



ST BARBARA'S PARISH CHURCH EARLSDON // ISSUE NO.473 // SUMMER 2022

# ST BARBARA'S NEWSLETTER

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## *A Celebration of Music*

After two years of varying restrictions on how much we could sing, it is nice to find ourselves in a busy period of concerts once more.

Near the end of March, St Barbara's church choir, enlarged with members from the wider community and six school choirs, as well as guest soloist Meg Birch, joined with the Heart of England Co-operative Orchestra for an ambitious concert at Coventry Central Hall. An initiative of the Festival of Hope, a Coventry community arts festival co-ordinated by the CTEC group of local churches exploring the theme of hope in a post-pandemic world, the concert was organised by St Barbara's Choir conductor Katherine Owen, and everything came together in harmony to entertain a packed audience with songs and pieces from the movies.

On Saturday 14th May a concert was held in the church hall in support of Emmaus, the local homeless charity. There was piano, guitar, violin and horn pieces, as well as Ukrainian, Russian and English songs. This lively concert was streamed live and you can catch up with it online [here](#) (or search 'St Barbara's Earlsdon Love and Peace' on Youtube). It raised an impressive £300 for Emmaus.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June the church choir took part in a Historic Churches Trust service at St. Charles Borromeo R.C. Church at Hampton-on-the-Hill, a beautiful little church in Warwickshire, leading some rousing hymns from a raised gallery and enjoying samosas and wine afterwards.

A younger member of the congregation, Peter Raistrick, is working towards his Gold Arts Award and for this he is putting on another concert at St Barbara's at 6pm on 10<sup>th</sup> July. This will feature the church choir and some instrumentalists. This will also raise money for an organisation called Wake up Wallasey to enable them to put on holiday clubs for children in a very deprived area.

## *Fun Sports day and Barbecue*

On Sunday 10 July, straight after the 10am service, there will be a mini-Sports Day in the church garden, featuring an assortment of fun races, such as egg and spoon races, sack races, and crazy relays. All can take part, whether children or children at heart! This will be followed by a delicious barbecue (with vegetarian options). Do come along and join us for what will be a really fun time. (And an inside alternative will be available if it turns wet!)

## Thought for the Season: Integrity in Leadership



I love history, immersing myself in events of the past, the way it makes sense of the world today. But I confess that my knowledge of British history is pretty poor. So a few years ago, I set myself the task of reading through the story of British history, from Roman times to the present day. I've got to the 15th century so far.

Reading about the kings and queens of England, some monarchs stand out, whether for their ineptitude and moral failings (King John and Edward II are obvious examples), or for their charismatic and courageous, if flawed, leadership (Henry V), or for their ruthlessly efficient and uncompromising approach to governing (Henry II). And just a few stand out for their moral stature, integrity and their genuine concern for the people they ruled - for me, Alfred the Great.

This month we have been celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee. We are too close to the events of the last 70 years to know how history will view her reign, but in terms of character, I think history will come to judge her well. She has been a leader of genuine dignity and dedication, with a willingness to serve and put the needs of others before herself, a person with genuine compassion for the needs of others.

These qualities are to be valued and appreciated, all the more so at a time when the character and integrity of those who lead our government seem to fall so egregiously short. At a time over the last couple of years of national crisis and personal sacrifice and suffering, it is difficult to think of any workplace where alcohol-fuelled partying could ever have been appropriate, let alone a workplace focused on leading a nation through crisis and keeping it safe. And as we approach another national challenge with the soaring energy bills and cost of living increases, how we need leaders who will respond with integrity, moral courage and heartfelt and genuine compassion.

The Queen has spoken of how her faith in Christ has served as her moral compass and source of strength throughout her reign. Christ's words still have vast relevance today. Imagine the impact in Number 10 if these words were followed: "Blessed are... the poor, those who mourn, the humble, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers." "Simply let your "yes" be "yes", and your "no" be "no". "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all."

May our public leaders, and we ourselves, come to live by those words of Christ. May our lives be seasoned by the qualities of integrity, compassion and service. Imagine the difference it could make.

Rev Tulo Raistrick

Why not visit [stbarbarasearlsdon.com/talks](https://stbarbarasearlsdon.com/talks) to read more reflections on faith and life?

## Garden Update

Over recent months a number of highly committed volunteers have been giving their time and skills to developing the church garden. A couple of larger church work parties have helped to supplement their efforts with over 30 people helping at a time. The vision is to create a garden that is accessible to all and provides space for children to play as well as spaces for relaxation, prayer and reflection. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Tulo on 07869 603216. Caroline Hammond, who has been helping us with the project, said: 'It's been lovely to see St Barbara's garden start to transform over recent weeks. Our hopes (as a garden team) were to create a safe space for children to play in, and that adults could have a place to be still and enjoy nature. I hope that, in the future, church groups and hall users will continue to love and enjoy the space as it continues to transform.'





## Church Services

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

#### **11.30am Holy Communion**

A small, intimate service, providing space for quiet and stillness in the middle of the week.

### *Every Month on a Sunday Afternoon*

#### **5.00pm Buzz at St B's** (on 17th Jul, 21st Aug & 18th Sept)

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.

### *Events over the Summer*

**3rd July, 4pm - Ordinations** of Caroline Hammond and our new curate, Jeremy Bevan, at Coventry Cathedral

**10th July, 10am - All Age Worship**, followed by **Barbecue and Sports Day**

**10th July, 6pm—Concert** (at St Barbara's)

## Church Fete

Both the sun and the community came out on May Day for our church fete- and it was lovely to see both of them! It was great to welcome people into the church hall and garden where they could enjoy refreshments and a popular barbecue, as well as a variety of stalls in the church itself, featuring plants, books, handicrafts, jewellery, toys and delicious cakes. People could even have a go at games with the Beavers on the front lawn. We were pleased to receive a number of comments on how welcome people felt and look forward to holding similar events in the future.



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

## Interview: Caroline Hammond

For the last two years, Caroline Hammond has been on placement at St Barbara's during her training to become a Church of England minister. As she comes to the end of her time here, we asked her what it's been like and what's next.

### **As you come to the end of your time at St Barbara's, what memories stand out for you?**

It's been such an interesting time because when I started at St Barbara's everything was all online. One of the things that has really stood out to me was the welcome I had. People offered help and made the time to get to know me, even though we were often limited to Zoom. Other highlights have been the different ministries and groups I've been able to get involved in like *Prayers and Bears*, *Buzz at St B's*, the Pilgrim group and the garden project. These groups provided great ways to get to know people and work in collaboration. My time at St Barbara's has given me a really good window into parish ministry. I've seen up close a different tradition in action and have appreciated learning and growing from the experience.



### **What has surprised you during your time here?**

I must admit that when Tulo first asked me to go along to *Prayers and Bears* I felt that this was not my skillset! But Tulo has a real passion for children's ministry and some of that really rubbed off on me. Going to *Prayers and Bears* actually became one of the highlights for me and I'm going to really miss it. I've been able to go and build relationships with the mums and have meaningful conversations and pray with them, which has been an honour and a joy.

### **What's next for you?**

Firstly, after my final residential (as part of my training), I'm going to take a couple of weeks off, before starting my curacy at St John's Westwood, to recharge after a busy two years. When my curacy starts, one of my roles will be oversight of a project called Garden of Hope. St John's own a field which is gradually being transformed into a space for the local community to enjoy. It will be a place where people of any faith or none can come, feel safe and explore God through nature, prayer and contemplation. I will hopefully be running retreats in the Garden of Hope, coffee mornings and events (watch this space...). I'm also looking forward to getting involved in the wider life of St John's again.

### **How can we pray for you?**

In the immediate future, getting all the work done that needs to be done without too much stress—and recharging afterwards before my curacy starts. Beyond that... for the family to adapt well to this next season of life, that we would all transition well. Thank you.

*Caroline will be ordained at Coventry Cathedral on the 3rd July at 4pm—everyone is welcome!*

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