

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Barnsbury Parish - ELiC Programme

Progress on Estates in Islington

We all love to hear good news, and we can all play a part in passing on good news, so here is the first good newsletter. We are excited to share progress updates and new projects happening in our community!

Hello, my name is Sarah, and I have recently started working for Barnsbury Parish and specifically at Church on the Corner (COTC).

My role is supporting church outreach operations and projects – reaching out with a welcome hand on local estates and low-income communities.



We are all on a journey to somewhere – well, what does that mean?



..... it's helpful to know where we have come from, to inform where we are going and the destination.

So where are we starting from?

Idina, the Associate Minister at COTC along with members of both churches has supported, facilitated and started new community activities which show welcome and inclusion.

- see page 3 for details.

The Bible gives us wisdom and direction for many aspects of life. in Luke 10 v 1 it says “ after the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on **ahead** of him in pairs to every town and place **where he himself intended to go ...”**



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Some practical ways

1. Mapping our estates.

There is a mapping tool to do this provided by an organisation called Proximity, they are encouraging churches to be nearer people **in their communities.**

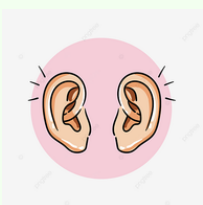


2. Digging deeper

Well, what does that mean? It's good to do some research.

Some ideas & Questions:

- Find out our area's **History, Geography.**
How is the community laid out?
Where do people gather?
What are the accepted rhythms of life.
- How have **Politics** influenced the neighbourhood?
- How is **Art** expressed?
- Faith:** what has God already been doing in the community?
What other churches are involved in the area.
Are there any other faith groups meeting in your community?



3. Listening

What have we heard so far?
What are people in the local community of Barnsbury parish saying?



*I caught up with **Stan** at a bus stop the other day. He spent many years working as a coach builder for British Road Services in City Road. He brought up his family in the area and now as a widower he went along to Help on the Doorstep for some support and company. He took part in the activities and met Idina who invited him to church. He came along to St Andrews and Cozy Corner.*

Stan says his life has changed as he feels he is part of a large friendly family. He helps with diy jobs and cooks meat patties for family events as part of his role in the church family.



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4. Serving

How are we doing this?

- **Art on the corner:**

Emily welcomes people into a creative space monthly on a Sunday afternoon. This has recently developed into greenspaces, meeting at Culpeper community garden.



- **Open Church:**

A space where the local community can be welcomed through refreshments, time to connect, and give and receive clothes for adults and children. Lis and Chanel lead on this project.

- **Cosy Corner:**

Started as a warm space in Autumn 2023. It's a safe space welcoming people for two hours on a Monday by providing simple lunch refreshments, activities, games and quizzes, finishing with a spiritual space of mindful prayer for felt needs.



- **English language classes:**

A space where Sue welcomes people who want to learn from a second language base, every Monday during term time.



New for 2025

Interfaith consultation:

Idina has been on the board of Copenhagen Foodbank and this has opened the door for consultation on partnership with others to see if there is an appetite for an interfaith meal on the Bemerton Estate.

Community gardening

where people can cultivate fruit, veg or flowers at Culpeper garden in the COTC allotment.

Nature projects

at Barnsbury wood.



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So how do YOU want to be involved?

There are five ways:

1. Mapping

Be part of the mapping process
– see page 2.

2. Good News stories

Please let us know if you have any stories you can share with us to highlight how God is showing Himself /working in the estates & low-income communities in Islington.

3. Name

We need a name for all the things we are doing on estates. Let us know what you come up with?

4. Prayer walking

Every Friday, meet at 12.15pm at Euro Cafe on Caledonian Road followed by lunch at Jean's Cafe at Jean Stokes Community Centre (pay as you feel lunch). Contact Rev Idina if you'd like to come along.

5. Trip

Join us for a trip to Islington Museum on Monday 9th June to find out more about local history.

Listen out for groups gathering to dream good dreams for Bemerton and Boston and Nailour Estates.

If you are interested in being involved please email me on sarah@churchonthecorner.org.uk or speak to Rev Idina

