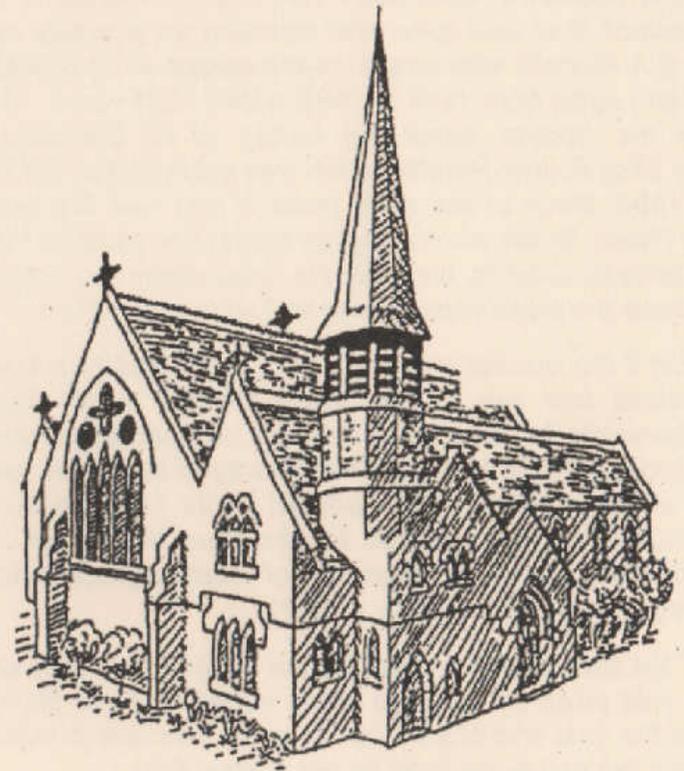


A BRIEF HISTORY
and
PICTORIAL GUIDE TO
ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SUTTON



compiled by
Humphrey Clarke
(Churchwarden 2000 - 2005)

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of
MISS EVELYN HADDER
who researched the whole of the history of St Barnabas Church
at the time of its centenary in 1984.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In compiling this booklet, I have been very much indebted to the large amount of research that was done and recorded for posterity in the mid 1960's by Mr E A Nicholls who was a churchwarden at St Barnabas from 1936 to 1941 and again from 1946 to 1962, a total of 21 years. I have also made use of the booklet about the history of St Barnabas Church researched by Miss Evelyn Hadder which was published at the time of its centenary in 1984. Much of the early detail in that was first recorded in 1932 by Miss Fanny Smith whose original typewritten booklet I have also read. I have endeavoured to bring all the information up to date where possible to include the major repair works that were undertaken in 2011.

Ideally it is best if the booklet is read in the Church itself as readers can then walk around and see all the items referred to for themselves. However, I appreciate for many that may not be possible so illustrations are included throughout the booklet. The majority of these are taken from the Church's archives which I first updated for its 125th Anniversary on 29th March 2009 but I am indebted to Mrs Pam Vernon of St Mary's Church, Beddington, whose photographs of stained glass windows are included on Pages 6, 14 (lower right), 19 & 21.

At the start of the book readers should sit, or imagine that they are sitting, in one of the front pews of the Nave. As is normal in most churches, the main altar is at the east end of the Church so, as you face it, references to north are to your left and those to south are to your right.

Humphrey Clarke, Sutton, 2011

All profits from the sale of this booklet will be given to St Barnabas Church.

In the Beginning.....

The area around St Barnabas Church grew up in the second half of the 1800's and was originally known as the New Town Estate. Houses in the various roads nearby still bear dates which testify to the time of the development of this part of Sutton from the 1850's onwards.

By about 1880 several leading local residents were getting concerned about the state of this part of Sutton and felt that a church was urgently needed, with, as it was said at the time, "a clergyman to care for the moral and spiritual life of the people". A meeting was called on Saturday 5th February 1881, under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Rochester, in whose diocese Sutton then was. At this meeting, a scheme for a new church was launched. The Rochester Diocesan Society had pledged £500 to purchase a suitable site. A committee was formed but three long years of difficulty and disappointment were to pass before the scheme would be brought to fruition.

Perhaps the most important member of the committee at the outset was a Revd A G L Dowling whose services the Bishop had secured. At that meeting the Bishop emphasised that the first necessity for the founding of a new parish was not the building of a church but for him to send a clergyman to gather a congregation. And this Mr Dowling did. He held services in a room in Lind Road on Sunday evenings and started various clubs.

At the Committee's meeting on 31st March 1881, it was decided that the new church should be dedicated to St. Barnabas. Building plans were drawn up and tenders accepted for a Chancel, a Nave and a South Aisle.

In the meantime work on a school building was begun without delay. This "schoolroom", what we now know as the South Hall of the Halls' complex, the hall next to the kitchen, was opened in August 1881 and Mr Bowling's plan was to hold services and Sunday School in it on Sundays until the church was built.

The Building Committee encountered several legal problems concerning the setting up of the new parish but, eventually, the foundation stone for the Church was laid on 19th January, 1882. There is an interesting story behind it which will be recounted later in this booklet.



St Barnabas Church in 1891 (the earliest known photograph)



..... and St Barnabas Church in 2011

A single anonymous gift of £1,000 towards the cost of the building had been pledged at the very outset. This was revealed many years later to have been given by the Revd R S Tabor, Headmaster of Cheam School (he was a friend of the Bishop of Rochester). A single bazaar organized by a local woman, Mrs Catharine Dunkin, also raised just over another £1,000.

