

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

St Barnabas Road, Sutton, SM1 4NP

www.stbarnabassutton.uk

www.achurchnearyou.com/sutton-st-barnabas

BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL AND OTHER ENQUIRIES

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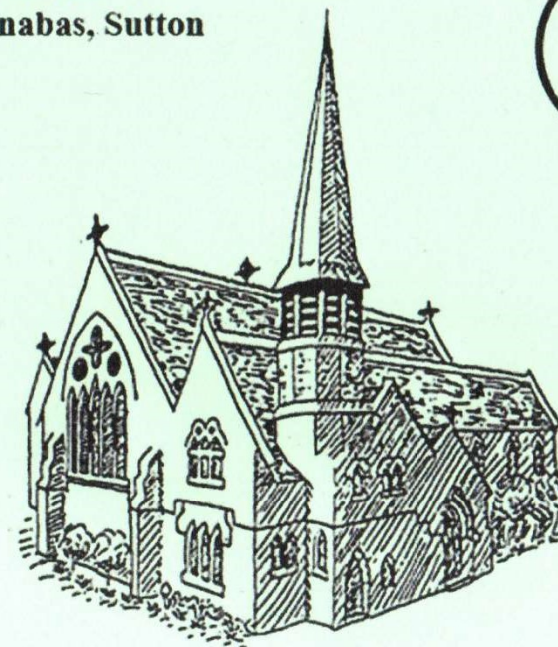
Paper copies of the Magazine are available to purchase in Church, price £1.00. Digital versions can be emailed (cost 50p each; £2.00 per annum) - please contact the Editor.

Spring 2024

St. Barnabas news

The Magazine of
The Parish of
St Barnabas, Sutton

DIGITAL
VERSION



SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCH

10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship)

except on 10th March (Mothering Sunday) when there will be a special service. On this Sunday, there will be a said Holy Communion (Prayer Book) service at 9.00am

with a Bible Story for Children in the Halls

except on 10th March & 31st March (Easter Day)

Children, accompanied by their parents or carers, are read a Bible Story in the Halls during the 10.30am Communion Sunday Service. Everyone goes into church at the time of the Communion.

6.30pm Evensong

“WEDNESDAY WALK-IN”

The Church is open on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month from 10.00am to 12 Noon. It is for everyone and is a community initiative which aims to open the church building which is a warm, welcoming space. It is a lovely sociable, friendly and enjoyable event; there is knitting, crochet, lots of talking and laughter. A popular activity is the Jigsaw Table where a puzzle has been completed and another is underway and refreshments are available. **EVERYBODY WELCOME**

OPEN SATURDAYS IN CHURCH

The Church is open on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9.30am to 12 Noon; Morning Prayer is said at 10.00am.

See Back Cover for ACTIVITIES & ORGANISATIONS

Additional notices about church activities can also be found at www.churchinsutton.net/news.htm



THE REVEREND DAVE BILLIN WRITES

In December I commented on the cold and damp weather and short days. The days are now becoming noticeably longer, but the cold and damp remains.

Easter is fast approaching; it seems remarkably early this year (31st March) but it can fall even earlier. The table of Festivals covering the years 2006–2040 shows Easter varying widely, the extremes being 23rd March in 2008 and 25th April in 2038.

The date of Easter varies because it is related to the Jewish Passover festival; the Last Supper before Jesus's crucifixion appears to have been the Passover meal, commemorating the last meal in Egypt before the Exodus (see Exodus 12:5f). The Passover festival begins on the evening of a full moon, nowadays typically the first full moon after the spring equinox. Ultimately the interactions between the complex motions of the moon around the earth and the earth around the sun lead to the variation in the date of Easter.

Consequently, the date of Easter and the events calculated from it from Shrove Tuesday to Trinity Sunday seem unpredictable to ordinary folk, much like the weather.

We didn't get a White Christmas; the variable weather and variable calendar together could theoretically give us a White Easter! The Bible has always associated whiteness with purity; detergent adverts agree. Jesus looked white at his Transfiguration; and in the Revelation to John, Christians are given white robes to wear, covering their imperfections, so that they can enter God's perfect heaven. And on Easter Day I will change my red Palm Sunday vestments for white festival ones.

The weather and the date of Easter are features of life that can

catch us by surprise. There are many others, such as the future health of ourselves and those we love. All in all, we have to live with variability and uncertainty, and take life as it comes. Trust in God, which we call Faith, is described in Hebrews 11:1 as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” And those “things hoped for” are the things God promises: the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit now, and the hope of eternal bliss in heaven.

Not long ago I had a frank exchange of messages with the company that insures my house; extreme weather conditions had damaged the roof. Even the best companies can need their arms twisted to provide the service you’ve paid for! I imagine there are some Christian extremists who regard buying insurance as a failure of faith. But we are called, in Jesus’s words in Matthew 10:16, to be “as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves”. We should take wise precautions, without being unfair to those who work to meet our needs.

Human beings have colonised all corners of the earth by being adaptable. You and I need to be adaptable, facing the uncertainties of life using our God-given abilities supported by his presence and unending love.

