

ST BARNABAS RANMORE

The Cathedral in the Woods
RH5 6SP

monthly newsletter

June 2026

WELCOME

WELCOME to our Matins service this morning which will be led by our Rev'd Dr Anthony Rustell. We trust you will stay for a glass of wine or soft drink and, of course, the winning 100 Club number will be drawn.



SERVICES

Sunday 14th June at 11.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist on St Barnabas' Day

Sunday 21st June at 11.00 a.m.
Matins (BCP)

Sunday 28th June at 11.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 5th July at 11.00 a.m.
Matins (BCP)

Sunday 12th July at 11.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 19th July at 11.00 a.m.
Matins (BCP)

Sunday 28th July at 11.00 a.m.
Sung Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday 1st August at 11.00 a.m.
Matins (BCP)

ST BARNABAS, RANMORE

14 JUNE 2026



SUNG EUCHARIST

at 11.00 to celebrate St Barnabas

To include music by Gibbons, Poulenc and Byrd

Sung by The Whyte Effect

All welcome

YOU can read Chris Watts' excellent article about St Barnabas in the email version of this newsletter.

REV'D Dr Anthony Rustell will preside at a Sung Eucharist on the 14th when The Whyte effect Choir will join us to celebrate our patronal festival on St Barnabas' Day.

Lay Minister Chris Watts with lead Matins services on the 21st and July 5th and 18th and August 1st. Rev'd Anthony will preside at Sung Eucharist services on the 28th June, 12th and 28th July.

The Churchwardens write..

"With much regret, Steph and I have concluded that the Cherry Fair this year is not a viable proposition and is therefore cancelled.

The organising committee for the Fair is short handed and several critically important stall holders will not be available.

We expect the Christmas Fair to run as normal and that the Cherry Fair will resume in 2027."

Robin Luff & Steph Kingham

MUSIC for St Barnabas

THE Whyte Effect will be singing for us at our Patronal Festival on Sunday 14 June at 11am. To celebrate St Barnabas they will be singing an arrangement of the hauntingly beautiful *'Drop, drop slow tears'* by Orlando Gibbons by the saxophonist, Christian Forshaw, replete with a trumpet part. The service will also include Francis Poulenc's *'Salve Regina'* and an arrangement of the spiritual *'Deep*

River'. All of those will be interwoven with William Byrd's *'Mass for four voices'*. Please do come and be uplifted by this extraordinary music.

The Choir are also giving a summer concert called *'From Sacred to Profane'* at St John's Church, Wotton on Saturday 20th June from 6-7pm. Entrance is free (with a retiring collection). Please do go and support them.

They will be at St Barnabas on 12th July when the music at the Eucharist will be remembering the English composer, Benjamin Britten, 50 years after his death. All of the pieces will be by Britten and will include *'Procession'* (from *'A Ceremony of Carols'*), *'Carol'* (from *'Sacred and Profane'*), his well-known anthem, *'A Hymn to the Virgin'*, the Sanctus & Benedictus from *'Missa Brevis'* and the haunting *Agnus Dei* (for tenor solo and chorus) from the *'War Requiem'* (with text by Willfred Owen).

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

REV'D Dr Anthony Rustell chaired the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on May 3rd and reported that there were many highlights for St Barnabas over the past year eg. *Tenebrae*, *Nine Lessons and Carols*, the confirmation of two adults by Bishop Paul. There were large congregations attendant at these special services and events.

We host a large proportion of the Benefice occasional offices (weddings and funerals) at our church. Many of these occasions are better placed in St Barnabas as the numbers attending are 'lost' in St Martin's.

Rev'd Anthony said that we have ascertained our 'core values' during the year – Community, Hospitality and Tradition. A 'Friends of St Barnabas' Group is being established with its first event in June – a garden party. This will better embed the church as the parish church for the Common, emphasising that this space belongs to them.

