

## Buzz at St B's

If you are looking for a great way to end the weekend, and if you find getting to church on a Sunday morning can be a bit of a challenge, then Buzz at St B's maybe for you!

It is a fun, creative and interactive service for families, involving lively songs, craft, drama and other activities. The service lasts 40 minutes and is followed by tea, with a delicious range of sandwiches and cakes.



The next Buzz at St B's services are 5pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Prayers and Bears** is a church service especially for children under five, and their parents and carers. The short service begins by looking for Prayer Bear, and is full of action songs, treasure hunts, drama, and story-telling. Afterwards there are craft activities for toddlers upwards, and time for adults to have a relaxed cup of coffee and chat.

The service has been going six months, and all the babies and children (and adults!) who come, love it.

Do come along! It takes place every Wednesday morning in school terms at Earlsdon Methodist Church at 9.30am (but doors open at 8.45am for early-risers!)

## Contacts

**Vicar** Rev'd Tulo Raistrick  
024 7501 7889 or  
tulo@raistricks.com

The vicar is always ready to help in an emergency but would like to keep Monday as his day off.

**Hall Bookings** Mrs Elaine Parnell  
024 7671 5583

**Newsletter Editor** Mrs Josie Howie  
024 7667 5681

**Choir Director** Mrs Katherine Owen  
01926 851568

**Organist** Mr Norman Owen  
01926 851635

For more information go to  
[www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk)



## A Pause in the Week

Did you know that St Barbara's has a mid-week communion service?



We hold a small, intimate service every Wednesday morning at 11.30am. It takes place in the beautiful lady-chapel inside St Barbara's church. The service follows the Book of Common Prayer, the words of which have brought hope and comfort to countless generations of Christians since they were written in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

If you are looking for a service that gives you a quiet, still time to pray and reflect in the middle of your week, then this is the service for you.

## Final Words

Just a reminder for those who have not noticed or don't know! Do you ever look at St Barbara's Church recently revamped website ([www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk))? Among other interesting information, it publishes Tulo's excellent sermons, such as the one comparing the church to a Roman cohort in tortoise formation, the idea being that all members of the church stand together using the shield of faith as protection in difficult times. We surmise that the idea came to him during a well deserved holiday walking along Hadrian's wall. There is a lot of information on activities at St Barbara and forthcoming events; you can also find out how to hire the hall.

Thanks are due to our webmasters Simon and Jim for their hard work in creating the new look and regularly updating the website.

Josie, Ed.



# St Barbara's Newsletter

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

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon September/August 2015 No. 447

## Arts for All

October promises to be an exciting time in Earlsdon, as we celebrate the How Great Thou Art Christian Arts Festival.

Over the first 17 days of October, there will be over 22 different events celebrating the arts. Organised by the churches of Earlsdon and Chapelfields the festival promises many opportunities for hands-on participation. One of the highlights of the Festival is a dramatic performance of Benjamin Britten's community opera, *Noye's Fludde*. Rachel Owen, the project manager, writes:

"Noye's Fludde is a community opera written by Benjamin Britten, and involves musicians of every standard coming together to tell the story of Noah and his Ark. It's a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved, especially for the hundred or so schoolchildren who are going to play the animals.



They will be working alongside professional performers and a small orchestra – a new experience for many of them.

Since the first sowing of the idea back in September 2014, I have been working alongside a small team of people to make the vision a reality. We've been busy writing grant applications, raising funds, looking for sponsors, organizing rehearsals, finding musicians and generally promoting the project.

Things are really beginning to take shape now. We've managed to secured significant funding thanks to the generosity of several grant-making trusts, including the Foyle Foundation, the Ernest Cook Trust and the Rowlands Trust. We also really appreciate the donations from several local groups and various members of the CTEC congregations. The Terracycle recycling scheme is available at most churches and yields one pence for each product i.e. coffee packaging, Tassimo pods, biscuit packaging and air care products.

Work has started with some of the young performers who are totally dedicated and doing very well. They absolutely love what they're doing! We have a long way to go before everything is up to scratch but are on course for a fabulous production.

We have also started rehearsing with the school children who are making a really good sound already. Wow, are they excited! In addition each one of them is getting the chance to obtain an accredited qualification by Trinity College, London, which is an award that opens doors for children and young people to discover and expand their artistic talents. A professional theatre designer has been booked to talk to them about their job and then lead a mask-making workshop. There will be more rehearsals, both at their schools and at the venue, for singing and choreography."

The performances will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October; seating is limited so book now! Please contact [events@hgta.org.uk](mailto:events@hgta.org.uk) or call 024 7667 8587.

Other highlights will include a poetry evening with acclaimed local poet Eleanor Nesbitt, art workshops in calligraphy, woodcarving, drama, English paper piercing, Tai Chi, Flowers and Ribbons, multicultural dance and family crafts.

## Thought for the Month

### Just one meaning

A phrase can be said with a whole host of different meanings and intimations.