The total building costs for the main parts which formed the original church was £5,000. In today's money that would be £5,000,000 which would mean that the bazaar raised £1,000,000 in a single day – a far cry from that raised at St Barnabas bazaars/fairs in the 21st Century which usually also raise just about £1,000 but that is, of course, at 21st Century values!

When construction of the building was under way, the Building Committee turned its attention to the provision of internal fittings. An estimate for 26 pews, the ones that you are sitting on now if you are reading this booklet in the Church, at a cost of £81 was accepted. However, these were for the Nave only. The Committee was in dispute with the builder about money for the South Aisle. As a consequence the work was incomplete and unpaid for. In June 1883, the Diocesan Architect found the existing available accommodation insufficient and the Church Commissioners refused to seal the Deed of Patronage which would have led to the Dedication of the Church in July of that year. The Architect estimated that the Nave and Chancel would only seat 230 adults which was considered insufficient for a Parish Church. Fortunately, the Bishop helped the Building Committee obtain a grant and some further moneys towards the South Aisle but, as this was still insufficient to enable the Church to open free of debt, the Building Committee members gave their personal guarantees for the balance and the builder was instructed to proceed.

After that there were only minor difficulties and the Bishop of Rochester consecrated the Church, St. Barnabas Church, Sutton New Town on Saturday, 29th March 1884. The 125th anniversary of the Consecration fell on Passion Sunday 2009 and was suitably commemorated.

In his sermon on the Consecration Day in 1884, the Bishop stressed that, now the building was complete the people “must begin their church work this very next week”. So, under the leadership of the first vicar, they obeyed their Bishop and began the work that is ours today.

Seven years later, in 1891, the North Aisle, the Tower and the Upper and Lower Vestries were added.

But that's enough of the history of how St Barnabas Church came into being for the moment. Let us now begin our tour of the Church. Whilst I will ask you to imagine that you are walking with me gradually round the Church, to begin with we will stay here where we are, at the front of the Nave.

2

The Chancel



Let us start with St Barnabas' most recent acquisition which is the Nave Altar at the west end of the Chancel. When a Nave Altar was originally introduced in 2004 the altar from the Memorial Chapel was used. But later, an offer of an altar from St Nicholas Church, Sutton, surplus to its requirements, was received. This was accepted and the other altar was returned

to the Memorial Chapel.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Lectern on the north side. It is a piece of fine carving and is a memorial to the mother of Mrs. Barbara Hitchcock. You will find the name of Hitchcock cropping up several times in the Church as the family had a very long connection with St Barnabas and some family members are still members of today's Christ Church congregation in Sutton, namely Mrs Jean Carver and her son, Andrew. This lectern was given in the 1960's.



The original lectern was a brass one which was given to St Barnabas by the children of Carshalton School when the Church was opened. It was later donated to a newly built church in Nigeria which church, in return, donated the cross which now stands on the Nave Altar. The plaque on its base reads: "Presented by St David's Sunday School, Kudeti, Ibadan, Nigeria, West Africa".

Over on the south side is the Pulpit. This was given by Mr George Orme. He was a man who liked to work in the background. There is a quotation carved on it which reads "Thy will be done". Until the late 1960's the Pulpit and the Lectern were, respectively, on the north and south sides of the Chancel. That's probably why the bottom step of the Pulpit is very high as it appears to have been made to fit over the bottom step of the Chancel on the north side. They were swapped over when the organ console was moved from the north side of the Chancel, behind the choir pews where there is now wood panelling, to its present position on the south side.

