



ST BARBARA'S PARISH CHURCH EARLSDON // ISSUE NO.481 // AUTUMN 2024

# ST BARBARA'S NEWSLETTER

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## *Buzz at St B's Weekend 2024*

In early July, families from across the St Barbara's community headed to the Peak District for the weekend. During our time together, we reflected on the fact that God is with us, God knows us and God loves us. Walks in Dovedale and beyond allowed us to enjoy the stunning surroundings - and the sun shone more than was forecast! Adults and children had some time for their own activities, as well as plenty of opportunities to spend time together, building friendships and enjoying food (and lots of tea and cake!) together. Spending time together, worshipping together and seeing young people of all ages have such fun together all made the weekend very special. We're already looking forward to the Buzz Weekend 2025!

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## *Celebrating our Eco Award*

We were thrilled recently to learn that the church has gained a silver award from the Eco Church. The scheme, operated by A Rocha, supports churches in taking practical action to care for God's world. Churches are assessed against a wide range of criteria gauging how they express care for the environment. The silver award for St Barbara's follows a great deal of hard work on the part of a dedicated core team. Like all Anglican churches, St Barbara's is committed to becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030. In recent years, the team has helped the church switch its gas and electricity supplies away from fossil fuels. Low energy light bulbs are being introduced, as well as heat insulation around the church hall. To encourage pollinators, a wildflower garden has just been planted. In these and many other areas the church continues its efforts to protect the environment locally.

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## *A Service of Confirmation*

On Sunday 29th September St Barbara's will be holding a special service of Confirmation for three of our young people. Daniel, Felicity and Greg have all been part of St Barbara's for a number of years, growing up in the church, and it will be a special moment for us all to see them take this next important step on their Christian journey. In confirmation, those getting confirmed claim and affirm for themselves the promises to follow and love Christ that were made on their behalf at their baptism. We are delighted that Bishop Ruth, the interim Bishop of Coventry, will be leading the service. The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch afterwards. Do come and join us for this special occasion, and do pray for those getting confirmed. The service starts at 10am.

## *Thought for the Season: The God who is with us*

Last summer we were fortunate as a family to go walking in the Austrian Alps. I studied the maps and chose a walk which I thought was challenging in distance but not in danger. I was correct in the former, but unfortunately not in the latter. Austrian maps, I discovered, lack the detail to show where there are precipitous drops or where cliff edge pathways are crumbling.

And so, to my consternation, half-way through our walk, as we climbed our way round the side of a mountain, the pathway became ever more narrow, and the drop to our right ever more severe. I found myself looking down a sheer cliff edge to the valley floor several hundred feet below, clinging on to a bit of cable, on a pathway hardly wide enough to put one foot in front of another. I shuffled my way along, avoiding looking down as much as I could, my legs jelly. By the time we finished the walk I almost cried with relief.

Well, that was *my* experience of the walk. My children, on the other hand, loved it. They loved the excitement and the adrenalin. They loved stopping to admire the amazing views, whistling a tune as they did so. For them it was one of the best days of the holiday. For me, it literally gave me nightmares.

As I reflect back now, I realise that for all my planning, for all my studying of the maps and reading guide books, there were some uncertainties that I couldn't predict. I couldn't always know what was round the next corner.

That is true of life generally. We can make preparations, but sometimes life turns out differently than we had expected, we are left in situations that we would not have chosen. Sometimes, as with my children, that can bring joy and excitement. At other times, it can bring anxiety and stress.

But the one constant is that God promises to be with us. In the joys and sorrows of life, in its vibrancy and in its strains, in those things we can prepare for and those things that take us by surprise, God remains present, offering to support us, strengthen us, comfort us. He does not abandon us or leave us. The very last words of Jesus to his disciples before ascending to heaven speak to us: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." That is true whether we're clinging to a cliff edge paralysed by fear, or whether we are whistling a tune while delighting in the view.

Rev Tulo Raistrick

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



### *Prayer requests welcomed on our tree*

At St Barbara's we have set up a prayer tree in the church foyer featuring prayer requests from the church and the local community, whom we are keen to pray for. Anyone is welcome to add any prayer requests to the tree. There is a basket by it with pens and labels that anyone, child or adult, is free to use to add their requests.

