

'Noye's Fludde' achieved!

"I came expecting to be bored witless and was amazed to find that I loved every aspect!". High praise indeed, and we've heard lots of similar comments over the last few days. Yes, the 'Noye's Fludde' project has come to an end with two fantastic performances on the 3rd and 4th of October.

Perhaps I should begin with a brief explanation. 'Noye's Fludde' is a community opera written by Benjamin Britten. Since September 2014, my mother Katherine and I have been working hard to bring it to Coventry after being lucky enough to take part in a production at Worcester. Our intention was to involve the whole community, and I think we did this fairly successfully. We had participants aged 5 – 89 from all five of the CTEC churches and the local schools to sing or play their instruments.

We've been exceptionally busy – so much so, it felt like the church was our second home! We've squeezed in rehearsals wherever possible to make sure that everyone was comfortable with their parts. We searched high and low for the necessary props and equipment (and animals!) to make the production a success. We answered emails, messages and phone calls about anything and everything to do with the performances. And it was all worth it!

I really wish that everyone could have been there. The score itself is a brilliant piece of music and everyone who performed really brought it to life. The singers were excellent and the orchestra played magnificently. The children who played the animals were exceptional and sang their hearts out most wonderfully! The props and costumes added an extra dimension to the performance and I'm just so happy that it all worked out so well.

We've been overwhelmed with positive feedback, both from questionnaires on the night and in person. Audience members and performers have been eager to let us know that they enjoyed themselves and that all our hard work had really paid off. When asked what their favourite part was, one of the children from Earlsdon Primary declared, "I can't choose. Can I just write down **the whole thing?**"

Rachel Owen



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What do oranges, sweets, candles and red ribbons have in common?



Some Christmas traditions have been around for hundreds of years, but some are relatively more recent.

It was only in the 1960s that churches in the UK began holding Christingle services, but such is their popularity, there were over 5,000 such services last year.

A Christingle is a simple visual aid to illustrate the meaning of Christmas, using an orange, a candle, red ribbon, cocktail sticks and sweets. Up and down the country, hundreds of thousands of people of all ages will be gathering together over the next few weeks to make Christingles and celebrate the beginning of Advent (the church's preparation season for Christmas).

Do come and join us at St Barbara's on **Sunday 6th December** at 10am as we hold our very own Christingle service. It's a service not to be missed!



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Remembering, lest we forget

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry.

Recently my son, for his school homework, interviewed Wynne, a member of St. Barbara's community, who had been a teenager at the time of the bombings. She said: "The sirens all went night after night and you had to get up because you didn't know what was going to happen. We had our windows blown out and a hole in the roof. After the bombing, we didn't have any water or gas. We had to go to different streets to get buckets of water to drink." Wynne spent the next day searching for news about her father, who had been on duty as a policeman that night, until she heard the news that he had been spotted alive, helping to pull bodies out of the rubble in Eagle Street.

Wynne's story is one that some of you reading this article will directly identify with. You too lived through that harrowing night. For others of us, it may be through the stories of parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends that we have heard about the bombing of Coventry.

The stories are important, because they remind us of the human, personal impact of war and conflict. Also, these stories need to be remembered, just as the stories of the suffering and courage of others during the two world wars, or in conflicts around our world since, need to be remembered.

It is why the bold decision was made to retain the ruins of the old bombed-out cathedral alongside the new, ----- a constant reminder of the destructiveness of war and our need to work for peace.

For in truly remembering the events of the Coventry bombings, in truly remembering the events of the two world wars, it means we cannot remain passive and unmoved about the conflicts and wars around us today.



The conflicts go on...

The war in Syria has killed a quarter of a million people and has led to over ten million people fleeing their homes, the majority of whom are still trapped within the country with little food or water and desperately vulnerable to



attack. The war in the Congo, little reported in the news, has witnessed over 5.4 million deaths,--- half of those children, an appalling toll of suffering on a scale we have not witnessed since the second world war. The stories from our own city 75 years ago, are stories still being lived out today by others.

The Spanish philosopher, George Santayana wrote, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." May we this month make sure to remember, and act for peace.

St Barbara's Remembrance Day Service this year is at 10.30am on Sunday 8th November.

Thought for the Month "I'm pregnant!"

As a man, pregnancy is one of those subjects that I know next to nothing about. Even if I read up all the books on the subject, and even if I trained as an obstetrician, I still wouldn't really understand.

But one thing at least I think I have begun to understand over the years. When someone says, "I'm pregnant!" it's a phrase that can carry so many different emotions.