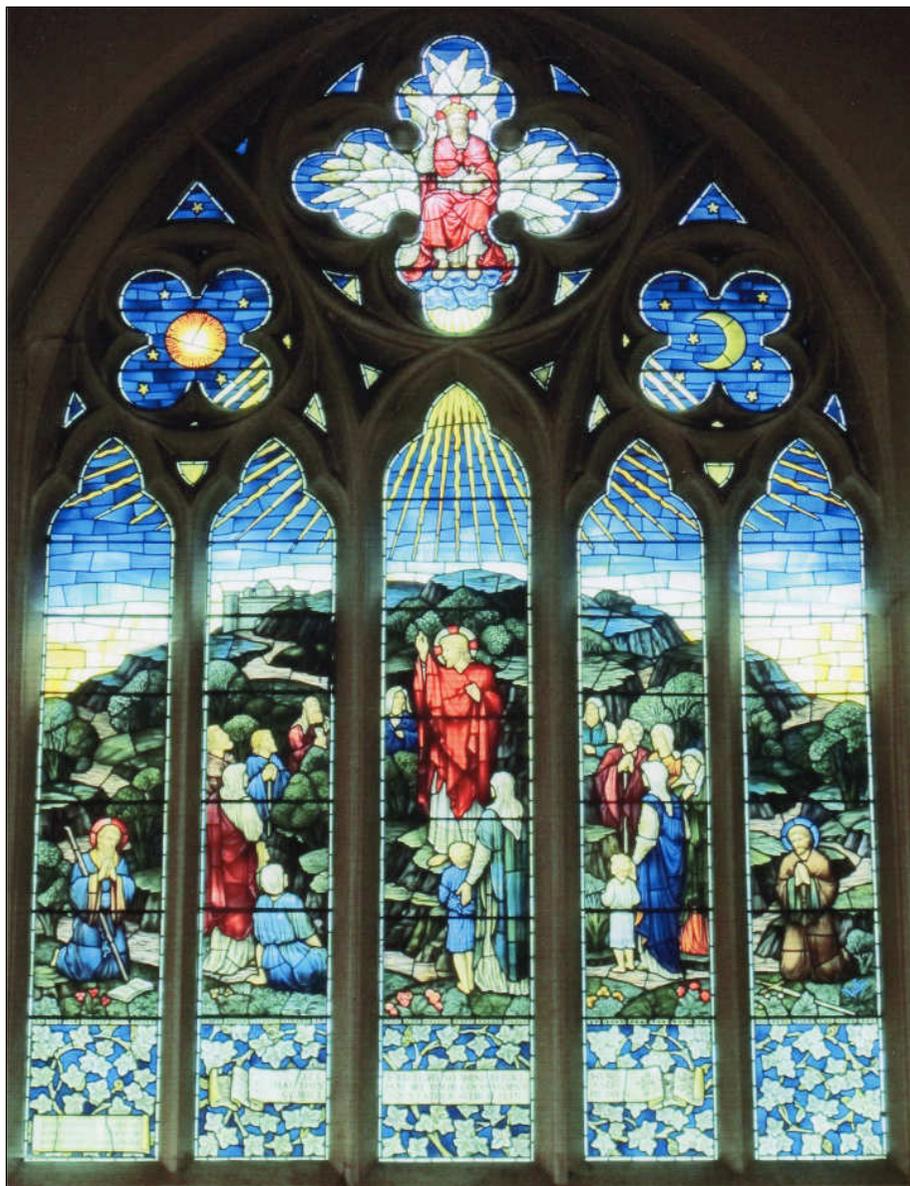


The walls of the Church are plastered and painted white. This was not always the case. Originally, the walls were plain brickwork as, indeed, is the entrance porch at the west end. In 1934 the Chancel walls were plastered to bring them into line with those of the Memorial Chapel and then, in 1957, some former members of the St Barnabas Cadets (the forerunner of the St Barnabas Scout Troup) which was founded and lead by Mr Arthur Bawtree, subscribed together to plaster the Nave and to clean down the stonework. There is a plaque recording that work in the entrance porch at the west end.

But, what I think must strike everyone, above anything else, every time they come into the Church, is the truly magnificent East Window.

This was given to the Church in 1938 by a local tradesman, Mr John Coxhill, in memory of his wife. One Sunday, towards the end of 1937, Mr Coxhill approached one of the Churchwardens and requested a private interview during the week. I believe it must have been to Mr Nicholls himself that he spoke as, when Mr Nicholls recounted the story in 1964, he demonstrated a remarkable amount of inside knowledge about it.

Mr Nicholas said that churchwardens, being suspicious people, always suspect trouble of some kind when they get requests such as the one that was made and the churchwarden in question thought, "What's gone wrong now?" but he was surprised and delighted at the private interview a few days later to be told that Mr Coxhill wished to make a gift to the Church in memory of his wife, Edith Annie, and "Would a rood screen be acceptable?", that is a screen separating the Chancel and the Sanctuary from the Nave. Incidentally that was the norm in the days before the Reformation in all churches when naves were often used for secular purposes.



The matter was referred to the Vicar, who at that time was the Revd C R J Day, but he felt that a rood screen would not be suitable for St. Barnabas and suggested an East Window instead. Mr Coxhill readily agreed to this suggestion and the result is there for all of us to enjoy today.

The main part represents the Sermon on the Mount, whilst above, we are reminded of the opening words of our creed, "I believe in God the Father, Maker of Heaven and Earth."

In the main picture at each side are two kneeling figures. They are, on the left, St Barnabas and, on the right, St. Paul. These were the two men who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, began the work of spreading the Christian message throughout the world.

The words at the foot of the window read "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven"; the familiar words from the Sermon on the Mount which form one of the Sentences used by the Priest at the time of the Offertory in the Communion Service when it is celebrated according to the Book of Common Prayer which, of course, in the 1930's, was every Sunday.

In the Parish Magazine of January 1938, the Vicar, the Revd C R J Day, wrote:-

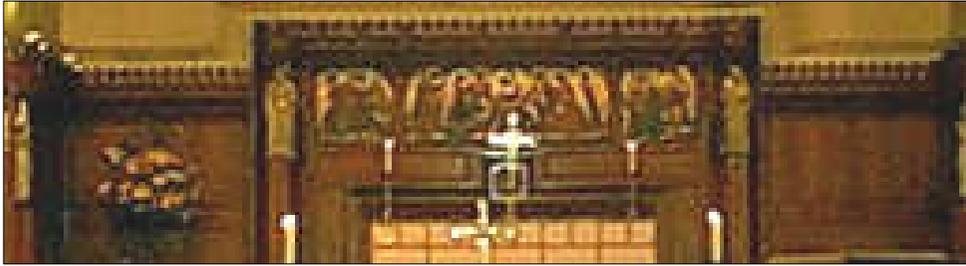
For many years we have longed for an East Window, not only because it will be a noble addition to the Church, but also because it will give protection against the brilliant sunlight which streams in during the summer, to the discomfort, I fear, of many worshippers. Thanks to the great generosity of Mr Coxshill, we hope to have in the course of the next few months a complete new window. He is giving the window in memory of his wife who was for many years a member of our congregation. It is difficult to find words in which adequately to express our deep gratitude for this very generous gift. We have tried to do so, but words seem so poor. Perhaps the knowledge that the memorial to one he loved is also a very beautiful addition to the Church where she worshipped and a joy to the congregation will be all the thanks Mr Coxshill needs.

The window was duly completed and the Vicar dedicated it on Sunday 8th May that year and it remains today one of the most beautiful memorials that St Barnabas possesses.

In 2011 the Church was completely rewired and new pendants were hung in the Chancel.

Now let us move up into the Chancel from where we can see the Sanctuary closer.





