



St Barbara's Newsletter

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

June-August 2018

No. 461

Inside this Issue

Thought for the Month	2
A Sunny May Day Fete	2
What's on	3
People of the Parish	4
Join our Book Groups	4

A Vibrant, Growing Church

Sat outside under the shade of trees, hundreds gathered as an old man, with his wife beside him, stiff-kneed and with few remaining teeth, knelt down on the dusty ground, and declared "I believe". At the age of 80 he was getting baptized, alongside many others, young and old. As he did so, the hillside congregation burst forth in song and dance.

It was one of many very moving moments during a trip that the vicar of St Barbara's, Tulo Raistrick, made to the churches of western Kenya recently. Tulo went with a team led by the Bishop of Coventry to learn from, and encourage, the growing church in that region of Africa. And growing the

church is. Every church is bursting at the seams, and in every area, the church is starting up at least 6-7 satellite churches as well. Hundreds gather every Sunday in places where a year before there was not even a church.

The church is providing a focal point in bringing together poor rural communities for celebration, support and action. When life is tough, celebration becomes all the more important, and the church is at the heart of that, providing food, hosting community choirs, marking rites of passage. Countless times during the week's visit, Tulo sat down to eat with communities. The food was simple; but the hospitality remarkable in its generosity.



An outdoor baptism service

The church in rural Kenya is providing support too. Support to widows and orphans, running schools open to all, establishing health clinics. In one community, tremendous progress has been made in the fight against both dysentery and malaria through the church's work of health education. Mortality rates have fallen; quality of life has risen.

The church in Africa has much to teach us in the West. Generous hospitality, sacrificial service, prayerfulness and a willingness to celebrate are all things we need more of here.



A notice outside a rural health clinic



Blessing the foundations of a new church

But there are things we can do too. Our financial resources far outstrip those available in Kenya. Tulo visited a church leadership development college whose entire library contained just a few shelves of books, fewer than we may have in our homes. St Barbara's has just given £1500 to investing in leaders' development in response, supporting the start of a digital, on-line library. It's a small contribution, but one that begins to express partnership.

It is hoped that over the coming months and years the partnership between Coventry and this part of rural Kenya will grow and flourish. Do come and join us as it grows!

Thought for the Month: A Legacy Worth Leaving Behind

If you are anything like me, the way you watch TV may have undergone quite a change in recent years. The advent of services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime mean that once I start watching a series I no longer have to wait a week for the next episode. I can watch it the next day. Indeed, such is the ease with which one episode starts playing the moment the last one has finished, I find I am frequently in danger of watching several episodes in one sitting! The phenomenon has spawned a new phrase: "binge watching".

Well, one series on which I "binged" for a few weeks earlier this year was a US drama called "This is Us". You may have seen it. It cleverly interweaves the events of family life for three adults with their childhood thirty years earlier. It's a moving insight into how childhood experiences, and especially how we are parented, impacts on us in later life, for good and ill. In the early episodes at least, the father appears an extraordinary figure, full of love and compassion for his children, someone who helps to nurture and support them through the challenges of early life.



It got me to thinking about how will the person I am shape the lives of others. What impact will my life have on those who come after me, whether they be children, grand-children, friends, neighbours or colleagues.

Whether we write it down in a will or not, we all pass on a legacy to those who come after us. I wonder what kind of legacy I will leave behind?

Jesus Christ leaves us in no doubt. The most lasting and valuable gift we can leave others is not what we write in our wills, but what we may write in their hearts by our words and example. Are we passing on to them a

deep love for others and deep love for God?

I cannot protect others from the difficulties of life. I cannot totally shield them from the effects of my own flaws. But what I can do is to show them love.

And we can love others because God, the one who went before us, first loved us.

Rev Tulo Raistrick

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

A Sunny May-Day Fete

The sun shone down brightly for St Barbara's May Day Fete, so brightly in fact, that the cool interior of the church was most welcome, along with a chance to dawdle amongst the stalls with a delightful selection of jams, cakes, books, plants and bric a brac. There was also the opportunity to watch the model trains whizzing around the model railway.

As well as retail therapy many found a welcome relief from the busyness of the Earlsdon festival with a chance to sit down in the hall with a cup of tea and assorted refreshments including sandwiches, samosas and lots of cake. There was always a long queue keeping the kitchen volunteers very busy. Children could have fun in the sun in the garden playing basketball or football or guessing the name of Albert the bear. Guests in the church included the Women's Institute, and the Coventry Watch museum, whilst on the front lawn scouts and St Barbara's preschool had their own stalls.