Rev'd Anthony thanked Robin Luff and Steph Kingham for their support towards this Friends project and outlined an upcoming meeting in June, with the Archdeacon, to find out about the practicalities of joining the Parishes of St Barnabas and St Martins into one body. This is not a 'done deal' and at this point is merely an exploration of the advantages and disadvantages, with regard to filling officer roles, governance strength, governance administration and the coordination of music.

We would like to thank Anthony Goodenough and Sandra Skelt for their respective years of service on the PCC, Sandra in particular as Minutes Secretary and for being a Parish Representative during the discernment process before the appointment of the Priest-in-Charge. Chis Watts was welcomed as a new member of the PCC.



**St Theresa's
Community Tea
& Evensong**

In celebration of Values Week 2026
On Thursday 18th June 2026
Community Tea: 16:45 - 17:15
Evensong: 17:30 - 18:15
Location: Chapel Lawn
RSVP to info@st-teresas.com

First and lasting impression of Presiding at St Barnabas Church, Ranmore

*service of Holy Communion
Rev'd Gerard Mee*

LESS is more, as my Theological Lecturer would often say when teaching the art of expressing our reflections down on paper, which, being a no-nonsense Northern type of bloke, was very much music to my ears! However, this stripping back of all the unnecessary 'fact', the flowery 'whistles' and 'bells' which, over the years, worshippers have seen fit to clutter our liturgy with.

Now granted, the poetic language of The King James Bible prayerfully crafted and interwoven deep within the heart of The Book of Common Prayer, may not be to everyone's spiritual taste – but rather than being seen as archaic and best assigned to the corridors of history (along with the rest of Christianity-our atheist friend would argue), how might we all re-brand and subsequently market St. Barnabas style of 'being Church' as a timeless oasis?

For let's look at the current state of our society, given the ever-increasing price of Jet fuel, the opportunity of

flying off to the Far East to find 'one-self' to reconnect with the divine may no longer be a viable option. All of which feeds into the heavenly devotion that the devoted church family of Ranmore have been gently maintaining week in week out.

Not so much as escaping, as blocking out the realities of this world that pulls us, here, there and everywhere, rather an invitation, permission to press the pause, to allow the Lord's presence to penetrate your heart and discover, that yes – less is so often much better than more – so do come give it a try – as you'll not be disappointed.

OPEN GARDEN

ASHCOMBE Cottage on Ranmore Common will be opening its garden for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 21st June, from 11am to 4pm and all are warmly welcome. The cottage has a charm-

ing history – built in the 1860s by the woodreeve of the Denbies Estate using Bath stone left over from the construction of our own St Barnabas church. The garden has had extensive renovations over the last six years.

The result is a delightful two-thirds of an acre to explore: flint-edged borders overflowing with colour, rose beds perfuming the air, raised vegetable beds, a chain of wildlife ponds, and a Victorian cistern from 1863 given a modern twist for rainwater catchment and a secluded White Garden.

The garden is located 1 mile down the road from St. Barnabas church (RH5 6SP; What3words app: global.angel.jams). £5 admission per adult which goes to charities supported by NGS. Free parking will be available close to the garden.

Teas will served that afternoon at the church, all proceeds going to St Barnabas, and we would be grateful for homemade cakes on the day.

Who's Who at St. Barnabas

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev'd Dr Anthony Rustell 07919 154641

St Barnabas is part of a United Benefice with St Martin's Church Dorking. Please contact the Church Office with enquiries about baptisms and marriages at email: churchoffice@stmartinsdorking.org

or phone 01306 884229

Churchwardens:

Dr Robin Luff 01306 884093

Mrs Stephanie Kingham 01306 888368

This newsletter and other information is available on our website...

www.achurchnearyou.com/ranmore-st-barnabas

Contact the Editor dick.gover@gmail.com

to receive the newsletter in your email inbox.

You can also follow St Barnabas on Facebook.

There is more information on the website www.StBarnabasRanmore.com

You can find much about the history of Ranmore, the Denbies Estate and St Barnabas Church on the website created by the late Margaret Maynard.

www.ranmorewarmemorial.info

"All those Sundays after Trinity"

Chris Watts

THE expression "All those Sundays after Trinity" is used by Rockingham ("Rocky") Napier, a character in Barbara Pym's book *'Excellent Women'*, generally accepted to be her funniest. It is his (rather superficial) characterisation of Anglicanism.

