



St Barbara's Newsletter

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

December 2017

No. 459

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Celebrating Christmas at St Barbara's

I whisper it softly, but Christmas will soon be upon us. Some of you may have already started making Christmas cakes, buying the party dress for the works' Christmas do, and drawing up your Christmas card list. Others of you may be quietly hoping to get to Christmas Eve without too much further disturbance!

Well, however you are feeling about Christmas, do make a point to put in the diary and come along to one of our Christmas services this year. We would be delighted to welcome you. Here are the details of all our Christmas services:



Christingle Service (3rd December; 10am)

A great way to begin December's build-up to Christmas, come and join us for our All Age Christingle Service, as we think about the meaning of Christmas using oranges, ribbons and sweets as visual aids!



Christmas Craft Workshops and Tree-decorating Service (10th December; 4pm-5.30pm)

This is a wonderful fun-filled and special service for families. We begin with craft workshops that help to tell the Christmas story and finish with gathering around the Christmas tree to hang decorations and sing carols. Suitable for all ages, we finish with tea and mince pies!

Christmas Carol Service (17th December; 6.30pm)

Come and join us for a beautiful service of carols and readings, led by our excellent choir.

Christmas Eve Crib Service (24th December; 5.30pm)

Our most popular service of the year, we begin the start of Christmas proper with this service of carols, drama and prayers, suitable for young and old alike. Come early to get a seat!

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion (24th December; 11.30pm)

This is a beautiful service with which to usher in Christmas Day, as we celebrate the birth of Christ among us.

Christmas Day Communion Service (25th December; 10am)

Suitable for all ages, come and join us for a joyful celebration on this special day. The service will be finished by 11am, so no need to worry about that Christmas roast!



Photos: Alison Manning & Simon Harper

Prayers and Bears Christmas Special

For the first three Wednesdays of December, join up with lots of other parents, grand-parents, carers and young children at Prayers and Bears to enjoy the wonder of the Christmas story, re-told for the under-5s.

Prayers and Bears meets every Wednesday in school terms at Earlsdon Methodist Church at 9.30am.

Thought for the Month: Setting Time Aside

Is it crackers? Mince pies?
Maybe singing carols or even
that dodgy jumper you can't
quite believe is real? What's
your favourite part of Christ-
mas?

Maybe it changes every year,
maybe you love it all from start
to finish or maybe you get to a
certain point and feel like you've
had enough tinsel or Brussel
sprouts!



member God's people throughout
history who were waiting for God's
promised saviour, Jesus, to arrive
at Christmas. To be the light of
the world who defeats darkness.
As they do this they acknowledge
that waiting is an important part of
life. They try to find moments to
slow down in the busyness of life,
to be thankful for those things that
we sometimes take for granted
and to pray for people who still find
themselves in moments of darkness.

If I had to pick my favourite part of Christmas, I
would pick the Advent calendar. Sometimes it might
feel like the countdown to Christmas gets longer
and longer every year, but no matter how early the
shops start playing Christmas music somehow we
can often feel rushed at Christmas time and it might
even go past in a whirl of present wrapping, school
nativity plays and putting up decorations before
we've really got time to catch our breath.

If you have an Advent calendar this year, maybe
you could have a brief pause when you open each
door to be thankful for something each day. If you
are opening your calendar with family or friends,
you could ask them what they are thankful for. I
hope you enjoy celebrating Advent this year.
Maybe you'll find, like I do, that setting time aside to
celebrate Advent makes Christmas even more spe-
cial.

Rev Charles Higgins

The season of Advent is celebrated for four weeks
before Christmas and comes from a word that
means 'arrival'. During these weeks Christians re-

Why not visit www.stbarbarasearlsdon/talks to read
more reflections on faith and life.

Charles on Placement

Charles Higgins has been on placement at St Barbara's. We caught up
with him before his last day in November.

What brought you to St Barbara's? I've been doing "on the job" training as
a vicar since 2015, based mostly in Rugby for the last couple of years.
I've spent the last two months in Earlsdon to get some experience of a
different church and a different community. I've been working with Tulo
and I've tried to get to know the Church and the local area as much as I
can, which has involved leading and helping at services, meeting lots of
different people, going into the local school, and lots more.

What have you enjoyed most about St B's? The people! I've really en-
joyed meeting lots of different people, who have made me feel really wel-
come and have been very encouraging as I've been learning and doing
lots of new things.