I wish you all a holy Lent and glorious Easter. David Billin.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Loving God, thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life. Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother. Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children. Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love. Let your love be present in every home and help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

On Saturday 2nd December, the Mothers' Union held a short service in the Memorial Chapel for 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. In front of the altar a Red Chair was on display reminding that, every 11 minutes in the world, a girl or woman dies of domestic violence perpetrated by an intimate partner or member of her family. Also, there were 11 large bags



of items that had been collected for the Sutton Women's Refuge. The service was written by Christians Against Domestic Violence. We heard about Rosemary Walsh speaking to the Head Teacher of

All Saints Carshalton, Church of England Primary School about Gender Based Violence and the Head Teacher arranging that all the mothers in the school knew via the school messaging service who to contact if they need help with

<p>Domestic Abuse Support 25 November to 19 December each year is the global "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence". This year the focus is on domestic abuse. If you or anyone you know would like support or advice on domestic abuse there are helplines you can call: Sutton helpline 0208 0927 569 (Mon-Fri 9-5) National Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247 (anytime)</p>	
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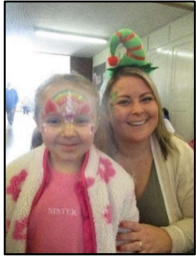
problems with domestic violence. During the 16 days from 25th November to 10th December there were signs on the back of the ladies' toilet doors in the church and the halls with help lines to contact if they were suffering from domestic violence. At the end of the service there was a collection for the Mothers' Union Christmas Appeal for Tanzania which raised £135 in total. After the service a game of Jenga was played where every time you took out a brick from the pile, you had to think of a cause for domestic violence. Some very thoughtful reasons were given.

On the following Thursday, a similar service was held in Pam Green's home where three members who have children met in the evening. As Patricia Butler is a school nurse, she was able to enlighten them about the effects domestic violence has on the children of victims and how teachers are not understanding the behavioural problems resulting from the trauma the children live through.

CHRISTMAS 2023

The lead up to Christmas 2023 began with the Christmas Fun Day.

THE CHRISTMAS FUNDAY



The Christmas Funday on 25th November organised by Eleanor Holley, was a great success, with lots of young families from the parish coming along and really enjoying themselves.

There was a chance to meet Nana Christmas (Father Christmas's mother) and a table to write a letter to Santa. There was paper wreath making, face painting, ginger bread and reindeer biscuit



decorating, throw a ball into a bucket and bounce a ball into a cup. There were also two tombolas, one for bottles and the other for Christmas chocolates, some stalls, refreshments, both hot and cold, and a play area.

The "Name the Teddy" competition was won by a local Mum with an autistic child who was so excited that they had to come back straight away to collect the Teddy. By the way the Teddy's name was Bobby.

The "Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake" competition was won by Carole King. The cake weighed 4.1kg. Carol was delighted and



took the cake to one of her daughters so it could be shared with her three children.

The event raised £714.84, a magnificent total, all of which went towards the South Valley Major Roof Repairs Fund.



Sunday 3rd December was Advent Sunday

CHRISTINGLE

On 3rd December, Advent Sunday, the 10.30am Church Service was a Christingle Service, Although the Rainbows, Brownies and



Guides did not attend this year, the service, nevertheless, seemed very nice and intimate. The Revd Dave Billin gave a very good talk in which we learned that he does not like oranges very much as they are not fully ripe!! Eleanor Holley explained how to make a Christingle and we were all given a goodie bag to make our own Christingles.

After the service the children helped decorate the Christmas tree. The service raised £90.31 for the Children's Society.

OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Later that day, at 4.30pm, the church was opened again for the official lighting up of the outside of the church. Unfortunately, there



was a really heavy downpour between 4.30 and 5.00pm so less people ventured out. There were mince pies and hot drinks, some Christmas games and Christmas items on sale.

At 5.00pm, by which time, fortunately, the rain had all but stopped we all went out into St Barnabas Road. The Revd Dave Billin read from the beginning of St John's Gospel and there was then a countdown for the lights to come on. The outside of the church looked very festive with the lights and, again this year, the steeple was lit up. It was Zac Adkins' birthday but his party was interrupted so his whole family could see the lighting up of the church.



MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESAN ADVENT SERVICE

On Friday, 8th December, Mothers' Union Southwark Diocese held an Advent Service at St Stephen's Church, Stockwell. It was attended by 7 members from St Barnabas, two of whom, Cathy Brown and Humphrey Clarke sang in the Mothers' Union choir.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Instead of Evensong on Sunday, 10th December, there was the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols Service at 6.30pm.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milne-White, aged 34, who had just been appointed Dean of Kings College Cambridge after experience as an Army Chaplain in the First World War. His experiences had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The service is broadcast worldwide on the BBC and an estimated 370 million people hear it. The readings tell the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It was lovely hearing the readings and singing the familiar carols. We had an organist in person, Paul

Watson and everyone clapped him for his organ playing at the end. Afterwards there was mulled wine, tea and coffee, mince pies and savoury nibbles and lots of chatter.

ST BARNABAS BUNNIES CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY PARTY



On Friday 15th December the Bunnies had their Christmas Activity Party.

MOTHERS' UNION CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Tuesday 19th December, 21 members and friends of members of St Barnabas Mothers' Union, went to the Toby Carvery at Ewell for a festive Christmas lunch.



CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA & CAROLS

Rosemary Walsh reports: On Saturday 23rd December the Church held a Christmas Tea with carols in the afternoon. The idea had been started by Jennie Reed, Sue Davis and Marion Till. The afternoon began with the tea, which consisted of sandwiches, sausage rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake and yule log. There was a very jolly bunch of people there including some from St Nicholas Church and, as you can imagine, lots of chatting.



Then the St Barnabas green carol books compiled by Rosemary Armstrong and dedicated to the memory of Sydney and Anne Hall (David Hall's parents) were got out and Graham Reed played the accompaniment for the carols through the church loud speakers. The first carol was "Ding Dong Merrily on High". Then everyone requested carols they wanted to sing. However, when Alfred Walsh requested "Away in a Manger", there was no music available so it had to be sung unaccompanied.

It was a very pleasant afternoon. Although the tea was free, everyone was asked for donations for the Roof Fund and £262.19 in total was raised. This was added to a donation of £100 which was also given that day.



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE

Rosemary Walsh reports: At 4.00pm on Christmas Eve the annual Family Nativity was held using some of the Wiggly Nativity songs and with pictures on the screen. There was a jolly happy atmosphere, full of *bon ami* and everyone was relaxed.

Children came dressed up in Nativity costumes and Sally Bramdaw had costumes for any other children who wanted to dress up. Gracie Hannam was Mary and her cousin, Harper Hannam, was Joseph. There were lots of shepherds and Wise Men who went



The speedy Wise Men

round the church on their way to see the baby Jesus in the stable. The children did all the actions to the songs which some had practiced in "Bible Stories for Children" the week before.

The Revd Dave Billin said,



"What is your favourite toy, or if you've grown out of having toys, what was your favourite toy?"

Who likes dolls and teddies and action men? Who likes dolls' houses? Who likes train sets? Who likes toy cars?

I imagine your dolls and teddies have adventures; like mine. I imagine your dolls' houses and train sets are places where things happen, as mine were. It's fun inventing stories for them.

Do you make your toy people and animals do what you want them to do?

What would you do if the story went wrong? What if they didn't do what you wanted? Would you give up and walk away?

God made the world and put people in it. He set it up so that he could walk with people in the Garden of Eden. But people keep doing things he doesn't want. We no longer walk with him in the garden. What could he do?

He could give up and walk away. But instead, he decided to become a person in his own story. It's an amazing thing to do. By becoming a person in his own story Jesus taught us how to do what God wants.

But people don't like being told what to do, so they killed him. But you can't kill off the inventor of the story. He rose to new life, and went back to heaven.

Jesus the human being went to heaven so that those who do what he says can go to heaven too.

So, Jesus was born as a baby to give us God's blessings if we do what he says, and if we ask.

Christmas is full of hope: we try to do good, we pray for goodness everywhere, and we look forward to our place in heaven."

CHRISTMAS DAY

There were Midnight and 10,30am Communion Services. The Advent Candles had been lit during Advent and the final one in the middle was lit on Christmas Day.

EPIPHANY

On Open Saturday, 6th January, instead of Prayer during the Day, there was a Prayer Book Communion held in the Memorial Chapel. The next day, the children heard the story of the Wise Men and painted this picture.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Greetings and cards for the whole congregation were received over the Christmas period from Phyllis Sanders, the Revd Christine Latham, David Overden, Sheila & Chas McGowan, Elizabeth Barnes (née Clarke) & family, Libby, Julian and everyone at Sutton Vineyard, The Revd Patrick & Glenda Thompson and Rosemarie, Bishop of Croydon, Moira, Archdeacon of Reigate and their staff.

Letters were also received from Patrick Thompson (former Vicar of St Barnabas) & Chris Penpraze (former chorister at St Barnabas).

Patrick Thompson wrote from Scotland: "Greetings for another Christmas and New year! We hope this short letter finds you well surviving all the current problems that 2023 seems determined to set

before us.

I am sorry to say that it has not been a good year for us, but at least we feel blessed to still be here and able to enjoy most days and continue our interest and most of our activities. Increasingly age and very poor weather have been the downside!

After all the weeks of icy pavements which here was the problem in the early weeks, we have now resumed to very cold weather and its ice.

My back and broken hip problems carried on improving, but my slipping over in early July (falling into the shrubbery in the back garden) have added to my mobility difficulties, but I have now been given permission to start driving again even though only locally and this is a great benefit. I must realise that I shall be 88 in January and so am doing pretty well really.

Glenda's back problems are still causing difficulty for her but she is persevering as usual. She managed a highlight holiday in August, going with a friend from Grantown on a cruise to Norway and Denmark. I had an equally expensive but much less enjoyable stay in "respite care"!

On the church front, I have felt it wise to relinquish my active participation but completed 62 years in September which I feel is quite an achievement "*Deo Gratias*". Glenda is participating in lay reader duties quite fully. She is also singing in the church choir and in the "Forres Chorale" which is run by our church organist.

We hope to be writing to you again next year. Till then, love and best wishes from Patrick & Glenda.

Chris Penpraze wrote from Littlehampton: "It's that time of year again. Christmas 2023. Where has the year gone? I hope this brief newsletter finds you well and pleased with how your year has been. We seemed to have dropped from summer into winter without a period of transition.