Overall the church raised over £2,000. Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of things to sell, volunteering time and coming along and supporting us.





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 10th June 10am

22nd July 10am

9th Sept 10am

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

Buzz @ St B's: 17th June 5pm

15th July 5pm

12th August 5pm

16th Sept 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 10th June 6.30pm

8th July 6.30pm

9th Sept 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

Baptisms

Toby Maries (1st April)

Joel & Remi Henderson (6th May)

Funerals

Peter Lawman (20th April)

Special Services

1 July 6.30pm: Choral Evensong A beautiful service of psalms, prayers and readings.

Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

Prayer Breakfasts Saturdays 8am

2 June: All Soul's

7 July: Earlsdon Methodist

4 Aug: Hearsall Baptist

1 Sept: St Barbara's

Film nights

7pm for 7.15pm

7 Jun: Goodbye Christopher Robin (PG)

5 Jul: Finding Your Feet (12)

2 Aug: Snoopy (U)

6 Sept: The Greatest Showman (PG)

Social Events

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

13 Jun: Line Dancing Display (Sheila Maries & friends)

27 Jun: Coach Trip

11 July: Summer Melodies (Pennie Harper & choir)

25 July: Cream Tea & Bring & Buy

5 Sept: A Minister

"Thy Kingdom Come" - Ten Days of Prayer

For ten days in May, St Barbara's joined in a prayer initiative across the world with hundreds of thousands of other Christians. The church was open for prayer every day, and beautiful displays and interactive activities were put up all round the church to aid prayer. Everyone who came and prayed found it a wonderful opportunity to find peace, stillness and comfort in the midst of often very busy and challenging lives.

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.

People of the Parish—Victoria & Bernardo

Bernardo and Victoria have been coming to St Barbara's since July 2017. Bernardo is from Madrid (and, yes, he's a Real Madrid supporter!) and Victoria grew up in Northern Ireland. They met in Bordeaux and married in Cambridge a few years ago. They came to Coventry when Victoria began working with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation team. Bernardo works for Hope Coventry as the Coordinator of the homeless Winter Night Shelter.

Why did you decide to make St Barbara's your church home?

V: I was struck by the warm, gentle welcome we received, and by the thoughtful way the services were prepared. It felt like coming home, after a while of trying to find our place in Coventry.



B: Tulo has always made me feel welcomed as I am, with my ecumenical dimension. When we first came, we were welcomed by all the community – I wasn't introduced as Victoria's Catholic husband!

What do you most like about being part of St Barbara's?

B: I've found it very helpful that the services are rooted in an enriching liturgy, where every part has a meaning that connects us with centuries of tradition and Christians who have worshipped in the same way before us.

V: For me it's important to be part of a community seeking a deeper relationship with God every day. Joining the home group has been brilliant. It's enabled us to connect more deeply with other members of St Barbara's and to be surprised and encouraged by God through them.

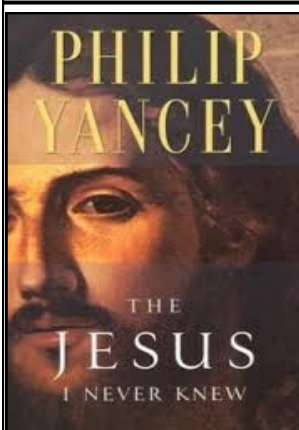
What do you do in your free time?

B: I enjoy woodworking, cooking, classical music, reading and watching movies. I love a night in, watching Grand Designs with Victoria.

V: I love reading, writing, knitting, cooking and walking in the countryside – all fuelled by tea!

Summer BBQ and Sports Day

Come and join us on Sunday 22nd July for a time of celebration and fun. Our children and young people will be leading the service at 10am, and then from 11.15am there will be games in the church garden, followed by a delicious barbecue lunch.



Join our book groups

Two of St Barbara's fortnightly home groups are reading and discussing a book this summer by American journalist and author, Philip Yancey. The book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, gives a fascinating insight into the life of Jesus from a new and fresh perspective, exploring his birth, background, teaching and life.

Do come and join us. The groups will be meeting fortnightly on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in June and July at St Barbara's vicarage. Do contact Tulo, the vicar, to find out more on tulo@raistricks.com or 024 7501 7889.

Contacts

Vicar Rev'd Tulo Raistrick

024 7501 7889 or

tulo@raistricks.com

Hall Bookings Mrs Elaine Parnell

024 7671 5583

Choir Director Mrs Katherine Owen

01926 851568

Organist Mr Norman Owen

01926 851635

For more information go to

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk