



ST BARBARA'S PARISH CHURCH EARLSDON // ISSUE NO.480 // SPRING 2024

ST BARBARA'S NEWSLETTER

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Join us for Easter

Over the next few weeks, millions of people all over the world will stop to remember and celebrate the central events of the Christian faith. Do come and join us for some of our services over this very special time.

Buzz at St B's Craft Workshop & Easter Service (17th March— 4pm-5.30pm) – see article below

Palm Sunday Service (24th March—10am) - a service remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week before he dies

Stations of the Cross (24th March—6.30pm) - a quiet service reflecting on Jesus' journey to the cross through a series of images and readings.

Holy Week Complines (Monday 25th - Wednesday 27th March—7.30pm) - A short, meditative service, following in the footsteps of Christian communities throughout the centuries, reflecting on the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service (28th March—7.30pm) – A service of choral music, reflection and symbolism as we remember the events of the Last Supper: Jesus washing his disciples' feet and sharing with them bread and wine.

Good Friday Service of the Cross (29th March—2-3pm) – A quiet and moving service as we remember afresh the suffering and death of Christ.

Easter Sunrise Service (31st March—5.45am) – an unforgettable way to start Easter with a bonfire, candles and the welcoming of the dawn, and with a hearty breakfast for all afterwards. The service, which mixes ancient liturgy, inspiring readings, visual wonder and joyful celebration, is for many, children and adults alike, the most memorable service of the year. (Note that this replaces our usual 8am service).

Easter Sunday Service (31st March—10am) – a wonderful, uplifting service as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life he brings, followed by an Easter bonnet parade.

Get Ready for Easter! A Service for Young Families

Join us on Sunday 17th March (4pm-5.30pm) for a wonderful service for young families. We begin in the church hall, with fun Easter-themed craft activities, suitable for toddlers and primary school aged children, with plenty of goodies to make and take home. This is followed by a unique re-telling of the Easter story, as we walk to different parts of the church building and garden, to imagine and re-live the events of Easter, through drama and music. It is a wonderfully special way to introduce children to the Easter story. And then we finish with sandwiches, cake, hot cross buns and tea.

As one parent said last year: "It was amazing. The story really came alive for me and my children." Do join us.

Thought for the Season:

Easter bunnies, chocolate – and hope

Keen to shake off a particular image of what its meetings are supposedly like, the Women's Institute has been known to insist, over many years, that it's not all 'jam and *Jerusalem*'. I sometimes feel the same way about Easter, wanting to remind people that it's not all 'Easter bunny and chocolate eggs.'

A risky position to take, certainly when children are around. And it can feel like the deeper meaning of Easter needs some pretty sharp PR if it's going to land with anything other than a dull thud. Isn't there quite enough betrayal, cruelty, death and shattered hope on the news, without the need to resurrect it from 2,000 years ago? Surely the Easter bunny is a healthy antidote to all that? And chocolate? An antidote to all sorts of health problems, apparently.

But buried beneath the Roman empire's crucifixion of a Galilean Jewish teacher outside Jerusalem all those years ago is a good news story that turned the world upside down. It's one that Rembrandt's 1639 painting of the event nicely captures. In it, Roman soldiers tumble from their perches atop a tomb as Jesus, raised from death by God, bursts forth from within.

It's a story where force and imperial might don't have the last word. Where women, generally not held to be as credible witnesses as men in the ancient world, are the first to see and tell of Jesus' return. Where death bows before irrepressible life, and God vindicates Jesus' way of mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

More than a story, though, it's a pivot-point, a hinge of history if you will. One that's resonated through the ages with billions of followers of the way of Jesus across the world, and still does today. For sure, its influence can be hard to spot, like those eggs cunningly hidden on Easter bunny trails. But it's there, despite war around the globe, despite famine (again) in east Africa, despite the ravages of climate change and the cost-of-living crisis.

In choosing not to leave Jesus in the tomb, God says "Yes" to hope, and galvanises the followers of Jesus as agents of that hope in our world. In the midst of war. At the heart of famine-ravaged communities. In tackling climate change and poverty.

Enjoy the Easter bunny, and the chocolate. And may you know the deeper joy and hope of Easter, too.

Rev Jeremy Bevan

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

Quiz Time!

St Barbara's Church is holding its next Quiz Night on Saturday 19 May 2024.

The quiz is a fun evening 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 £6 per person and should be booked in advance.

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 Ian Leitch on 024 7667 7683 or at ianleitch094@gmail.com.





Church Services

Every Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

This is a quiet, meditative service.

10.00am Parish Communion (also livestreamed at stbarbaras.com)

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

9.30am Prayers and Bears (at Earlsdon Methodist Church—term time only)

A short, fun and special service for the under-5s and their parents/carers, followed by snacks and crafts.

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 March, 21st April, 19th May & 16th June)

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.

Holy Week & Easter Services

See page 1 for information on all our Holy Week and Easter services.

Special Events and Services

Sun 14th April 11.30am - **Spring Ramble and Soup Lunch**

Mon 6th May 11am-4pm - **May Day Earlsdon Festival and Church Fete**

Thu 8th May 11.30am - **Ascension Day Service**

Sun 12th May 11.30am - **St Barbara's Church's Annual General Meeting**

Sat 18th May 6.30pm - **Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper** (see p2)

Sat 25th May 3.30pm - **St Barbara's Choir Concert** (see p4)

Sun 9th June 11.30am - **Games, sports & barbecue**

Sun 23rd June 2.30pm - **Pet Service**

Sat 13th July (TBC) - **Summer Walk**

Please check our website - <https://stbarbaras.com/> - for the most up-to-date information on all our services and events.

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.



People of the Parish - Susan and Dominic

How long have you been coming to St Barbara's?

We've been coming to St Barbara's since we moved to Coventry to be near our daughter and family, two and a half years now.

What does St Barbara's mean to you?

St Barbara's is a great church where we can worship God, grow in our faith and be part of a close community.

What do you like about St Barbara's?

Everyone has been very welcoming and friendly. We love being part of the St Barbara's community, there's a lovely sense of family. We really enjoy being in a home group where we meet once a fortnight.

What else do you do outside of church?

A lot of time is taken up with grandparent duties and we also share an allotment with our son-in-law. We love reading and are part of the St

Barbara's Book Group. I go to a local art group round the corner from us and Dominic goes fly fishing (sometimes I go too if the weather is ok!).

Join us for our Spring Ramble

Will we need wellies and waterproof trousers or sunglasses and shorts? Whatever the weather, come and join us on Sunday 14th April for a Spring ramble around Canley Ford. We will head off from church straight after our 10am family service, for a 45 minute walk, through the meadows and woods, before returning for a lunch of soup and bread rolls. Always a lovely social time, do join us, whatever the weather!

And for the more adventurous, pop into the diary Saturday 13th July and a walk up through the Gibbet Hill and Tocil woods.



Choir concert

St Barbara's Church Choir will be holding a concert at 3.30pm on Saturday 25 May. They will be singing a variety of music, including a new piece by local composer Adam Tucker. The event will also feature some instrumentalists.

The concert is free and no tickets are required, but there will be a collection in aid of charity.

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