All my grandchildren are doing well. Caitin is 17 and having passed 8 GCSE's, is now at Chichester College studying for A level three B-Tech in Hospitality. She surprised us with her choice of course! Adam started Year 8 at Littlehampton Academy in September. He will be 13 in April. He is doing very well, especially in music, maths and the three sciences. He has achieved a mastery in Spanish. Kasper has been at the Regent Private School in Abuja since January 2022. He was 8 in September and has just finished a first term in Year 3. He has been really achieving in all subjects but has an outstanding talent for maths and a reading age of 14 years. He has been having drumming lessons at home. Quinn will be 4 in April and has been attending the school nursery. He is a bright spark and very sporty. Alba was born in Chelmsford and is now 4 months old. She is an absolute delight and a pretty little girl.

Claire is working harder than ever at her childminding, looking after 12 children over 4 days. Andrew and Tasha are always busy and, at the moment, they have started packing their belongings ready to be sent to Nairobi in Kenya where Tasha's next position is to be. They are presently sharing maternity leave. Andrew is then going to stay home with the children for a while.

The summer and our garden here in Littlehampton are treated as a long holiday as far as we are concerned. Flowers and vegetables have been plentiful. It is a happy environment, but we ran out of time to get everything done this year. We earnestly wait for spring to restart the happy time.

One problem that is slowing me down is my Parkinson's. I am prone to losing my balance and falling quite often. It is just a new stage in the journey and my medication has needed some adjustment and may need more. I have been recommended for more physio but have been waiting since July. I try to carry on as normal and can still do things but at a slower pace. Some days I just don't feel steady and have to watch my steps. Another symptom is lack of energy sometimes. All in all, life is good. One has to think about people whose

lives are dominated by war, namely Ukraine and, especially the Israel and Gaza situation which is out of control. Of course, there are problems all over the world. I hope you have a happy and peaceful time. I wish you a happy and healthy 2024. Lots of love from Chris."

ST BARNABAS PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

St Barnabas Church runs a Planned Giving Scheme which enables people to make regular monthly donations to help towards the normal running of the church (currently £34,000 a year). Such monthly donations are in lieu of placing money in the offertory plate. If you would like to consider joining the Planned Giving Scheme, please speak to the Church Treasurer, Humphrey Clarke after a Sunday morning service or email him at stbarnabashontreasurer@outlook.com. He will be able to tell you all about the Scheme which is so vital in ensuring that the Church has sufficient income to cover normal annual expenditure. All individual details and aspects of the Planned Giving Scheme are completely confidential. As Planned Giving Officer, he is the only Church official who knows the individual details and you can be assured that all information is treated in a totally confidential manner.

THE CHURCH IN SAMOA

Samoa, in Polynesia, is a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean just south of the Equator, midway between New Zealand and Hawaii. It is 67% Christian and the churches and the homes of the clergy are very rich but the population is very poor. The people must go to church every Sunday, the women being dressed in white with lovely hats. At the end of a service a collection is taken and the amount each person gives is read out loud so people give more than they can afford to so as not to lose face! [Ed: *What about the widow's mite* [Mark 12 vv 41-44](#); [Luke 22 vv 1-4](#)?]. Polynesia is where tattooing started and the men are tattooed from their waist to their thighs.

Judith Witts (who has given talks to Mothers' Union)

GIVING AT CHRISTMAS

The Charity of the Month raised £216.91 for **Crisis at Christmas**, sufficient to pay for 7 places at the table for homeless people.



Donations of sweets and clothes for Christmas were collected for **Sutton Women's Refuge** who sent the following reply:- "Thank you so much for the donations for the Refuge. They were delivered to them yesterday by car. We were so grateful for everything that was sent. Christmas is a very difficult time for the families and the cost of food, fuel etc. has increased so much. All your gifts will make their Christmas a happy time. Happy Christmas! Let us hope that 2024 will be better for everyone at the Refuge and throughout the World".



The car packed with gifts

Mothers' Union raised £163.00 for people in Tanzania helping them to start businesses. Lucia and Adian started a stove making business and now have enough bricks to build a house.



Ellen Martin knitted cardigans for premature babies in the Evelina Neo Natal Ward in St Thomas Hospital. If anyone else would like to knit some, patterns are available from Ellen or Janice Clarke.

THE CHARITY OF THE MONTH BOX

The Charity of the Month Box was introduced in 2004 when the Revd Clive French, then Vicar of Cheam, was looking after the parish on a temporary basis. As St Barnabas Church then, as now, had only just sufficient income to support its essential expenditure, rather than also being able to make charitable donations, he suggested to Humphrey Clarke and Sally Reed, the churchwardens at the time, that they set up a Charity of the Month Scheme to enable people to give that "extra" charitable donation that they probably would not otherwise do. Originally, the churchwardens selected a different charity each month (some national, some local) but, very soon, anybody was able to suggest a charity.

Since 2004, 58 different charities have been supported. If you would like to recommend a charity to be supported, please speak to Sally Bramdaw who now administers the scheme.

