



# St Barbara's Newsletter

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

March—May 2018

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## Earlsdon Leads the Way!

A scheme set up by the churches of Earlsdon and Chapelfields to help isolated older people has gained city-wide recognition, and the council is now funding its replication across other parts of the city.

Nine months ago, St Barbara's Church, working alongside the other four main Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches in the community, funded the appointment of a Good Neighbours Project co-ordinator, Jessica Moore, for this area. Through Jessica's work, many volunteer befrienders have been recruited. They visit an older person who would benefit from com-

panionship and conversation on a weekly basis. Indeed, across the city, there are now over 250 older people receiving a regular visit.

Coventry City Council have been so impressed with the scheme that they have agreed to fund the co-ordinator post for the next year, and fund two more co-ordinator posts in the north of the city.

There are still important ways in which we as a community can support the scheme.

If you know of an older person who struggles to get out, or is feeling lonely, then please talk to them about the opportunity of a befriender coming to visit them. All volunteers are DBS police checked and receive training, and there is a careful matching and introduction process, managed by Jessica. Jessica is very happy to meet to chat through how the scheme works before any commitment need be made.



And if you would like to become a volunteer, popping in to visit someone for a weekly chat, then Good Neighbours would love to hear from you too.

To find out more, do contact Jessica Moore, the Good Neighbours Co-ordinator for Earlsdon and Chapelfields on 07763 908460 or

[goodenighboursearlsdon@gmail.com](mailto:goodenighboursearlsdon@gmail.com)



## Pop-in to St Barbara's for the May Day Festival Fete

On Monday 7th May, as part of the annual Earlsdon Festival, St Barbara's will once again be serving a wonderful range of hot meals and refreshments, from 11am-4pm. Do pop in to rest weary feet and to enjoy the café and the many stalls, all raising money for good causes.

## Thought for the Month: More than a Piece of Paper

In January, over 70 people struggled through the snow and wind to come and sign a piece of paper at St Barbara's church.

Indeed, it was more than a piece of paper; it was five; but it was more than that in another way too.

The pieces of paper being signed were a "covenant", an agreement, that committed us as members of the local churches to work with each other, to support each other, and to pray and worship together.

The church hasn't always been great at unity. Down through the centuries there have been splits and divisions, schisms and disagreements. But here in Earlsdon and Chapelfields, we are trying to change that. The five main churches in this community – Earlsdon Methodist, Hearsall Baptist, All Souls Roman Catholic, St Mary Magdalene, and St Barbara's – meet regularly to pray and worship. We do so through our monthly



prayer breakfasts, our Prayers and Bears toddler service, and our united services.

But we also meet to serve our community together. The Good Neighbours Scheme is a good example. We also work together to support organisations like Carriers of Hope, who work amongst refugees in the city. And we meet regularly with the local mosque, to build friendship and understanding.

What we signed was more than a piece of paper. It was an expression of our commitment to work together and to serve our community.

Whether you are a member of another church or none at all, come along and work with us.

*Rev Tulo Raistrick*

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

### People of the Parish—The Mogan Family

*This is the first in a series of articles featuring people associated with St Barbara's and what it means to them.*

The Mogan family have been coming more regularly to St Barbara's church for about 4 years, since their twin girls went to the preschool, and they love it here. Alice said she likes learning about God and Hattie likes seeing her friends here. Their dad, Michael, agrees that everyone is very friendly at St Barbara's and it's like one big happy family. Mum, Karen, adds "I'm surprised that more people don't come because they'd like it. They might not realise how welcoming it is and children can feel at home there". Michael points out that it's not stuffy, and Karen that it can be all things to all people, with many options of different services to go to. Alice and Hattie's favourite service is Buzz at St B's, whereas Michael and Karen's is the Christmas Eve service where all the children get to dress up. They also appreciate how St Barbara's gets involved in things such as Toilet Twinning and helping refugees and homeless people, providing the opportunity for children to learn about these causes and demonstrating how Christianity should answer the call of those in need.

Outside of St Barbara's Hattie enjoys school and Alice likes making things and going to the park. They all enjoy swimming and the girls have fun at Rainbows, which also meets at St Barbara's.





