



ST BARBARA'S NEWSLETTER

stbarbaras.com

Meet Jeremy, our new curate

Tell us about your journey to St Barbara's - how did you come to be curate here?

By a fairly roundabout route. After moving to Coventry for work in 1984, I got deeply involved in the life of Holy Trinity, in Broadgate. Friends began to suggest I explore a possible calling to ordained ministry. Holy Trinity vicars were intimidating role models, though, so I didn't pursue the idea! Bit by bit, however, things changed. My employer helped me see there are different ways to be a leader, not just the Holy Trinity one; and we got a part-time curate who was also in paid work. This was an 'aha' moment, when I realised I might combine two callings: improving people's working lives *and* serving the church. After that, things happened fairly quickly. I was accepted to train part-time for ordained ministry in 2020. Last December, I began to discuss with Tulo the possibility of serving my curacy at St. Barbara's – and here I am.



What are you looking forward to about being at St Barbara's?

Getting to know the many people who are the church of St. Barbara's at the heart of this community. And doing whatever I can to help them deepen their experience of God's love. It also feels a real privilege to have opportunities to serve the area I've lived in for the best part of 40 years, in whatever ways I can. Seeing these familiar streets as 'the parish', not just where I live, has given me a whole new perspective.

What do you do when you're not being a curate?

I work full-time for the Health and Safety Executive, the government body responsible for making sure employers keep their workers healthy and safe at work. At the moment, I'm working on new laws to protect people living in high-rise blocks, trying to prevent another tragedy like the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire.

I also volunteer as a writer for ECHO, the local community newspaper. I try to keep fit by cycling as much as I can, often with Earlsdon Wheelers, a friendly bunch I've ridden with for about ten years.

How can we pray for you?

I'd appreciate prayer for wise use of my time - as you can imagine, my weeks are fairly full. And also that I'd get to know people quickly and well, so I can better understand how to serve them well.

Thought for the Season: *A Mountain Guide*



On my recent summer holiday, we were fortunate to be walking in the Lake District in hot, sunny weather, with views for miles. But my head for heights is not what it was. As we approached the summit of Scafell Pike, the highest peak in England, my knees began to wobble and my stomach began to churn. I had to climb up a bit of a scramble with what felt like thousand-foot drops to either side. To experienced walkers and to children with no awareness of potential dangers, this was no cause for concern at all - they could nonchalantly climb up the short ridge with hands in pockets and whistling a merry tune. For me, however, those days felt far gone. I clutched my walking poles, pinned my eyes to the ground and, fighting a rising sense of panic, clambered up until I was on flatter, 'safer' ground.

But throughout the experience I was not alone. I had had the good sense to invite my big brother along. He had got me out of scrapes in the past, and, even better, he was now a fully trained and qualified mountain guide. He had walked far narrower ridges in hurricane gales and treacherous ice, so a minor 'up and down' in perfect conditions with his little brother was well within his competency. I knew, despite all my feelings to the contrary, that I would be fine. Beyond the superficial fears, there was a bedrock of support that would see me through.

It does not seem so dissimilar from how I sometimes experience life. There are times when I wonder how I am going to get through the day, the week, the year, when anxieties, fears, worries try to grip hold of me, leaving me in a state of temporary mental paralysis. I doubt I am alone in that.

But, whilst I struggle with those very real emotions, the knowledge that God is with me - the God who has lived my life, walked my path and other paths far more treacherous, the God who is there to calmly lead me through—that knowledge gives me strength to carry on.

These next few months could be some of the hardest in decades, with cost of living increases, fuel shortages, industrial action, stagflation. Enough to make any of us feel wobbly and anxious, and much more besides. Knowing God is present may not mean those feelings go away; but it may help us to cope better than we would otherwise. When everything else seems in flux, the love of God never changes. Our mountain guide walks with us.

Rev Tulo Raistrick

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

Buzz at St B's Weekend Away

A group of parents and children from our Buzz at St B's service enjoyed a fun and thought-provoking weekend away together in Dovedale in June. We enjoyed fellowship, countryside walks, games, reflections, music and, last but not least, cake! Having time away together helped to build relationships both with one another and with God. We're hoping to make this a regular part of the St Barbara's year and are already looking forward to next time!





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 18th Sept, 16th Oct, 20th Nov and 11th 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

9th October 10.00am Harvest Service (see page 4)

6th November 3.00pm Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving (see page 4)

13th November 10.30am Remembrance Day Service

4th December 10.00am Christingle Service

Special Events

19th November 6.30pm Quiz Night & Fish and Chip Supper (see page 4)

10th December 2.00pm Poems and Pies

Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself? Feel free to email Christine on prayerchstb@gmail.com or telephone the vicar on 07869 603216. Prayers can be said in church services or confidentially—just let us know.

November: A Month of Remembering



In November we are offering two particular ways you may want to join us in remembering loved ones who have died.

Commemoration and Thanksgiving Service (3pm; 6th November). This is 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 come with and place a stone, pebble or rock 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.

Harvest Sunday

On Sunday 9th October at our 10am service we will be celebrating Harvest. At a time when parts of our world are struggling with famine and when food costs in this country are spiralling, we will be taking time to think about issues of food justice and climate change and to explore what we can do as a community to make a difference. Do come along and join us for a service that will be for all ages.



Tearfund's Big Quiz Night

St Barbara's is joining in again with Tearfund's Big Quiz Night on **Saturday 19 November**. The Big Quiz Night is a nationwide, multi-venue quiz. On the same night, hundreds of churches and thousands of people will come together in communities across the country for a night of quizzing fun, raising money to help end extreme poverty through the work of Tearfund (www.tearfund.org).

Our quiz is suitable for all the family and will take place in St Barbara's church hall, with a break in the middle for fish and chips (alternatives available, including vegetarian options). Tickets (to cover the cost of the meal) are £5 per person and should be booked in advance. You will have opportunities to support the work of Tearfund both on the night and online. Please arrive by 6.15pm ready for a prompt start at 6.30pm. Either come with a team of up to six or join one when you arrive. For more information, or to book tickets, contact Alison on alisonsatuma@gmail.com or 07960 042537.

CONTACTS

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