A total of £1,320.88 was raised last year for eleven charities:-

		£
Jan 2023	Operation Smile UK	144.50
Feb 2023	Water Aid	84.48
Mar 2023	Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	113.62
Apr 2023	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	122.69
May 2023	Christian Aid	78.86
Jun 2023	Away From It All Holidays	141.86
Jul/Aug 2023	Sutton Schoolswork	141.14
Sep 2023	Sightsavers UK	102.02
Oct 2023	Welcare	70.85
Nov 2023	Momentum Children's Charity	103.95
Dec 2023	Crisis at Christmas	<u>216.91</u>
		1,320.88

The overall total raised through the Charity of the Month Box, as at the end of 2023, had reached £17,923.86.

ST BARNABAS ON THE INTERNET

Whilst St Barnabas Church has its own website on the internet (<https://www.stbarnabassutton.uk/>), the Church of England itself maintains a web site, known as "A Church Near You", which not only allows people to find out, by inserting their post code, which is their local church, it also allows space for each church to include details about itself without the searcher having to go separately to the church's own website although there is space for each church to include a link to its own website.

Statistics recorded and maintained by "A Church Near You" indicated that, during 2023, there were 9,034 'hits' on the St Barnabas page, the most since figures have been recorded.

If, at any time, you are unable to get to church and, therefore, unable to pick up from church and read a copy of the Weekly News Sheet, it can normally be found each week at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/832/page/43399/view/> on the "A Church Near You" website.

ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SUTTON

Saviour please receive us here,
Accept us in your Son's own light,
Instill in each your will this year,
Nurture, guide us, in the daily fight.
Train us each, to pilgrim be.

Bring us forth Lord, in your grace,
Assist us in our present, fallen place,
Rescue our unlikely minds and hearts,
Now and always as time imparts,
Another day, as you today permit,
Bounteous mercy created it.
Ascend in our own hearts we pray,
Save us. school us. in your Holv Wav.

Call us back when, as we stray,
Hedonism lures us from the Way,
Uplift us, as we fall from grace,
Restore us please to prayerful place.
Cover us Lord, with your loving wings,
Help us hear the Host which sings.

Start in us a fire of love,
Undertake in us to shine your light,
Tutor us dear Christ increase,
Til all we know is mercy's peace.
Overwhelm us Lord we pray,
Nurture, guide us, day by day.

David Ovenden



BIBLE SOCIETY: MAKING BIBLE STORIES MEMORABLE FOR CHILDREN IN KENYA

Joy Children's Village was started 12 years ago by Nazareth Hospital, a Christian outreach just outside Nairobi. It cares for about 60 children with HIV/AIDS, providing a family-based environment for girls and boys who might be ill or orphaned or abandoned by their parents.

'Most of the children in the home ask questions about their situation,' says Anne, a leader in Bible Society's "Open the Book Kenya". 'You notice a child seated alone in deep thought or they'll ask why they take the ARV drugs and when they will ever stop. Older ones who know their situation sometimes want to harm themselves.' How did "Open the Book" encourage such children? 'We use the power of Bible stories to point them to Jesus, the God who sees them.'

In Kenya, HIV is an epidemic with more than 100,000 children with the virus. "Open the Book" is a dynamic way to sow the seeds of spiritual change and inspire a Bible-reading culture among young people. It has a child friendly approach. The children at Joy Village were introduced to stories of Tabitha being raised from death [Acts: 9] and of Jesus healing a man of blindness. And because "Open the Book" combines narration with dramatisation, the children are invited to join in performances of these stories.

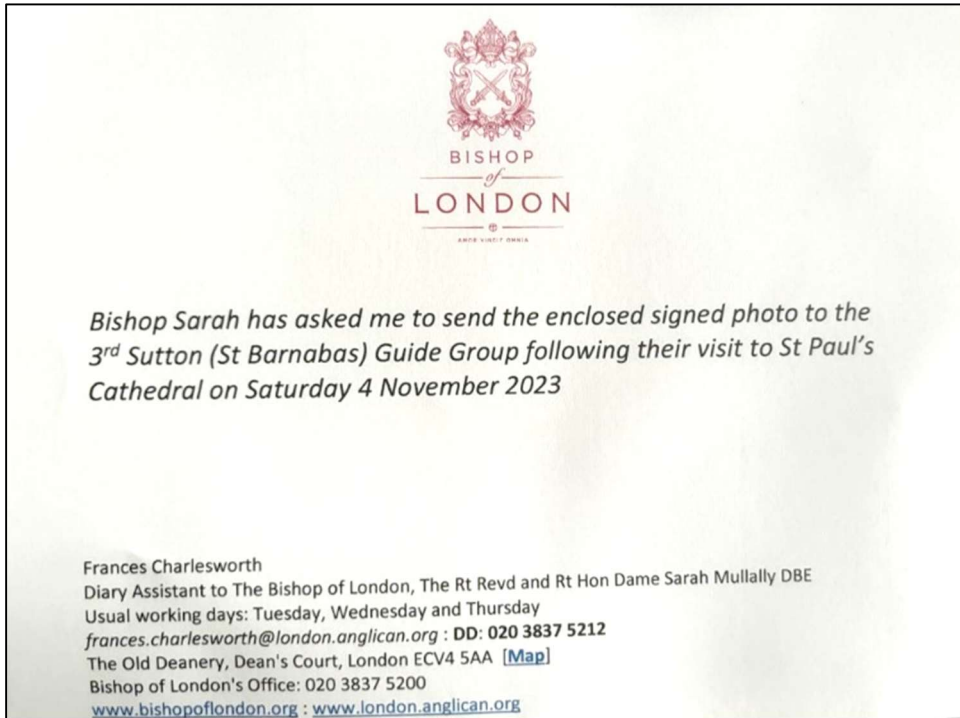
A PRAYER FOR AIDS

Bless us with compassionate hearts God of our inmost hurts and heartbreaks. AIDS reaches us where we live. Be with us as we call to mind the people we have loved, known or encountered who are living with or who have died from AIDS. Amen