The reredos, around the walls of the Sanctuary, was carved between 1909 and 1911 by the Cheltenham firm of H H Martyn & Co. It was paid for with a bequest from a Miss Mary Ann Pledge, who had died the previous year and had bequeathed her savings (£60) for use of St Barnabas Parish. It was designed by Arthur Bartlett, brother of the then vicar, Canon W Bartlett.



The three oak panels (triptych) were painted with angels by Miss Ethel K Martyn (1871 – 1954), an architecture and figure painter and etcher but not, as far as is known, any relation to the firm of woodcarvers. The painting of the angels was covered up with a curtain in 1958 as it had become faded but it was restored and the curtain removed in the 1980's.



There is a magnificent carving of vines just behind the top of the altar.

The four statues of saints that you can see were also carved in wood by the firm of H H Martyn. They are not stone statues. At the time, Canon Bartlett wrote:-

St. Paul [on the north side of the altar] is represented, as usual in church pictures, with a sword because, as a Roman citizen, he was beheaded or 'slain with the sword' instead of being crucified among malefactors like our Lord and St Peter but the sword seems to remind us also that he fought with 'the sword of the Spirit', which is the 'Word of God', and how effectually he



St Barnabas



St Paul



St Peter



he

St Mark

wielded his weapon. St. Peter [on the south side of the altar] holds the keys. St. Mark [by the south wall of the sanctuary] was included as one of the four Evangelists to whom, under God, we owe our knowledge of the Saviour's life, and also as being an attendant on St. Peter, next to whom he stands, and cousin to Barnabas, our own patron Saint. St Mark holds a pen in his right hand and the book in his left bears on it the figure of a lion, his emblem. Over the head of St. Barnabas [by door to the Vestry in the north wall of the Sanctuary] is a dove, because of him it is said especially that he was 'full of the Holy Ghost'.

Incidentally, the firm of H H Martyn & Co were not only carvers in wood but also in stone and marble; modellers of decorative plaster enrichments; sculptors; artists in wrought iron and stained glass; casters in bronze; creators of memorials in stone, bronze and glass. And, only as recently as 2007, Mr John Whitaker, the great grandson of the founder of the firm, visited St Barnabas to photograph the statues for the Gloucester Records Office. He had written a book in 1985 about the firm, entitled "The Best", a first edition copy of which Miss Hadder, a former parishioner, had purchased and given to St Barnabas and the author autographed it during his visit. The work of the firm at St Barnabas is recorded on Page 67 of the book.

The firm of H H Martyn & Co also did some very important carvings elsewhere, namely, the Speaker's Chair for the House of Commons, one of the House of Commons' Despatch Boxes, work on the pulpit for St Pauls' Cathedral, a bronze figure on the dome of the Bank of England and its most prodigious work of all, the Cenotaph in Whitehall – so it was only "the best" for St Barnabas.

The two chairs in the sanctuary were given in 1902 and 1904 and were originally part of the Vicar's and Curate's stalls respectively positioned at the Nave end of the Choir Stalls. However, 100 years later, when the Nave Altar was placed at that end of the Chancel in 2004, there was then not enough room for either the choir to continue to process in or for the congregation to continue to walk up to receive communion at the main altar rail.

The beautiful Altar Rail, carved in oak, was given to the Church in memory of their mother by the four sons of Mrs Ellen Hitchcock in 1936.



As you look round the chancel you will see some embroidered banners which used to be carried in procession from time to time and, indeed, one of them still is. The one on the south side is the Mothers' Union Banner. This fine piece of work, made in 1963, depicts Jesus in the arms of his mother.



Mothers' Union

One of those on the north side of the Chancel is a Sunday School Banner which shows Jesus with Mary and Joseph in the carpenter's shop. That was made by Miss Mary Butler and dedicated on 22nd January 1956.



Sunday School

There used to be two other banners, at least in the 1960's, belonging to the King's Messengers and the Girls' Friendly Society. But there is only one now, the King's Messengers'. It was a junior missionary organisation which replaced the Band of Hope in 1927; the Girls' Friendly Society did great work in the days then when girls and young women did not enjoy the freedom they do in the 21st Century.



King's Messengers

The Choir Stalls were installed in 1914 with the third row on the south side being added in November 1928 in memory of Miss Helena Elizabeth Elderton.



Girls' Friendly Society (from archives)



Whilst we are still here in the Chancel, I must mention the Organ. During the early years of St Barnabas' history, firstly a borrowed harmonium was used and, then, an American organ. But, by 1888, the first stage of a permanent organ was built and dedicated on Sunday 10th June 1888. The organ was completed in October 1891. Over all the 120 years since then, it has been regularly serviced, electrified, repaired when necessary, renovated from time to time and overhauled with the result

that we still have, today, a magnificent instrument.



Originally, the console was on the north side of the Chancel, underneath the pipes behind the wood panelling at the back of the choir stalls on that side. Then, in 1967, following a major restoration, the console was detached and moved to its present position on the south side of the Chancel. There is a plaque commemorating this work on the console which was carried out in memory of Arthur Frederick Jackson and Barbara Hitchcock.



Now let us move into the Memorial Chapel on the south side of the Chancel but, as we go, take a look at the carved wooden screen separating the Chancel from the Memorial Chapel.

3

The Memorial Chapel

It was in 1920 that plans were drawn up for this Chapel to be a memorial to those who died in the First World War.

Along the south wall of the Chapel are recorded the names of 146 men from



The Memorial Chapel

a plaque on the pillar at the west end of the Chapel, are the names of 26 men and 1 woman who died in the Services in the Second World War.

The Altar in the Memorial Chapel was a gift from the Mothers' Union in memory of the 1914-18 War victims and there is a plaque on it which records this fact.

