



ST BARBARA'S PARISH CHURCH EARLSDON // ISSUE NO.470 // AUTUMN 2021

ST BARBARA'S NEWSLETTER

stbarbaras.com



Festival of Hope

The *Festival of Hope* is an arts festival being run by the five churches in Earlsdon and Chapelfields—a Coventry based celebration of creativity. Having lived through a difficult and strange time, this is the moment to inject some positive energy into the world. We are therefore encouraging artists to express *hope* - hope for our personal lives, our city, our nation and our world.

The *Festival of Hope* will be in three stages. The first will be online; a second stage will consist of local community workshops; and the third stage will present meetings, activities, concerts, readings and exhibitions.

The first online stage will begin in September this year, with a curated website to showcase *artistic expressions of hope*, mainly from people living locally, but also from across the world. We'll consider contributions from painters, illustrators, sculptors, conceptual artists, photographers, story-tellers, poets, writers, craftspeople, dancers, singers, instrumentalists, bands, songwriters, composers and more. Students, amateur and professional artists are all invited to submit their work. See our website at <https://www.festivalofhopecoventry.org>.

(This article is continued on p2)

St Barbara's Newsletter is Going Digital

From 2022 St Barbara's Newsletter is going digital. Rather than being delivered through your door, you will be able to access it on-line via our church website (stbarbaras.com).

Sign up now to receive a reminder and a link each quarter by sending an email to newsletter@stbarbaras.com with 'newsletter' in the subject heading. (We will only use your email to send you a reminder and link to our newsletter four times a year).

If you would still prefer to receive a paper copy through your door, then let us know via the email above, or via post (The Newsletter Editor, 24 Rochester Road, Coventry, CV5 6AG), or give us a ring on 07869 603216.

For more on this change, see our Thought for the Season on page 2.

Thought for the Season: Hope in changing times



You'll have seen from our front page that come 2022 the newsletter is going digital. Over the last 18 months many of us have become more used to doing things electronically, whether its using Zoom to chat to friends or hold work meetings; or doing our food shopping or banking online.

In response to those changes, and in recognition that we need to be doing more for our environment and the poor around the world most impacted by the climate crisis, we have decided now is the time after over 100 years of the St Barbara's parish newsletter to go digital. From now on, the easiest way to access the

newsletter will be via our website (although you can sign up to receive a paper copy if that's still the best option for you).

This move to digital simply reflects the changes that we will all be experiencing in different aspects of our lives. The last 18 months have thrown so many things up in the air and it will take time to see how the pieces land back down again. Life will be different, but none of us can be sure as to how.

In such times of change, it is good to have sources of stability, things that remain steadfast, even when much else is in flux. Family and community can be two such dependable sources. And for Christians, God is our greatest source. One of the Psalms in the Bible, written 3,000 years ago in a time of huge upheaval and uncertainty, more akin to the events of modern-day Afghanistan than to our own Covid upheavals, speaks of God being "our rock, our stronghold, our shelter in times of storm". Whatever we are going through, the love and presence of God can be our constant, and in Him we find the courage and peace to face the uncertainties and changes of life.

Rev Tulo Raistrick

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

Festival of Hope

(continued from p1)

In the autumn we will commence phase 2 which will be an opportunity for community engagement in the arts. We are looking to run workshops, talks and children's holiday clubs. Anyone between the ages of 5 and 25 are welcome to join us to attain a level of Arts Award (a qualification from Trinity College London, and the top level carries UCAS points). We are planning a wide range of activities including creating your own design on a knitted garment, exploring memories through poetry as well as craft and music workshops. There will be a community choir which will perform film music in Central Hall in March. More details will appear in the next newsletter and on the Festival of Hope website. We look forward to welcoming you to engage in the arts.

The third stage will be in Spring 2022, and will comprise a 16-day real-world festival, with exhibitions, concerts, readings and other events. The Festival includes a community stream, which will accept submissions from any local children, adults and groups.

For interviews or information please email: info@festivalofhopecoventry.org.



Church Services

You can join all our 10am Sunday services in person, or online via our church website: stbarbaras.com

Every Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

This is a quiet, meditative service.

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. There is a Sunday school group for primary and pre-school children during the service.

Every Wednesday (in term time)

9.30am Prayers and Bears

This is a short, fun and special service for the under-5s and their parents/carers, followed by snacks and crafts. It takes place at Earlsdon Methodist Church.

Every Month on a Sunday Afternoon

5.00pm Buzz at St B's (on 19th Sept, 17th Oct, 21st Nov and 12th Dec)

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

Special Services

10th October 10am Harvest Service (see page 4)

7th November 3pm Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving (see page 4)

14th November 10.30am Remembrance Day Service



November: A Month of Remembering

November is a month in the church's year where we give particular focus to remembering those who have died, acknowledging our sadness and loss and drawing hope and comfort from our Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead. Here are two ways you may want to join us in remembering loved ones this year.

Commemoration and Thanksgiving Service (3pm; 7th November). This a quiet and moving service, where we remember those who have died and offer them and ourselves to God. If there are people that you want to remember who have died, whether recently or in years past, you are very welcome to join us. There

will be the opportunity to say prayers and light a candle as a sign of your love. And if you would like someone's name to be read out during the service, then please let Tulo, our vicar, know, either by email on tulo@raistricks.com or by phone on 07869 603216.

A Cairn of Remembering. Throughout November there will be an opportunity to bring a stone, pebble or rock and place it on the cairn on the church front lawn and say a prayer. You can come at any time to do this. You may like to write the name of those you are remembering on the stone, or decorate it, or leave it simply bare. The stones will be removed at the end of the month, but for this month we hope it will provide a tangible place where we can come and pray and know that we are not alone in our remembering.

Climate Sunday

This year, as part of our all-age Harvest Service, we will be joining churches across Great Britain and Ireland by focusing on the climate crisis and how we can respond. As we approach the COP 26 summit in Glasgow in November, we are ever more aware of the need for national and international solidarity. Do come along and join us on at **10am on Sunday 10th October** as we share inspiration, motivation and practical support for caring for the world God has created and



Tearfund's Big Quiz Night

We are thrilled to be a host for the annual Big Quiz Night on Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm, together with about 600 other host venues and 30,000 participants. The questions, suitable for all ages and team sizes, are set by Tearfund, the international development charity and bring friends and family together to pool our brainpower. It's free to take part but donations are invited towards Tearfund's work in some of the world's poorest countries. You can either come in person to St Barbara's Church Hall, with a team or join one on arrival, or participate remotely via Zoom. Whichever you do, don't miss the fun!

For more information or to confirm your place, please contact alisonsatuma@gmail.com or 07960042537.

CONTACTS

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