3RD SUTTON (ST BARNABAS) GUIDES TRIP TO ST PAUL'S

As readers will remember, we visited St Paul's Cathedral before Christmas (as per our write up in the last magazine) and Graham Reed kindly made enquiries to see if Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London, former Team Rector of Sutton, was available to meet up with us. Unfortunately, she was unable to, due to her hectic schedule, but her office kindly sent the following picture and letter for our Guides.

Zöe Crimmings



CAROLE KING THINKS ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURE OF ROOFS

With thoughts about the leaky church roof and the campaign to raise money to repair it, Carole was inspired by an old paper bag she found from the short time she spent in France. Carole says:-

"This bag shows different types of roof.



The red Indian wigwam has humble origins but is adapted to withstand both sandstorms and cold.

The igloo predates the dome and again protects against snow and cold on polar hunting trips.

The thatched roof was used in the original tabernacles using native palms which is much safer than tiles in an earthquake zone. Of course, in our country, cut reeds are used as thatching.

The last roof represents St Barnabas Church. Let's hope that after all fundraising efforts, it will soon be repaired and protecting our church from inclement weather"

R I P - BARBARA ANN DOBSON
(5th August 1943 – 6th December 2023)

Nigel Bennett, (Lay) Reader writes:- Many people will remember Barbara, Bill and Miriam. When I was assigned as a Lay Reader to assist at St Barnabas Church from Advent 2007, the three of them followed me from Christ Church. Barbara attended St Barnabas regularly and loved the social events. She and Miriam, her sister, set up a crèche instigated by the Revd Sarah Mullally and helped Sally Reed with palm cross making.



Sadly, Barbara had a series of mini strokes which led to dementia which made her life become progressively restrictive and she became housebound and bed-bound for a number of years. Barbara



Golden Wedding, 2013

will be remembered for her beautiful smile, cheerful personality and her love of children. Our thoughts must go to her husband, Bill who cared for her so faithfully and with total dedication. Nigel Bennett



3RD SUTTON (ST BARNABAS) BROWNIES NEWS

3rd Sutton (St Barnabas) Brownies 'flew' into the New Year with an Aladdin themed sleepover the first weekend of January. This was linked to their theme last term, "Magical Kingdoms". They enjoyed the pantomime, Aladdin, at Fairfield Halls, and made flying carpets and fruit skewers. Beatrice was presented with her Brownie Gold Award, just before she moved up to Guides. Congratulations to Beatrice and all the best in Guides.

Zöe Crimmings





BURNS NIGHT



On Thursday 25th January, the 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Beavers had a Burns Night meeting. They were told all about Scotland and Robbie Burns, followed by haggis, tatties and neeps.

Later that evening, St Barnabas Church celebrated Burns Night with a traditional dinner. This was the idea of Sue Davis who donated all the food and prepared and cooked it.



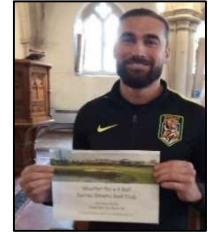
The evening began with the Selkirk Grace read by Dorothy Hannam. The first course was Scotch Broth with rolls and butter. Then the haggis was brought in to the traditional bagpipe music "A Man's A Man for A' That" before Dorothy read out "The Ode to the Haggis". Of course, the main course was haggis, tatties and neeps followed by Cloutie dumpling pudding with whisky sauce, then coffee, tea and sweets including Scottish tablet and two sweets in an envelope made from a serviette with Robbe Burns' poems.



During the evening, three Robbie Burns' poems were recited by Graham Reed, Ellen Martin and Cathy Brown. There was a Robbie Burns quiz won by Sue & David Hall and Michelle Reed (a combined effort), and a raffle, the first prize of which, a round of golf for 4, was



won by Ryan Hannam. The raffle raised £203 (all the prizes were donated). There was also some dancing. A big 'thank you' should be given to all the loyal helpers, Sally Bramdaw, Jennie Reed and Ellie Holley.



In total, the evening raised £768 for the St Barnabas Church Roof Fund. Well done, Sue.

CANDLEMAS



On Sunday 27th January, St Barnabas Church celebrated Candlemas with a candlelit procession in the Morning Service while the Gloria was sung. The children joined in with paper candles.

Candlemas celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple which occurs 40 days after the birth of a firstborn son. The parents had to bring an offering of a lamb or two turtledoves. Both Anna and Simeon were in the Temple and the Holy Spirit had told Simeon that he would see the Christ before he died. When Simeon saw the baby, he recognized him as the Son of God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, a light to the Gentiles and glory to the people Israel." The *Nunc Dimittis* (the opening words in the Latin translation) is sung each week at Evensong. There is a beautiful stained glass window in the church depicting the Presentation.