What will you take away from your time here? I would say that one of the best things that happens in the
St B's services are regular times for quiet and a bit of space. Sometimes, even church services can feel
rushed and there aren't that many times in our day to day lives when we have space and time marked out
to reflect and think. I think it's something really valuable that the church can offer to people and hopefully
I'll be able to incorporate that in things I do in the future!

What are you doing next? Next, I'm heading back to Rugby to complete my training with the church there,
and then hopefully become a vicar in a church later in 2018. Thank you to everyone who has made my
time in Earlsdon so good!



Photo & Interview: Alison Manning



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 3rd Dec 10am

14th Jan 10am

11th Feb 10am

11th Mar 10am

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

Buzz @ St B's: 10th Dec 4pm

21st Jan 5pm

18th Feb 5pm

18th Mar 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 14th Jan 6.30pm

11th Feb 6.30pm

11th Mar 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

Baptisms

Kate & Albert McGrory (29th Oct)

Funerals

Dorothy Ward (1st Sept)

Winnifred Bray (20th Oct)

Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

Prayer Breakfasts Saturdays 8am

2 Dec: St Mary Magdalene

6 Jan: All Soul's Church

3 Feb: Earlsdon Methodist

3 Mar: Hearsall Baptist

United Services (Sundays 6.30pm)

3 Dec 6.30pm: Advent Service (Hearsall Baptist)

21 Jan 7pm: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (St Barbara's)

2 Mar 7pm Women's World Day of Prayer (Earlsdon Methodist)

Lent Lunches (12 noon-1.30pm)

20 Feb: St Barbara's

Christmas Services

Details for all these services on pg 1

3 Dec 10am: Christingle Service

10 Dec 4-5.30pm Christmas Craft Workshop Tree-Decorating Service

17 Dec 6.30pm Carol Service

24 Dec 5.30pm Christmas Eve Crib Service

24 Dec 11.30pm Christmas Eve Mid-night Communion

25 Dec 10am Christmas Day Family Communion

Special Services in 2018

4th Feb 6.30pm: Choral Evensong

A beautiful service of psalms, prayers and readings.

Social Events

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

13 Dec: Carol Service

7 Mar: Speaker tbc

No meetings in January & February

Film nights

7pm for 7.15pm

7 Dec: Beauty and the Beast (PG)

4 Jan: Passengers (PG)

1 Feb: The Boss Baby (PG)

1 Mar: Goodbye Christopher Robin (PG)

Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?

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

A Morning to Remember

St Barbara's was delighted to host the Remembrance Sunday service again this year. Before the service, in the autumn sunshine, the Pipe band led representatives from the Royal British Legion No 4 branch, the Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in a procession from Palmerston Road (the original site of the St Barbara's church).



The service itself had rousing hymns as well as space for reflection, including focussing on photos of soldiers from World War One, laying wreaths on the War Memorial and a sermon giving insights on the different types of remembrance. During this talk the younger children had their own activities pondering on peace and decorating poppy biscuits and candle holders. For all, it was a moving and special service, as we remembered all those who

have died as a result of war in the last century.

Photo & Article: Alison Manning

Contacts

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For more information go to

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

A Harvest Celebration

On 6th October over 350 children from Earlsdon Primary School walked up Earlsdon Street carrying tins of food, tea bags, biscuits, and much more. Their destination? St Barbara's Church—for a joyful celebration of Harvest. The children from every year group contributed fantastic songs, poems and readings. And Jessica Moore from the Good Neighbours Project spoke of the needs of older people, and how the incredibly generous gifts from children and parents would be distributed amongst some of the isolated elderly in the city. Rhona Forde, headteacher of Earlsdon Primary, said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed their harvest service at St Barbara's. It was a super opportunity for our whole



school to meet together in the church, celebrate harvest and learn how to be a good neighbour."

A Memorable Milestone

A great milestone was celebrated recently by two longstanding members of St Barbara's. Peter and Maureen Shankster celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary sharing cake with all the church, and have spent 50 years of their 60 years of married life attending St Barbara's!

They were married in 1957, near London Airport, before moving to Coventry in 1959. At first they lived on the other side of the city, in Wyken, before moving to Earlsdon in 1967 which is when they started coming to St Barbara's. They have since moved slightly further afield but still keep coming back as they like this church which they say has always made them welcome. They have seen a lot of vicars come and go and have appreciated all of them, particularly Tulo's caring and thoughtful nature. Over many years they have served on various committees and Peter has laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday. They still try and help in any way they can. They have a grand total of three children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Photo & article: Alison Manning