The reredos was again made by the Cheltenham firm of H H Martyn & Co. The oil on canvas triptych (picture on three panels) on the reredos is by Miss Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale. She was born in Norwood in South London in 1872 and studied at the Royal Academy; she was influenced by the Pre-Raphaelite artists. She was a staunch Christian and donated works to churches. She completed this painting in 1924.

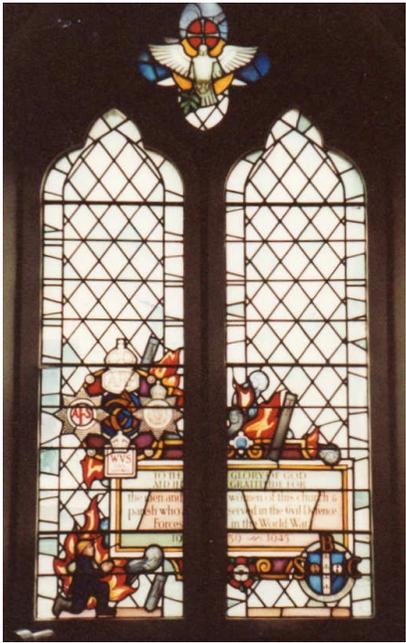


Either side of the reredos, in the two niches, where there are now flower vases, originally stood a further two carved statues, those of St Michael, the Warrior Angel, *left* and St George, the Warrior Saint, *right*, photographed here on Boxing Day, 1958. Sadly, that of St George was stolen in 1973. It has never been recovered. St Michael's statue was given to the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Lower Sydenham on indefinite loan. That church had had to be rebuilt in the 1950's following the destruction of its original building due to war damage.



The East Window in the Chapel, above the altar, is the Dunkin Window. It has nothing to do with wars. It was given in 1894 by Mrs. Catharine Dunkin's son. Mrs Dunkin was one of the ladies who organised that first Bazaar on behalf of the Church Building Fund and raised over £1,000. A distinctive feature of the window is that all the wording, including the dedication, is in Latin. It has three different pictures. The top half shows Jesus with Mary and Martha in their home in Bethany, whilst the two lower pictures represent, on the left, the Baptism of Christ and, on the right, the Supper with Cleopas and his friend at Emmaus after Jesus had walked with them from Jerusalem.





The window in the south east corner of the Memorial Chapel is the most recent stained glass window to have been put in the Church, and that was in 1950.

It is the Civil Defence Window. It shows the Arms of the Borough of Sutton & Cheam and the Carshalton Urban District Council. The window is a tribute to all those who served in the Civil Defence Services in the Second World War, namely the Air Raid Wardens, the Fire Service, the Ambulance and First Aid Services, the Women's Voluntary Service and all those who helped while the bombs were falling. The civilians in London and the large towns were really in the front line and the window expressed the gratitude of everyone to all those who helped during

those dark days.



The window to the right of it, the Fanny Smith Window, is considered by experts to be the best window in the Church. It is a memorial to Miss Frances Mary Smith, known as Fanny, who not only saw the Church built but also worshipped and worked in it for over 50 years until her death in 1933 at the age of 84.

The theme of the window is the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as recorded in St. Luke's Gospel. It was put in in 1935 and was designed by Martin Travers, who also designed the Church of the Good Shepherd in Carshalton Beeches. The window was highly praised in the Diocesan Gazette at the time.

St Barnabas is indebted to Fanny Smith in many ways. In 1932, she wrote a first hand account of the history of the Parish and the Church from its very beginnings which she was able to do as she had not only lived in Sutton from her earliest childhood but she was also the daughter of the Chairman of the Church Building Committee, Mr William Smith, who went on to become one of the first of St Barnabas's churchwardens.

Miss Fanny Smith, herself, was very actively involved in the Church from the very beginning. Her work for the Parish actually went back to the time before the Church was built when she taught in the Sunday School in Lind Road. For nearly 40 years she was a worker in the Girls' Friendly Society, conducting a Girls' Friendly Society class every Wednesday evening. From the time of the consecration of the Church in 1884 until her death in 1933, she held a class at her house for her old girls and, not a Sunday passed, apparently, without some of her girls going to see her.

Among her many gifts was a talent for music and she played the organ for occasional services and also for the Three Hour Services which were held on Good Fridays.

In a tribute to her at the time of her death, the then vicar, the Revd C R J Day, wrote:-

To the end of her life she was revered and consulted by those whose lives she had inspired and cared for. In her devotion to the Church and her work for it, she left us an inspiring example; it is such lives as hers which have helped to make St. Barnabas what it is and to build up that tradition which it is our privilege and responsibility to live up to. She was not spared to see the 50th Anniversary of the Church for which she had done so much, but her work here was done and she left the Church of St. Barnabas the better and stronger for her association with it.

Underneath the plaque recording the names of those who died in the Second World War at the west end of the Memorial Chapel is a Memorial Book contained in a glass case which was given by Mrs Whitehouse and her two sons in memory of her husband, Edgar Marland Whitehouse. The Memorial Book itself was given in 1956 by Mrs E E Bromage. It was designed and made by her brother-in-law in memory of her husband, Rowland Henry Bromage



and was dedicated by the Bishop of Woolwich on Advent Sunday, 2nd December 1956. It records the names of those people whose ashes have been placed in the Memorial Garden at the east end of the Church, the gate to which is off the Church Drive, and was set up and consecrated in 1949 for the purpose of scattering ashes after cremation if it was the wish of the deceased or their families. It was laid out as a memorial to Hubert Jessup Hitchcock who had died in April 1948.

In 1958, an anonymous donor gave the sum of £500 (still a very large amount then) with the stipulation that the money should be invested and the interest used for the upkeep of the Garden. St Barnabas still has the benefit of this legacy today, the interest from the capital sum being used to provide plants, etc. for the Garden.