SHROVE TUESDAY

On Shrove Tuesday the Mothers' Union meeting in the Church Halls was an Agape meal devised by the Bishop of Southwark. The meal began with liturgy about baptism, where a bowl of water was sent round and everyone was invited to wash their hands. Then a candle was lit and finally thanksgiving for food. This included all the graces in the Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Sheran Harper's "Recipes for Food and Fellowship." We then shared the food - rolls, homemade pumpkin and leek & potato soup and cheese.



After that, we had a reading from the Bible and the Children's Bible about the Feeding of the Five Thousand, which was followed by the Mothers' Union prayer and the Grace. Then everyone had pancakes with various toppings. The children then dressed up and had a pancake race based on the famous pancake race held each year



in Olney, Buckinghamshire. The children really enjoyed themselves and were each given a chocolate bar for completing the race.



Janice Clarke

ASH WEDNESDAY

The next day was, of course, Ash Wednesday and there was a special Holy Communion service to mark the beginning of Lent, a time of devotion before Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection. This is the season of penitence and fasting and self-denial and reading and meditating on God's holy word. The service included the liturgy of Penitence and the Imposition of Ashes where the ashes from last year's palm crosses are marked in the sign of a cross on the foreheads of everyone there.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

The World Day of Prayer Service was devised this year by the Christian Women of Palestine and the service in Sutton was held at the Salvation Army Church in Benhill Road on Friday 1st March.

Due to the current terrible situation in Gaza, the rest of Palestine and Israel, the following prayer was specially written for the service.

We pray for women, who even now are losing children and other family members. We pray that their strength be a beacon of resilience, as they endure all challenges and pain with grace. Grant them courage to navigate adversity. And may their aspirations for peace and prosperity shine brightly in the midst of these difficulties.

In this time of war, we pray for the healing of hearts and the restoration of peace. May compassion prevail over hatred, and may the suffering of all those affected by the war be alleviated. Grant them strength, solace, and hope for a brighter and harmonious future.

We pray for all families who have lost members; for the kidnapped, the missing, and all who are still under the rubble. May the spirit of God grant them all patience and strength as they wait to be reunited.

Lord Jesus, we pray for the end of all wars, especially in the land you called home. You are our Saviour, the one who taught us the real meaning of peace. Guide us and give us power to practice peace in our dally fives. **Amen.**

Four members of St Barnabas' Mothers' Union, Janice Clarke, Rosemary Walsh, Sheila Collis and Pam Green, took part in the service.





REED'S RAMBLINGS

For once, I'm going to deal with a serious issue which may face all of us as Christians.

A topic which has recently been in the news and media is the horrendous attack in Clapham on a mother and her two daughters using a caustic substance which caused horrendous injuries to the mother which may result in the loss of sight in one of her eyes and has resulted in her being treated in hospital. Fortunately, it would seem her two young daughters have escaped serious injury.

The perpetrator of this serious crime has been evading arrest and, at the time of my writing this piece, the police believe he may have jumped into the River Thames and died as a result and so will evade earthly justice.

If, as we are given to understand the situation, he "converted" to Christianity by being baptised as a means of supporting his claim to asylum in the UK which was subsequently granted despite having a serious criminal record, apparently, if reports are true, this man is not alone in being baptised into the Christian faith in the Anglican tradition as a means in enhancing a claim to asylum. Whilst all of us would welcome any genuine conversion to our faith as Christians, it would seem to me that all of us and the clergy in particular should be aware of what is essentially a scam in many cases and exercise caution and ask the person concerned to attend services for a defined period before accepting that such a conversion is made in good faith before baptism is offered.

I would also suggest that it's not just the Church that should have a duty of care when deciding these matters but also the judgement of the parole boards and government departments

involved when decisions are made as to whether such asylum applications are granted. I appreciate that many will have a different opinion to mine and I suppose having served 30 years in the magistracy has made me more cautious when making such judgements.

As many of you know, I have just reached a certain milestone in my life ~ God willing ~ and I finish my piece this time with a less serious thought.

They say wisdom comes with age ~ therefore I don't have wrinkles, I have wisecracks!

I wish you all a Blessed and Peaceful Easter.

Graham Reed

PETER BROWN'S TOP 3 ENGLAND FOOTBALL MANAGERS

From 1946 to 2024 the England football team has had 15 full-time managers and 4 caretaker managers. Here are my top 3 of all time and what they achieved.



In 1st place - Sir Alf Ramsey (1960 to 1974)

Who else could it be? You don't need me to tell you about 1966 (4 - 2, Hurst and a Russian linesman). The only final we've won. Sir Alf lost his first game in February 1960, 5 - 2 to France in a Euro Qualifier. Even though he didn't win his first three games, he won the 1966 World Cup. At the 1968 Euros, England made the Semi-Finals, finishing in third place (when they had a third and fourth place play-off - they don't have one now). At the 1970 World Cup, he made the Quarter-Finals. England lost 3 - 2 to West Germany after being 2 - 0 up. At the 1972 Euros, he reached the Quarter-Finals again (lost 3 - 1 v West Germany). England didn't qualify for the 1974 World Cup (Poland knocked us out) and Sir Alf was sacked in May 1974.