If you would like to add a prayer request but are unable to make it to the church you can email it to [prayerchstb@gmail.com](mailto:prayerchstb@gmail.com) and we will add it to the tree. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously, and privacy will be ensured.

We have monthly prayer gatherings after the 10am Sunday morning service to offer prayers for those who have submitted prayer requests on the prayer tree and continue to pray for these throughout the month and at our mid-week services.



## Church Services

### Every Sunday

#### 8.00am Holy Communion

This is a quiet, meditative service.

#### 10.00am Parish Communion (also livestreamed at [stbarbaras.com](http://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 20th October, 17th November, 15th December)

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.

### Special Events and Services

Sun 29th September 10am - **Confirmation Service followed by Bring & Share lunch** (see p1)

Sun 13th October 10am - **Harvest Service**

Sun 3rd November 3pm - **Service of Commemoration & Thanksgiving** (see below)

Sun 10th November 10.30am - **Remembrance Day Service**

Sat 16th November 6.15pm - **Quiz Night & Fish and Chip Supper** (see p4)

Sat 7th December 2.30pm - **Poems and Pies**

Sun 8th December 10am - **Christingle Service**

Sun 15th December 4pm - **Buzz at St B's Christmas Craft Workshop & Service**

Sun 22nd December 6.30pm - **Christmas Carol Service**

## Remembering Loved Ones who have Died

On 5th November at 3.00pm, St Barbara's will be holding its annual *Commemoration and Thanksgiving Service for Those who Have Died*. This is a quiet and moving service, where we remember those who have died and offer them and ourselves to God. If there are people that you want to remember who have died, whether recently or in years past, you are very welcome to join us. There will be the opportunity to say prayers and light a candle as a sign of your love. And if you would like someone's name to be read out during the service, then please let Tulo, our vicar, know, either by email on [tulo@raistricks.com](mailto:tulo@raistricks.com) or by phone on 07869 603216.

**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.



## *People of the Parish - Jim and Sue Whorlow*

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

We have been attending St Barbara's for approximately 10 months.

### **What do you like about St Barbara's?**

St Barbara's has really enriched our lives. We were warmly welcomed into the church and immediately had a sense of belonging. We've developed new friendships and enjoyed attending many of the social events.

The sermons are captivating and inspiring. We always return home uplifted and reassured that God is with us in every step. Attending St Barbara's has given us the reassurance that whatever the world may throw at us, we no longer walk through life alone but accompanied by God's grace. Each week we have felt that we have learned more about our personal relationship with God.

The clergy are friendly and approachable. They are supportive but not intrusive; encouraging but don't impose. We have never felt any pressure to attend and could be involved as little, or as much, as we felt comfortable with. We are very grateful to the congregation of St Barbara's. Our lives have been greatly enriched by joining them.

### **What do you do outside of church?**

We enjoy nothing better than getting together with our family. We especially enjoy supporting and encouraging our grandchildren. Whether constructing crafts with the older grandchildren, becoming part of their football team, or ensuring when they visit, they always enjoy a treat or two.



## *Join us for Tearfund's Big Quiz Night*

St Barbara's Church will again be hosting Tearfund's Big Quiz Night on Saturday, 16th November. The Big Quiz Night is a nationwide, multi-venue quiz. On the same night hundreds of churches and thousands of people will come together across the country for a night of quizzing fun, raising money to help end extreme poverty through the work of Tearfund (<https://www.tearfund.org>), a Christian charity which fights to combat global poverty and injustice.

The quiz is suitable for all the family and will take place in St Barbara's church hall, with a break part way through for a fish and chip supper (alternatives available, including vegetarian options). Tickets (to cover the cost of the meal) are £7 per person and should be booked in advance. You will have opportunities to support the work of Tearfund both on the night and online via their Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-b-bigquiz2024>). 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 [ianleitch094@gmail.com](mailto:ianleitch094@gmail.com) or 024 7667 7683.

### *CONTACTS*

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