Take the words, "I'm sorry".

From toddlers upwards, we are all able to take that simple phrase and use it to mean an incredible variety of different things.

Take a young child at a normal meal-time. They are discovering the joy of dropping food on the floor, and of pushing boundaries. When they are told that the next time they do it, they will have no dessert, they just can't resist, and further food hits the floor. But at the very first hint that the sanction will be applied, words tumble out in a panic-induced splurge: "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry." Words that speak volumes about their love of dessert and less about actual regret at their action.

Or take an older child, fuming at a perceived injustice, who lashes out at one of his siblings, and gives them a none too gentle "pat" on the head. In the resulting conversation about appropriate ways of expressing anger, they shout back at the top of their voice "I'm sorry!" A response that may suggest that feelings of anger still outweigh any feelings of contrition.

Or take a teenager, who has returned home that evening an hour later than agreed, and whose response to his parent's irate look is a mumbled "I'm sorry", with

eyes rolling and heavy sigh. The meaning: "Come on mum and dad, lighten up; get off my back"

Or take the sales rep on the phone who rings to say "I'm sorry to disturb you at home, but..." Polite words may be, but one senses that they will only be sorry if you choose not to buy the product they are pushing.



Or take me the other day. As I disappeared out for the evening leaving behind a stack of unwashed dishes higher than the EU butter mountain, I gave a cheery "I'm sorry" as I walked out of the door. Not so much sorry as relieved.

We can all say sorry in many different ways and meanings.

But there is only one way in which God says the words in response. He doesn't say the words "I forgive you" grudgingly, impatiently, resentfully, doubtfully or indifferently, though with me, at least, he would have the perfect right to do so.

Instead he says them with joy, delight, love and total sincerity.

When God says "I forgive you", those words mean exactly what they say.

*Revd Tulo Raistrick*

## Taking Children Seriously

Too often children are not taken seriously. Their views are ignored, their insights discounted, their contribution devalued.

At St Barbara's we are trying hard to reverse that trend. We love and greatly value all that children bring to the life of our church. Some of the ways we do that are by having services especially designed for them (such as Prayers and Bears and Buzz at St B's - see our back page for more). Other ways include having a choir where children are treated as equal members alongside the adults. And by having feedback from our Sunday School group - Hive - every week as part of our main church service.



In July our PCC decided unanimously to take another important step in valuing the faith and spirituality of our children. From the end of September, those children in Year 2 and upwards who have gone through preparation classes and want to do so, will be able to receive communion, the special meal of the church. It is another step in saying once more that we want children to know that they are valued and included, and that we recognize the vitality of the faith they have.

To find out more about how your child or grandchild could be part of the life of St Barbara's church get in touch with Tulo, the vicar, or come along to one of our services.



## 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:** **20<sup>th</sup> Sept 5pm**

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct 5pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> Nov 5pm**

This is a fun, creative and interactive service for families. The service involves lively songs, craft, drama and other activities. It lasts 40 minutes and is followed by tea, with a delicious range of sandwiches and cakes.

### Special Services

**Soul Space 6th Sept 6.30pm**

**8th Nov 6.30pm**

A simple 40 service of silence, meditation, prayer and reflection, allowing one's soul to breathe.

**Dedication Sunday 10am 27<sup>th</sup> Sept**

A special service of thanksgiving as we celebrate the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Barbara's Church

**Choral Evensong 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 6.30pm**

A beautiful service of readings & prayer set to music led by our excellent choir.

**Harvest Festival 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 10am**

This is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God, and to help others around our world.

**1<sup>st</sup> Nov 6.30pm** Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for loved ones who have died

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am** Remembrance Day Service (please note the new time)

### Other Events

#### Friendship Group

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

**Sept 2nd** 'Macular Degeneration' Judith Missenden

**Sept 16th** 'Guide dogs' Pat

Mulqueen-Wood

**Sept 30th** Harvest Festival

**Oct 14th** Annual General Meeting

**Oct 28th** 'Light at the End of the Tunnel' Will Light

**Nov 11th** 'Bits and Pieces' poetry with Joy Harley

#### Social Events

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

**Sept 3rd** 'Enough Said' (2013) 12A  
**Oct 1st** *The Seventh Seal*. In this film by Ingmar Bergman a man seeks answers about life and death.

**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.

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

**2nd August** Iyla Warren

#### Weddings

None

#### Funerals

**18th August** Heather Evans

### Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

**Prayer Breakfasts** Saturdays 8am

**5th Sept** Hearsall Baptist Church followed at 9.15am by a prayer walk ending at St Mary Magdalen Church by 10.15am with refreshments

**3rd Oct** St Barbara's Church

**7th Nov** St Mary Magdalen Church

#### Other Events

**1st-17th October** How Great Thou Art Festival

The programme of events will soon be widely available in Earlsdon

### Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?

Feel free to e-mail Christine on [cob27@mac.com](mailto: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.