## 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 March 10am  
13th May 10am  
10th June 10am

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

**Buzz @ St B's:** 25th March 5pm  
15th April 5pm  
20th May 5pm  
17th June 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** 18th Mar 6.30pm  
13th May 6.30pm  
10th June 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

Pamela Spark (12th Jan)  
Sharon Paul (2nd Feb)

### Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

**Prayer Breakfasts** Saturdays 8am

**3 March:** Hearsall Baptist

**7 April:** St Barbara's

**5 May:** St Mary Magdalene's

**2 June:** All Soul's

#### Special Events

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

**12 May** Quiet Day at Breathing Space (Allesley)

**Lent Lunches (12 noon-1.30pm)**

**6 March** All Soul's

**13 March** Hearsall Baptist

**20 March** St Mary Magdalene's

### Holy Week & Easter Services

*Details for all these services on pg 4*

**25 March Palm Sunday**

5pm: Buzz at St B's Easter Special

**29 March Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Communion Service

**30 March Good Friday**

1pm Craft Workshops

2pm Service of the Cross

**1st April Easter Sunday**

5.30am Sunrise Service

10am Easter Sunday Service

### Special Services

**6th May 6.30pm: Choral Evensong**

A beautiful service of psalms, prayers and readings.

### Social Events

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

**7 Mar:** Rev Graham Gee

**21 Mar:** India & Nepal (A. Atkin)

**4 Apr:** Afternoon of Relaxation (Diana Thomas)

**18 Apr:** Sir Thomas White (Michael Harris)

**2 May:** Tim Sheasby at the Piano

**16 May:** Jane Austen (Sheila Woolf)

**30 May:** History of Patchwork (Jane Cobbett)

### Film nights

7pm for 7.15pm

**1 Mar:** Victoria & Abdul (12)

**5 Apr:** Paddington 2 (PG)

**3 May:** Their Finest (12)

**7 Jun:** 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.



## Join us for Easter

At the end of the month, millions of people all over the world will stop to remember and celebrate the central events of the Christian faith. Do come and join us for some of our services over this very special time.

**Buzz at St B's Easter Special** (25<sup>th</sup> March; 5pm-5.45pm) – join us as we literally walk through the Easter story, going to different parts of the church and garden to imagine and re-live the events of Easter, through drama and music. It is a wonderfully special way to introduce children to the Easter story. We finish with sandwiches, cakes and tea.



### **Maundy Thursday Communion**

**Service** (29<sup>th</sup> March; 7.30pm) – an intimate and beautiful service as we share communion and reflect on the events of the Last Supper through music and words.

**Good Friday Workshops** (30<sup>th</sup> March; 1-2pm) – join us to explore the significance of Good Friday through a range of craft and reflective activities for children and young families.

**Good Friday Service of the Cross** (30<sup>th</sup> March; 2-3pm) – a quiet and moving service as we remember afresh the suffering and death of Christ.

**Easter Sunrise Service** (1<sup>st</sup> April; 5.30am) – an unforgettable way to start Easter with a bonfire, candles and the welcoming of the dawn, and with a hearty breakfast for all afterwards. The service, which mixes ancient liturgy, inspiring readings, visual wonder and joyful celebration, is for many, children and adults alike, the most memorable service of the year. (Note that this replaces our usual 8am service).

**Easter Sunday Service** (1<sup>st</sup> April; 10am) – a wonderful, uplifting service as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life he brings, followed by an Easter bonnet parade.



## Contacts

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**Hall Bookings** Mrs Elaine Parnell

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**Organist** Mr Norman Owen

01926 851635

For more information go to

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

## Make Mothering Sunday Special this Year



11<sup>th</sup> March is Mothering Sunday. What plans have you made? What plans are being made for you?

It is a special day when we can give thanks for our mothers, and recognize and value their unique contribution in our lives.

Why not come and make St Barbara's part of your plans. Our Mothering Sunday service is at 10am - late enough to do that special breakfast in bed beforehand; and will be finished by 11am - so plenty of time to cook that special Sunday lunch afterwards!

Do come and join us for a lovely service of song, prayer and reflection.