in to an existing social activity.

### **What's your role in it?**

I'm the coordinator for Earlsdon and Chapelfields. I link up with many groups and organisations in these neighbourhoods to let people know about the befriending offer, so that they might benefit from it themselves or mention it to someone they know. I'm hoping that through these conversations I can also encourage people to become volunteer befrienders. I'm also responsible for matching volunteers to those who would like a befriender and I arrange their first introductory meeting. Both the older person and volunteer can feedback whether they feel that they will be able to get on. Once a volunteer has started their weekly visits I'm their constant point of contact for any queries.

### **How are suitable older people identified? Can people refer themselves to the service?**

People can refer themselves: either by phoning 0756309020904 or emailing [goodneighboursearlsdon@gmail.com](mailto:goodneighboursearlsdon@gmail.com). Referrals also come via GPs, NHS community teams and churches.

### **What do you see as the benefits of volunteering?**

Current volunteers tell us they like the fact they only commit between 30-60 minutes each week which is manageable; they feel good because they are helping someone to connect socially; and they enjoy building a friendship. They like having fun together!

### **How can people volunteer?**

Anyone who's interested is welcome to get in touch with me and talk about the project, on 07763 0908 0460. There's also on-line information available at [facebook.com/goodneighbourscoventry](https://facebook.com/goodneighbourscoventry).

Alison Manning



## Thought for the Month: Shared Holidays

Going away on holiday with friends can be a risky business.

Many years ago I remember going away with a friend to Greece. From the moment we set off for the airport I began to realise that what constituted a relaxing holiday for him was quite different from what it meant to me. For me, relaxing meant getting to the airport several hours ahead of the check-in time; for him, it meant cutting it as fine as he possibly could. Somehow we made it to the plane, but by then my nerves were frazzled. On arrival, I wanted to plan out each day's itinerary; he wanted no plans – just to do everything on the spur of the moment. We ended up agreeing to go our own ways and meet up in the evenings for a meal. It was a great holiday but not quite what I had expected.

Shared holidays with other families can be high-risk too. At their wonderful best, all the children play among themselves, and the adults can sit back and relax. At other times, parenting styles, values and attitudes towards money, food, discipline, bedtimes, can make things more challenging. One family may like to eat out every meal; the other may prefer meals in. One family may like long walks or adventurous activity; the other may just want to relax and snooze. Reaching a compromise that can suit everyone can be difficult.

By far our best shared holiday occurred when we went with some friends to the Lake District. We stayed in a converted one-room barn adjoining their larger cottage. They insisted on keeping the inter-connecting door open so that we could come and go at all times, enjoy-



ing the spaciousness and comfort of their cottage, sitting down for meals with them whenever we wanted, but having our own space when we wanted it too. The generosity of their hospitality overwhelmed us. They put up with our family idiosyncrasies, and genuinely enjoyed our company. It was great. It also gave

me a rare glimpse into one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith.

In June we celebrate Trinity Sunday, the day we celebrate that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is beyond our imagining and understanding to fully comprehend what it must mean for God to be three in one, but one thing we can know. God is a God of relationships, a God who hospitably welcomes us into his "space". A God who delights in loving, serving, caring for and enjoying the company of others. God could be self-sufficient – totally complete in his internal relationship - but instead, like our friends in the Lakes, he delights in inviting us in, to share his space, to sit down at his table, to enjoy his company.

We may not fully grasp what it means for God to be three in one, but we can at least wonder and delight, and accept his invitation to sit down at his table. He may prove to be the best holiday companion we can ever have.

*Rev Tulo Raistrick*

Why not visit [www.stbarbarasearlsdon/talks](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon/talks) to read more reflections on faith and life.

### Toilet-twinning Update

The last couple of months have seen a great focus in Earlsdon in raising money for communities in Africa who lack access to basic sanitation and clean water.

St Barbara's Church has raised over £800, and in partnership with Earlsdon Primary School, well over £2,300 has been raised. This amounts to nine schools in Africa having toilet blocks and clean running water, where before children were having to defecate in the bushes and walk upwards of five miles to a river to collect dirty water.

This is a fantastic achievement and a huge thank you to all of you who have contributed. Our next goal is encouraging all our local shops and businesses to toilet-twin too!

Biscuits & pots made by Earlsdon Primary School in aid of Toilet-Twinning





## WHAT'S ON AT ST BARBARA'S

### Every Sunday

#### 8.00am Holy Communion

This is a quiet, meditative service which takes place in the beautiful side-chapel inside St Barbara's Church. The service lasts about 40 minutes and is attended by between 10-15 people each week.

#### 10.00am Parish Communion

This is our main Sunday service, lasting just over an hour, attended by adults and children of all ages. We sing hymns and modern songs, led by an excellent choir, there is a thought-provoking talk, and time for prayer.

It is attended by about 100 people each week and children are especially welcome. We have groups that cater for pre-school, primary and secondary school ages, that meet during the service.

### Every Month

**All Age Service 11th June 10am**

**2nd July 10am**

**10th Sept 10am**

An informal 50 minute service with drama and music, ideal for all ages.