In 1951, the set of railings which run from the end of the Church Drive to the Vestry Door and include the gate into the Garden were given by Mr Merrett, a member of the choir, in memory of his wife.

Also in 1951, the Kindergarten Sunday School purchased, with part of their own Sunday collections, a tree which they planted just inside the gate of the Garden and it is still flourishing today.

The inscription at the front of the Memorial Book reads:-

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die but they are at peace.

The pages of the Memorial Book are turned each week throughout the year.

The PCC decided a few years ago that the book could also include the names of former members of the congregation even if their bodies or ashes were interred elsewhere because, for instance, they had moved away from the area towards the end of their lives.

Originally there were no pews in the Memorial Chapel, just chairs, but pews were later added, the front two in memory of Nellie Wiedman.

4

The Nave

Now we will move down into the south side aisle of the Nave. As you pass by the pulpit, notice the flat piece of stone at the foot of the pillar at the end of the chancel. This is the foundation stone of the Church but, sadly, it bears no visible inscription. It has been said to be a silent testimony to the controversy which surrounded the ceremony of its laying on Thursday 19th January 1882.



Everything for the setting up of the Parish and the building of the Church was going along fine until the Building Committee decided to vest the patronage of the living in the Bishop. This was a condition laid down by some of the charities to whom the Committee had appealed for assistance. The Committee formally asked the incumbents of St Nicholas Sutton, All Saints' Benhilton and All Saints' Carshalton, out of parts of whose parishes St. Barnabas Parish was to be taken, for their consents. Two of them readily agreed but the Rector of St Nicholas, the Revd J A Giles, declined to give his formal consent and he also said the patron of St Nicholas, a Mr Baring, would be unable to lay the foundation stone.

The Revd A G L Bowling, whose services the Bishop had secured to get the parish up and running, had to leave the parish immediately as the Revd Giles would not give his consent for him to act continue in that capacity either. Miss Fanny Smith records that Mr Bowling suddenly called on her father with a letter from the Rector of Sutton which forbade him to officiate any longer in his Parish. Fortunately, the clubs he set up were kept going and a Mr Langton Cole became Superintendent of the Sunday School.

H R H Prince Leopold, the youngest son of Queen Victoria was then approached

and consented to lay the foundation stone. However, because of 'clerical differences' about the new church, it was subsequently thought that his consent should not be taken advantage of and so it was decided to invite Lord Egmont, who lived at Nork Park, Banstead, to perform the ceremony and this he duly did. The local press tactfully reported that other duties had prevented Prince Leopold from attending.

The top of the foundation stone, which is not visible, records the date, 1882, and certain Freemasons' marks. It is thought that when Prince Leopold promised to lay the stone the Freemasons of the District undertook to receive and entertain him with an elaborate ceremonial.

Incidentally, although arranged at short notice, the "Sutton & Cheam Herald" reported that there was a very large attendance. The site had been well-decorated with flags and a stand had been erected near the foundation stone to hold about two hundred people. This was crowded and several hundred more gathered around and in the road outside.

At three o'clock a robed choir, fifty strong, emerged from the Schoolroom singing the processional hymn, "The Church's One Foundation," followed by the local clergy and prominent local laymen.

When all were in position the choir sang Psalm 84, "O how amiable are thy dwellings" and a further hymn, after which the Earl of Egmont proceeded to lay the foundation stone with a silver trowel which had been bought from subscriptions by members of the Committee.

In a cavity under the stone was placed a copy of "The Times" of the day, copies of the two local papers, a history of Sutton, current coins of the realm, and copies of the two circulars issued in connection with the Church. A piece of zinc was then placed over the cavity, the stone covered with mortar and the foundation stone placed upon it by Lord Egmont. The Earl was presented with the silver trowel with which he had laid the stone.



Nothing more was heard about this trowel until about 70 years later in the 1950's when the then Vicar, the Revd A H W Sanders, was telephoned by a lady who said she had a silver trowel which had been used for the laying of the foundation

stone at St Barnabas Church, Sutton. Her mother had collected silver as a hobby and she had bought it at a sale. "Would the Church like it?" she asked.

"Certainly we would," was the reply, "and how much would it cost?" "Nothing," he was told, and the trowel duly arrived at the Vicarage. The trowel was used for the second time on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the Church on 29th March 2009 to cut the Celebration Cake.

The grand piano was lent on indefinite loan in 1974 by a Mrs Taylor of Mayfield Road. It is a "Boudoir Grand" Bechstein piano, dated 1887 and is, in size, between a baby grand and a concert grand piano.



The first stained glass window along the south wall of the Nave is the George Orme Window. By modern standards this window is very dark and overcrowded and requires a strong light to bring out the colours other than blue. It was put into the Church in 1897 in memory of George Orme. It was he who gave St Barnabas its pulpit. The window shows the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Joseph and Mary are on the left and the other two people are Simeon and Anna. St. Luke's Gospel tells us:-

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, and to offer a sacrifice, a pair of doves or two young pigeons.

And there was a man named Simeon, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, he took him in his arms and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for thine eyes have seen thy salvation".

And there was one, Anna, a prophetess, and she gave thanks likewise unto the Lord.

The next and final stained glass window which St Barnabas has is the Boden Memorial Window but, before we look at it, it is worth recounting what happened after the laying of the foundation stone in January 1882.

The Rector of Sutton, the Revd J A Giles, who had been a member of the Building Committee, duly resigned from it but he did say:-

Any attempt to provide a fresh Church has had a demand upon my co-operation, which I have felt it my duty not to resist. For that reason every effort that has been made, has been made with my consent, with my goodwill, and, as far as possible, with my co-operation.

