

A spot of Afternoon Tea?



We hosted the Charity "Contact the Elderly" for their 50th anniversary in February and invited residents from local residential homes; Melbourne House and St Andrews House to join them, for a lovely afternoon tea. We spent a jolly afternoon enjoying songs from decades past, eating lots of sandwiches and enjoying far too many cakes! It was lovely to spend time with our guests and ensuring their afternoon outing was full of chat, laughter and a few quizzes. We look forward to hosting another event soon. If you are interested in coming to one of our events focused on our older members, or an afternoon film for the children, you can find out more details from jorus-sell74@googlemail.com

Fun for all ages at St Barbara's



We started 2015 with a Sunday afternoon showing of Shaun the Sheep cartoons over an hour long session, complete with popcorn, cakes and squash. We welcomed some 15 young children and their minders, and lots of giggles were had!

Come join us for our Easter Services

Easter is the most important part of the year for Christians. It is when we remind ourselves of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the events at the very centre of our faith. Do come and join us for some or all of our services during this time:

Palm Sunday Service 29th March; 10am

Join us as we re-live Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as we process around the church

Mon 30th March and Wed 1st April, Compline service at 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday Service 2nd April 7.30pm; a simple service as we reflect on the events of Jesus' Last Supper
Good Friday Children's Workshop 3rd April 1pm; crafts and activities for children exploring the events and meaning of Easter.

Good Friday Service of the Cross 3rd April 2pm; a service of reflection and meditation as we focus on the death of Christ.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 5th April 6am; an unforgettable way to start Easter with a bonfire, candles and breakfast afterwards

CORD 'Spend a Penny' Challenge

You may have noticed that there is no letter from the Methodist Church this edition, but that we have a couple of new ventures with them, namely a combined friendship group and a toddler service. The Rev'd Andrew Charlesworth has been very committed in providing meaningful and interesting articles relevant to the church season. However, discovering that he has the care of **five** churches the Editorial team felt that we should relieve him of some of the pressure; so he has been invited to 'guest-write' for us every two or three editions. We are very grateful to him for always meeting our deadlines. Thank you, Andrew.

We are now into the six weeks of Lent and the idea of 'giving up' things for Lent seems old fashioned so I have decided instead to join St Barbara's initiative in 'spending a penny' every time the loo is flushed, dishes are washed or the washing machine goes on. In other words not **giving up** something but **giving instead** to Christian Outreach (CORD), a Leamington based charity where my pennies may do more good than forgoing chocolate or my daily glass of wine. In the modern world Lent probably passes most people by, only Pancake Day being remembered and celebrated. However, as a Christian, I feel I must remember Jesus' suffering for six weeks in the wilderness in preparation for his crucifixion, by marking Lent by some specific daily action. So CORD will benefit, and with the money donated CORD will supply wells to African villages that have no water. We will celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday with a flower decorated church, and joyful hymns! See you there? Happy easter to all! Josie Ed.

Contacts

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For more information go to
www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk



St Barbara's Newsletter

www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

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Welcome to Prayers and Bears!

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Mum, if God made the world, who made God?

Dad, why did our hamster die?

Granny, has grand-dad gone to heaven?

Sometimes the youngest of children can ask the most challenging and thoughtful questions.

We should not be surprised. Research from Finland has found that young children are twice as likely to be able to mention times when they are aware of God's presence than adults are.

So St Barbara's and Earlsdon Methodist Church are starting together *Prayers and Bears*, a special service for children under five, every Wednesday morning at the Methodist Church at 9.15am.

The service will involve action songs, treasure hunts, drama, craft and a story. Afterwards, parents and carers can then have a relaxing cup of tea or coffee whilst the children have a snack, and then do further craft activities or play with toys.

Doors will open at 8.45am, so there is no need to hang around in the cold if you have just dropped older children off at school, and whilst the service will be over by 9.50am, children and their parents and carers are more than welcome to stay and play until 10.30am.



Children can bring along their favourite bear or cuddly toy and introduce them to *Prayers and Bears* if they would like.

If you care for children under five, and are free on a Wednesday morning, do come along and try it out. We'd love to see you!

Mothering Sunday

A gentle and tactful reminder to all dads and children – Mother's Day is on 15th March.

How are you planning to celebrate and make the day special for them?

Why not come along to St Barbara's Mother's Day service, an opportunity to give thanks for our mothers, whether old or young.

The service starts at 10am, so late enough to do that special breakfast in bed beforehand, and will be finished by 11am, so plenty of time to cook that special Sunday lunch afterwards.

Do come along and join us for our special service at St Barbara's.



Thought for the Month

Grasping the Nettle

One of our main holiday activities as children was walking.

I remember us going on some pretty adventurous walks from quite an early age. By the age of ten, I had traversed across a glacier in Austria, been turned back by waist-high snow on Snowden, been drenched and lost in the mists of Dartmoor, and crawled along a narrow cliff path with a 1000-foot sheer drop to one side in the Swiss Alps.