**Buzz @ St B's: 18th June 5pm**

**16th July 5pm**

**20th Aug 5pm**

**17th Sept 5pm**

This is a fun, creative and interactive service for families involving lively songs, craft, drama and other activities. It lasts 40 minutes, followed by sandwiches and cake.

**Soul Space 11th June 6.30pm**

**9th July 6.30pm**

**13th Aug 6.30pm**

**10th Sept 6.30pm**

A simple 35min service of silence, meditation, prayer and reflection, allowing one's soul to breathe.

### Mid-week Services

**Prayers and Bears:** Every Wednesday in term-time at 9.30am at Earlsdon Methodist Church.

A service for the under-fives and their parents/carers, followed by snacks and crafts

**Holy Communion: Every Wednesday at 11.30am**

This is a small, intimate communion service. It provides a space of quiet and stillness in the middle of the week to pray and reflect, and receive communion.

### From the Registers

#### Funerals

Jonathan Parkes (21st February)

Sandra Duff (16th May)

Pauline Anslow (23rd May)

### Social Events

**11 Jun: Tea & Scones at the Vicarage (3-5pm)**

Come and join us for summer tea and scones and games for children on the church lawn

**Fellowship Group** (Every fortnight in Earlsdon Methodist at 2.15pm)

**7 Jun:** Tim Sheasby at the piano

**21 Jun:** Coach Trip

**5 Jul:** Stress Management

**19 Jul:** Cream Tea & "Bring & Auction"

**6 Sept:** How I became a Minister (David Sutcliffe)

### Special Services

**4 Jun 10am: Pentecost Sunday**

Come and join us for this celebration of the birthday of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**11 Jun 10am: Trinity Sunday**

Our All Age Service explores who God is and how he can help us make a difference in the world. Do join us.

**2 July 6.30pm: Choral Evensong**

You are warmly invited to this beautiful service of psalms, prayers and readings, led by our excellent choir.

### Film nights

7pm for 7.15pm

**1 Jun:** Miracle on the Hudson (12A)

**6 Jul:** The Intern (12)

**3 Aug:** La La Land (12A)

**7 Sep:** The 100 Foot Journey (PG)

**10 Jun: Concert in Aid of Emmaus** (7pm St Barbara's Church)

### Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

**Prayer Breakfasts** Saturdays 8am

**3 Jun:** Hearsall Baptist Church

**1 July:** St Mary Magdalene

**5 Aug:** All Souls Catholic Church

**2 Sept:** Earlsdon Methodist

## Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?

Feel free to email Christine on cob27@mac.com or telephone the vicar on 024 7501 7889. Prayers can be said in church services or confidentially—just let us know.

## A Morning of Wonder

On Easter Sunday, at 5.30am, a group of 60 people, including over 20 children, gathered together outside St Barbara's Church, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We began around a bonfire before entering the church by candle-light and rejoicing with bells, tambourines and song at the breaking of the dawn. It was a joyous and wonder-filled morning, capped off by a cooked breakfast for all in the vicarage. Photo: Leanne Jones



## Contacts

**Vicar** Rev'd Tulo Raistrick

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tulo@raistricks.com

**Hall Bookings** Mrs Elaine Parnell  
024 7671 5583

**Choir Director** Mrs Katherine Owen  
01926 851568

**Organist** Mr Norman Owen  
01926 851635

For more information go to

[www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk)

## St Barbara's May Day Festival Fete

A great time was had by all at the Church May Day Fete, coinciding with the Earlsdon Festival. Crowds flocked to St Barbara's and consumed copious hot dogs, sandwiches and cakes, as well as browsing a variety of stalls. Even the Morris Men paid a visit. The cake theme continued outside with the Beavers' cake stall and sweets from St Barbara's pre-



Photo: Alison Manning

school. Various organisations were represented, such as the WI, Global Care and the ever-popular model railway display. The children organised games to test skills like spooning marbles into a pot, guessing teddy's location, and matching toilets to raise money for toilet-twinning. There was an opportunity to view the Millennium tapestry which charts Coventry's recorded history from 1016 till 2016 in a series of fascinating tapestry panels.

Photo: Anna Stevens

Alison Manning

## Children Lead the Way

"It was awesome!" This was the response of Libby (7 years old) to being part of a group of more than 15 children who led our All Age Service last month. Aged from 3 to 14, the children took the entire service, from the welcome, the notices and the introducing of the hymns to the talk and prayers. Tulo, the vicar, gave one sentence of introduction at the beginning, but otherwise it was a service entirely child-led. The children performed some drama, taught the congregation a Bible verse using sign language, and sang a song from South Africa whilst dancing round the church. The older children gave great feedback on what they had been doing and learning in a new church group for secondary school children, and the younger children led the church in prayer, including demonstrating how to make a prayer spiral using a paper plate, a pen and scissors.

"I really enjoyed it, especially the drama and dancing," said Libby. "We held up road signs to show that Jesus is our 'God-Nav' - He shows us the way. I also liked it that afterwards everyone told us how much they had enjoyed it." Indeed they did. We look forward to having more children-led services in the future.



Photo: Alison Manning