So why did he not agree to the Patronage being vested in the Bishop? Historical reports in St Barnabas' records tell us that the problem was probably due to the "advowson".

An advowson was the right of presentation to a benefice and, at that time, these rights could be freely bought and sold. It is thought that, possibly, the Rector of St Nicholas had been told by his own patron that he had been too precipitate in indicating that the Bishop could be the patron of the new living of St. Barnabas. In effect a new "asset" was being created which the then owner of the Patronage of the St Nicholas Church might not have been willing to see given away.

The members of the Building Committee were angry and in despair because of the legal complications which threatened to wreck the whole scheme for St Barnabas and that the intended first vicar, Mr Bowling, had been sent away.

Fortunately, at the end of the day, the Bishop told them that, so far as the building and the formation of a new parish was concerned, the difficulties could be overcome by proceeding under the Private Patronage Act although he could not get Mr Bowling back.

The lawyers got to work to overcome the legal difficulties that had arisen and on 13th July 1882, they told the Committee that, on behalf of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, they had sent letters to the Patrons and Incumbents of the three parishes affected giving them statutory notice of the building of the new church and of the new parish it was proposed to form.

Even then the project ran into trouble for it was found that some notices had been sent to the wrong patrons and further notices had to be sent out on 20th October 1882.

But eventually, all difficulties thrown at the Building Committee were finally overcome and the new Parish was finally formally established.

Meanwhile, the Bishop had been in contact with a Revd Charles Boden, a curate in Wimbledon who was willing to become the first Vicar and Mr Boden duly arrived in time to start work immediately after the consecration of the

Church on Saturday 29th March 1884.

This now brings us back to the final stained glass window which, as the brass plaque beneath it records, is in memory of the young wife of the first vicar, the Rev Charles J Boden. On Sunday 6th June 1886, Mrs Boden, then aged 29, gave birth to a son. The son lived but Mrs Boden developed a fever and died nine days later. Nowadays medical science would probably have prevented the death but, of course, knowledge was not so advanced in 1886.

Mrs Boden was buried in All Saints' Benhilton churchyard. Incidentally, their son, J Worsley Boden, went on to take Holy Orders himself later in life and he returned to St Barnabas to preach at Evensong on 26th February 1922. At the time of his death in 1956 he was Rector of North Wingfield, Chesterfield. Older members of our congregation here in 1956 still remembered him as a boy at St Barnabas 70 years earlier.

At the west end of the Nave there are the two sets of oak doors which lead into the Church Porch or "Narthex."

In the Parish Magazine of April 1957, the then Vicar, the Revd A N W Sanders, wrote:-

I understand that we are to receive the gift of a pair of new oak swing doors for the back of the church.

At the time, George James Keates, who had built and lived in a house named "Stepaside" in Ringstead Road, Sutton (now No. 25), ran Sutton Electrical Joinery Works, opposite "The Grapes", off Sutton High Street and it is thought that his firm made and gave the two sets of doors. His son, George Austin Keates, was a member of the St Barnabas' Cadets shortly after the First World War. In the Church Porch there is a plaque which records the gift in 1957 by former members of the Cadets of the oak doors, the plastering of the Nave, redecoration of the Chancel and Chapel and the restoration of the stonework and pews.



Two of George Austin Keates' children, Jim, now living in South Wales and Rosemary, over here on a trip from her home in North Carolina, USA, paid a visit to St Barnabas in 2010 and were photographed standing on front of the set of doors in the centre of the Church.



They were shown some of the pictures in the Church Archives and in one, taken outside the Church Halls on Saturday 21st July 1923 at the annual Cadet Display, showing the refreshment helpers, Rosemary thought that one of the ladies



(arrowed) was her Aunt Evelyn. This was confirmed two days later when they met their cousin in East Grinstead. Over lunch they showed her a copy of the picture and, within moments, their cousin said, "That is my Mother!" She was their father's younger sister; she was born in 1903 and would have been about 20 years old at the time the picture was taken.

The font, next to the set of oak doors in the centre, was installed in time for the consecration of the Church in 1884 but the oak cover was not added until 1952. It is in memory of Canon Bartlett, the second vicar. He was here for 22 years from 1896 to 1919. He must have been held in high regard as, on his death in Wiltshire in 1951, at the age of 89, 33 years after he had left here, St Barnabas' then parishioners raised money by donations to purchase the carved oak cover which was dedicated at Evensong on 28th October 1952.



During Canon Bartlett's his time here, 100 years ago, it was reported that St Barnabas prospered. It saw the dawn of the twentieth century and the end of the Victorian era. Canon Bartlett's ministry here also spanned the period of the First World War. He left Sutton shortly before he reached aged 60 to be a Vicar in Northamptonshire because he said, if he stayed at St Barnabas too long, the work that a younger man could do here would be neglected and he would then be too old to move to a new parish.

As well as the List of Incumbents on the wall behind the font, there are two boards on the other side of the West Door listing the Churchwardens from the time of the Consecration of the Church.

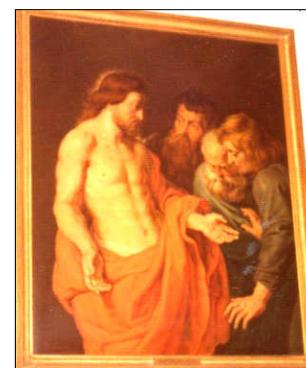
The Churchwardens' Pew in front of that board, which incorporates a bookcase which is used to store service books, was given by Mrs H J Hitchcock in thanksgiving for her 50 years association with St Barnabas and was dedicated by the Bishop of Woolwich on Advent Sunday, 1956. That was during the same service in which he also dedicated the Memorial Book and Glass Case in the Memorial Chapel.