But it was on one of our tamer walks – in the Suffolk countryside – when I particularly appreciated my dad's presence. Our woodland path was suddenly blocked by a huge bank of nettles – 6-foot high and venomous. There was no way round. And being a warm day, we only had shorts and T-shirts: no protection from these



our saviour that day. We walked through to the other

green monsters. The thought of proceeding filled me with dread.

And then dad pulled up his socks, took a deep breath and walked straight in, trampling down as many of the nettles as he could, clearing a way. He disappeared into the dense undergrowth, to return a few minutes later, his arms and legs a rash of stings, but with a pathway clear. He was

side of the wood, with barely a sting among us, whilst he bore the itches and swelling for a few days to come.

Over these next few weeks Christians remember an act of love on a completely different scale, an act where someone went ahead of us to beat down, to trample down, the sting of something far worse than nettles, of death itself. When Jesus died on the cross, he entered death to overcome it, to ensure that it did not end the journey. His death, his drawing the sting upon himself, opens up the way for us to walk through death to life on the other side. He has cleared the way.

It came at great cost, a cost beyond our imagining, but a cost that as a parent would, he took for us. The marks of sacrifice are still visible on his risen hands and feet.

He has gone before us, he has cleared the way, and he returns to guide us through.

As we approach Easter over this coming month may the stirring refrain from Handel's Messiah, quoting Saint Paul, ring in our hearts and minds: "O Death, where is thy sting?"

The nettle has been grasped; death's sting has been drawn. *Rev Tulo Raistrick*



Church Choir records its first CD

In 2014 St Barbara's Church choir celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was a busy year which began with a well attended concert and concluded with the recording of its first CD.

In late November the church was transformed into a professional recording studio with wires snaking through the nave and microphone stands sprouting among the chairs. The choir warmed up and waited patiently while the sound engineer made technical adjustments but then rapidly recorded several items, including Bruckner's Locus Iste, Howard Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd' - the theme tune to The Vicar of Dibley - and a setting of the Lord's Prayer in gospel style. After lunch the choir recorded the more challenging pieces, including 'Greater Love', an anthem by John Ireland. The CD was ready before Christmas and has been well received; it is still available for purchase at £6 from the choir director Mrs. Katherine Owen.

The high standard of singing evident in the CD is achieved through regular practice and the Voice for Life scheme which supports and promotes singing in churches, schools and other communities. The choir director ensures individual training to improve the choristers musical and vocal skills. Successful training is evident in the differently coloured ribbons worn by the singers. Several choir members made progress with their training most notably all four members of the Owen family who achieved their Gold Award. In November, the ribbons were awarded. Daniel, age 8 (see picture), was proud to be formally admitted into the choir having achieved his white level. Uniquely, St Barbara's Church choir now has choristers at every level of training.



New singers are always welcome. A recent survey of people aged over 50 revealed that one in six regretted never having learnt to play a musical instrument. Choirs provide an opportunity to use our personal musical instrument - our voice!



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 9.15am 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: 15 March 5pm

19th April 5pm

This is a fun, creative and interac-

tive 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.

Soul Space: 1st Mar 6.30pm

5th April 6.30pm

Choral Evensong 3rd May 6.30pm

Special Services

15th March 10am Mothering Sunday A special All Age Service

5th April 10am Esater Sunday

2nd May 5pm Confirmation Service The Bishop of Coventry will be confirming a number of people from St Barbara's and other local churches at this special service

Other Events

Friendship Group

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

March 4th Poems & Posies

18th Physical Activity Talk

April 1st The Donkey Sanctuary

15th Friends of the Memorial Park

29th 'The Day after Yesterday'

Social Events

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

March 5th 'The Two Faces of January (12)'

This atmospheric thriller, where a young couple on holiday meet a far from honest tour guide, is set to keep pulses racing with the twist

and turns where all is not what it seems

No film night in April (Maundy Thursday service in church)

7th May 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button' (12A). The story of a man who starts aging backwards with bizarre consequences.

Our next **family film event** on **Sunday 8th March** will show "Chill out Scooby Doo" at **12 noon**. Nibbles and drinks are provided, entry is free. See you there!

May Day Fete Monday 4th May 11am to 4pm. Lunches and teas will be served. A variety of stalls will be of interest. Tours of the church during the day.

From the Registers

Funerals

6th February Peter Turnbull

Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

Prayer Breakfasts 8am

7th Mar Hearsall Baptist Church

April No prayer breakfast

2nd May St Barbara's Church

Lent Lunches Tuesdays 12 noon-2pm

3rd March Hearsall Baptist Church

10th March St Mary Magdalen

17th March St Barbara's Church

24th March Earlsdon Methodist

Other Events

31st March Walk of Witness/ Stations of the Cross - from St Barbara's at 6.30pm

2nd April Maundy Thursday 10am 'til noon Free Coventry God-cakes in Earlsdon St

26th April at 6.30pm. A Service to launch CTEC Arts Festival at Earlsdon Methodist Church

Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?

Feel free to telephone Katherine on 01926 851568.

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.