June this year is the month in which these "Sundays after Trinity" start, though not when they stop: not by a long way. The "Last Sunday after Trinity" this year, according to Common Worship is the 25th of October (the day the clocks go back, don't forget). In the Book of Common Prayer "The 24th Sunday after Trinity" is even later: on the 15th of November, the following Sunday being "The Sunday Next before Advent.

However, June is not just "Sundays after Trinity". There are actual celebrations and commemorations as well. There is the Visitation on the 1st, but that will probably be in the past by the time you get to read this. And there is St Peter and Paul on the 29th, but maybe you'll have started reading the July magazine by then.

The birth of John the Baptist on the 24th is definitely worth celebrating, since he did prepare the way for Jesus, but, when it comes to celebrating the work of an actual Apostle, the important commemoration is St

Barnabas, on the 11th of June.

We all know him as Barnabas, but that was not the name given to him at birth, which was Joseph, or Joses. He is first mentioned in Acts 4:36-37, where the name "Barnabas" is explained as meaning "son of encouragement" in Aramaic. In those verses it is recounted that he sold his land and laid the money at the apostles' feet, so the first thing about Barnabas is that he was wholehearted in supporting the Christian Church financially.

In Acts 9:26-27 we read that St Paul, shortly after his conversion and his witness to Jesus in Damascus, went to Jerusalem to join the disciples, but they were suspicious of him, knowing that he had been a persecutor of the Church. There, Barnabas stood up for him, convincing them that Paul was a true convert, having met Jesus in the course of his journey, and was sincere and effective in preaching the Gospel.

In Acts 11 we read about Barnabas' mission in Antioch. He encouraged the followers of Jesus there and more people joined them.

Having made headway in Antioch by encouraging the church there, he went to Tarsus and brought Paul back. Between them, over the following year, they established the church in Antioch on a sound basis, and that was when they became known by the name of "Christians".

When they heard about the need

of the church in Judea, they got together to provide help “every man according to his ability”, and it was Paul and Barnabas who brought it to the elders in Jerusalem.

In Acts 13 and 14 we read about stronger opposition from the Jewish religious establishment and Paul and Barnabas starting to concentrate more on preaching the Gospel to Gentiles, and that was the way they continued.

In Acts 15 we read about the Council at Jerusalem. There was a problem in the Church as to whether, and to what extent, Gentile believers should be obliged to comply with the same rules that applied to Jews, mainly whether they needed to be circumcised. Paul and Barnabas and some others put the question to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem, with the result that circumcision was not required, but just to refrain from several things that were connected with practice in Heathen temples.

Now, what do we learn from Barnabas that is relevant to the Church today?

As I pointed out above, Barnabas wasn't his actual name, which was Joseph or Joses, depending on whom you ask. He was called Barnabas, the son of encouragement, by those who knew him, because that was the sort of person he was. His strength was being an encourager. When he needed someone who was good at persuading unbelievers and winning

arguments he sent for Paul and they worked together very effectively, especially in Antioch.

The main lesson we learn is therefore that being an encourager is an important part of ministry in the Church. The ability to receive and impart sound doctrine is important.

Remember, Barnabas was keen to have Paul with him. But the Church needs encouragers as well. With Paul and Barnabas together the Church really took off.

"A Summer Serenade"

ON Sunday 5th July at 6 p.m. at St Barnabas join the Ripieno Choir for a relaxed end to the summer season.

Following a short sacred programme, including Compline, there will be time to enjoy some outdoor refreshments accompanied by a few madrigals. Admission free with a retiring collection.



**SUMMER CHORAL
CONCERT** *from sacred
to profane*

sung by
The Whyte Effect

St John's Wotton
Saturday 20 June 2026
6-7pm

Free Admission
Retiring collection for church funds