For some, those words spell the end of a wait of months, of years. Finally, what they have been longing for has happened. Their joy can be unconfined.

For some, those words can be uttered with despair. This was not what was meant to happen. Either, not with him, or not at this time in my life, or not just yet.

For some, those words can be filled with anxiety and worry. Fears of illness, fears of miscarriage, fears of financial insecurity.

And for others, those words may be exclaimed in a state of shock. "What do you mean "I'm pregnant!"

We are approaching the time of year when we think of a pregnancy more remarkable than any other,--- the pregnancy of Mary, Jesus' mother. And when Mary became pregnant with God's child, my guess is she felt all of the above emotions at once, and with almost overwhelming force.

Utter shock, despite the angel Gabriel's foretelling.

Cataclysmic despair: who on earth (literally) would believe her? Her engagement to Joseph would

no doubt be cancelled, her life and reputation ruined.

Fear and anxiety: who would help her to look after the child, if she and he both survived the first century traumas and dangers of pregnancy and child-birth?

And joy?

Remarkably, we discover Mary experienced overwhelming joy too. Her heart sang, and words gushed out, that formed the basis for one of the most beautiful and radical poems of ancient literature: the Magnificat.

For in the midst of all those other and real worries and concerns, Mary knew God was with her, and he was doing something extraordinary through her.

Taking God seriously, responding to his love more whole-heartedly, may, like pregnancy, cause all sorts of havoc with one's life. It may place strains on relationships, it may demand more from you than you are willing to give. But it may also be the route to true and unconfined joy.

May Mary's story be not the only story worth telling this Christmas.

Revd Tulo Raistrick



Celebrating Christmas at St Barbara's

There is nothing like forward planning! We know how busy life can get in December, with present buying, food shopping, office parties, concerts and the like, so we wanted to give you good advance notice of all the ways in which you can celebrate Christmas with us at St Barbara's this year.

Christmas Craft Workshops and Tree-decorating Service (13th December; 4-5.30pm)

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 (20th 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 with 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 Family 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!



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.

Mid-week Service

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

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

Prayers and Bears: Every Wednesday at **9.30am** at Earlsdon Methodist Church. A service for the under-fives and their parents/carers, followed by snacks and crafts

Every Month

Buzz @ St B's: **15th Nov 5pm**

13th Dec 4pm

17th Jan 5pm

This is a fun, creative and interactive service for families. The service involves lively songs, craft, drama and other activities. It lasts forty minutes and is followed by tea, with a delicious range of sandwiches and cakes.

Soul Space **8th Nov 6.30pm**

6th Dec 6.30pm

10th Jan 6.30pm

A simple thirty minute service of silence, meditation, prayer and reflection, a place to allow one's soul to breathe.

Special Services

1st Nov 6.30pm

A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for loved ones who have died

8th Nov 10.30am Remembrance Day Service (**please note the new time**). We are joined by the Royal British Legion, Scouts and other uniformed organisations as we remember all who have died in war and as we pray for peace.

6th Dec 10am Christingle service
For Christmas services see page 1

Other Events

Friendship Group

This has merged with the Earlsdon Methodist Group which meets every fortnight in Wellspring at 2.15pm

11th Nov 'Bits and Pieces' - Poetry with Joe Harley

25th Nov Carol Service - Rev John Adams and Will Light

9th Dec Christmas Celebration .

The group will not meet in January

and February

Film nights - 7pm for 7.15pm in the church hall, on the first Thursday of the month.

Nov 5th "Woman in Gold" (12A). An elderly Jewish refugee takes on the Austrian government to recover artwork that rightfully belongs to her family. With Helen Mirren.

3rd Dec "Get Santa" (U) Great film about a dad reunited with his son at Christmas- but will they be able to save the festive season?

7th Jan "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" (PG) Wonderful feel good film. A story about an ordinary man who finds courage to leap into an extraordinary adventure

From the Registers

Baptisms

4th Oct Phoebe Askew

Weddings None

Funerals

3rd Sept Barbara Boyle

16th Sept Kenneth Hartup

Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

Prayer Breakfasts Saturdays 8am

7th Nov St Mary Magdalen Church

5th Dec All Souls Church

Other Events

CTEC Advent Groups will meet on

Tuesdays from 24th November at 2-3.15pm at 94 Earlsdon Avenue South, and

Wednesdays from 1st Dec at 7.30-9.00pm in Earlsdon Methodist Church . All welcome!

Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?
Feel free to e-mail Christine on cob27@mac.com or telephone the vicar on 024 7501 7889 . Prayers could be said at the Wednesday or Sunday services as well as being added to the prayer chain that can be confidential if desired.