Following the 2011 electrical work in the Church, the Churchwardens' pew now has its own set of lights.

Two oil paintings hang on the North Wall of the Nave.

The very large one is a reproduction of William Holman Hunt's painting, "The Light of the World". This copy was painted at the request of Canon Bartlett by Mrs Bertha Victoria Taylor, a member of the congregation, who presented it framed to St Barnabas in 1923. It used to hang on the South Wall.



The second painting, of Christ's appearance to his Disciples after his resurrection when he showed Thomas his wounds, is also a reproduction and is a memorial to William Smith, the Chairman of the Building Committee. I'll leave a thought with you. I wonder if there was any significance in the choice of picture. How often, with all the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that were placed in the way of the Building Committee, did William Smith ever doubt that St Barnabas Church would be built? As we know, he need not have doubted and the fact that the Church and we are here today must surely be the best memorial to him and his fellow committee members. In the 1920's it used to hang on the pillar at the rear of the Memorial Chapel.

There have been vast changes in the World and Sutton over the 127 years since St Barnabas was built. There will no doubt be more changes over the next 127 years. Our task today and in the future is to pro-actively respond to those changes so that the Good News of the Kingdom of God can continue to be brought to both the present and future generations of people living in this Parish.

*We love the place, O God,
Wherein thine honour dwells;
The joy of thine abode
All other joy excels.*

*We love the house of prayer,
Wherein thy servants meet;
For thou, O Lord, art there
Thy chosen ones to greet.*

From the hymn by William Bullock (1798—1874)

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

A dedicated band of flower arrangers ensure that there are fresh flowers in the Church throughout the whole year other than during Lent. This is an arrangement in the Sanctuary in August 2010.



POSTSCRIPT

In 2011, the electrical installation of the whole Church was completely renewed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council by C.E.S. Electrical & Lighting Engineers of Coulsdon, Surrey at a total cost of £61,000 and major repairs were undertaken to the Spire, the North Valley Gutter, Vestry Roof and the South Roof of the North Aisle as well as internal repairs to the North Aisle, masonry repairs to the Western Elevation and Gutter and Downpipe replacement by W. J. R. Roofing Ltd of Beckenham, Kent at a total cost of £200,000.

These works were made possible by grants awarded to the Parochial Church Council, other legacies that had been left to the Church over the previous eight years and by donations and funds raised by the present day congregation.

The Parochial Church Council acknowledged with gratitude the following:-

Grants:- English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund	£ 120,000
Marshall's Charity	£ 5,000
Surrey Churches Preservation Trust	£ 3,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	£ 3,000
Allchurches Trust Ltd	£ 1,500

Legacies by/donations in memory of former members of the Congregation:-

Evelyn Hadder	£ 51,000
Madeline Garton	£ 10,000
Doreen Jones	£ 10,000
Mary Garton	£ 5,000
Jen Addison	£ 2,500
Sydney & Anne Hall	£ 2,000
Rita Whitney	£ 2,000
Jessamine Lloyd	£ 400
Florrie Purnell	£ 200

Donations raised by members of the present Congregation:- £ 14,000

A HYMN FOR ST BARNABAS DAY, JUNE 11TH

Douglas Drakeley, Churchwarden, 1974 – 1978, who was also a member of the Choir, wrote these words for a hymn for St Barnabas Day (June 11th).

The hymn, sung to tune *Woodlands*, composed in 1916 by Walter Greatorex, which is now used for the hymn ‘Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord’, tells us in rhyme about the life of St Barnabas and what he did.

We praise thee Lord for all thy saints of old
By whom thy Gospel to the world was told,
But most of all, we praise thee for the fame
Of Barnabas, for whom our church we name

Of Consolation he was named the Son,
His rule, through all of life, “Thy will be done”.
To thee O Lord he made an offering meet
And laid his gift at thy Apostle’s feet.

After the vision at Damascus’ gate,
When Saul was purged of all his threats and hate,
‘Twas Barnabas who took him by the hand
And brought him safe within th’Apostles’ band.

Throughout his world, he travelled far and wide,
With Paul the preacher ever at his side.
They brought to Gentile and to Jew the word
Which tells of Saviour and of Risen Lord.

And so, O Lord, on this our festal day,
Make us like Barnabas, thy saint, we pray.
May we like him our lives and service give
And with thee in thy heaven hereafter live.

VICARS OF ST BARNABAS CHURCH 1884 - 2000

C.J. Boden	1884 — 1896
W. Bartlett	1896 — 1919
G.W. Butterworth	1919 — 1925
J.P. Halet	1925 — 1931
C.R.J. Day	1931 — 1941
N.S. Hough	1941 — 1951
A.H.W. Sanders	1951 — 1959
D.G.N. Clark	1959 — 1972
B.D. Roderick	1973 — 1982
T.G. Leary	1983 — 1992
P A Thompson	1993 — 2000

PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE OF ST BARNABAS CHURCH 2001 - 2005

J. Omoyajowo	2001 — 2003
V.A. Davies	2004 — 2005

SUTTON TEAM MINISTRY 2016 - 2018

From 2006 until 2018 St Barnabas Church was part of the Sutton Team Ministry. The other two churches in the team were St Nicholas Church, Sutton and Christ Church, Sutton.

Team Rectors	S.E. Mullally	2006 — 2012
	J.Middlemiss	2013 — 2018
Team Vicars	P.M. Pullinger	2007 — 2015
	P. Brooks	2016 — 2018

PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE OF ST BARNABAS CHURCH from 2018

2018	Appointment awaited
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