Joint 2nd place - Gareth Southgate (Sept 2016 to present)

He took England to the Semi-Finals and 4th place in the 2018 World Cup in Russia. In 2019 England were 3rd place in the Nations Cup (a new competition), then finished runners up to Italy in the 2020-21 Euros. His contract runs out after the Euros this year in Germany. He is also remembered for missing England's penalty in the Euro 1996 Semi-Final against Germany (England lost 5-6 on penalties). Not a very successful club manager, he only team he managed was Middlebrough from 2006-2009. They were relegated from the Premier League in 2008. But what a success he has been for England!



Joint 2nd place - Bobby Robson (1982 to 1990)

Didn't qualify for Euro 1984, Denmark did from England's group. At the 1986 World Cup, England were Quarter Finalists. They lost 2 - 1 to Argentina (Diego Maradona had a hand in it). England qualified for Euro 1988 but lost all three group games. The tournament was held in West Germany. His last tournament was the best of his tenure. At the 1990 World Cup, England made the Semi-Finals. They lost 4 - 2 on penalties to West Germany, with Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle missing the vital penalties. England finished in 4th place after Italy beats us to 3rd. Robson's contract wasn't renewed before the tournament started and he went to PSV Eindhoven after the World Cup finished.



In 3rd place - Terry Venables (February 1994 to June 1996)

Only two defeats in his 24 games as manager – Brazil 1-2 and Germany 1 - 1 (5 - 6) on penalties. He sadly died recently. He put a smile back on English football after a disappointing four years after 1990. He took England to the Euro 1996 Semi-Finals where they lost 5 - 6 on penalties (with a penalty miss by Gareth Southgate - whatever happened to him?)



There you have the Brown's top three England managers.

Peter Brown



IMAGINE ... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PEOPLE TREATED THEIR BIBLES LIKE THEY TREAT THEIR MOBILE PHONES?



Sally Reed sent us this article she saw in a friend's church magazine:-

What would happen if people treated their Bibles like they treat their mobile phones?

If ... they carried it about in their bag or pocket all the time?
If they flipped through it numerous times a day?
And used it in times of emergency?

If ... they turned back to go and get it if they left home without it?
If they treated it like they could not live without it?
If they used it to receive actual messages from "the text"?
And shared good messages with their friends and family?

Imagine ...

If ... they were given to children as gifts?
Or if ... people used them to find their way?

If ... they spent quality time using it?

If it was the first thing they looked at when they woke up?
And the last thing they looked up before they went to sleep?
Or checked it is on when they woke up in the night?

And they relied on it for every decision they made?

THEY WOULD NOT NEED TO UPDATE IT EVERY FEW MONTHS FOR THE LATEST VIRUS AS THE MESSAGE IS THE SAME - YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER

PARISH PUMP

Congratulations to Hannah Caple & her fiancé, Paul Birch on the birth of their first child, a boy, Max, on 14th December who weighed 8lbs. 2ozs. Our photo shows Hannah and a smiling Grandmother, Lesley, holding Max.



R I P Fr David Chislett, Vicar of All Saints Benhilton, who died suddenly on the morning of Sunday, 17th December. He was fortified by the rites of the Church and was not alone when he died. Bishop Christopher, Bishop of Southwark, was able to go to the parish and give support to those who were with Fr David at his death and say prayers with those gathered around the body. He has also been able to talk to the Churchwardens and Fr Luke Demetri, the Curate. Bishop Christopher and the Bishop of Fulham are in close contact and will work with colleagues to support the parish. Please pray for Fr David's repose, for his family, and for Fr Luke and the parishioners of All Saints', Benhilton. May he rest in peace. He had been Vicar of All Saints', Benhilton since March, 2018.

Congratulations to Anabel Reed & Jack Trzcinski who announced their engagement on 1st January.



Peter Brown would like to thank each and everyone of his Church family for their support and prayers and help he had when he had his recent heart operation. He can't thank everyone enough.



Congratulations to Rosemary Walsh who celebrated her 40th Birthday on Wednesday 10th January with a Mothers' Union Bible Study that day, going out to dinner on the Saturday with her elder sister, Elizabeth who drove down from Nottingham for the occasion and going out with a group of friends the following Tuesday to see 'Spirit of the Dance' at the New Wimbledon Theatre. Eleanor Holley made her a lemon birthday cake which was shared with everyone at church on the Sunday morning.



Congratulations to Alfred Walsh who was enrolled in the 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Beavers on 8th February.

THOUGHTS ON MODERN LIFE

These days, life is increasingly segregated, with the generations divided by technology, and different types within generations separated by identity politics. One of the miseries for the young working from home is that they don't get to meet older people, whether they're heroes or monsters. Work used to be the great generation-mixer. Much better than sitting at home in your dressing gown, staring at a screen and munching toast.

Harry Mount, Editor of "The Oldie"

A PRAYER FROM ST BARNABAS' CHURCH, MOUNT EDEN, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Dear Lord, we give you thanks that with our hope founded on the rock of Scripture, we receive faith and encouragement, from our hope sustained by your unfailing love, we draw strength and endurance, and in our hope held from trust in you as a living God, we find joy and peace. **Amen**

SUTTON SCHOOLSWORK

Set up in 1996, SuttonSchoolswork [SSW] tells the pupils of Sutton's schools about Jesus by ensuring that as many pupils as possible are provided with engaging, relevant and stimulating RE education that tells them believing in Jesus is a positive choice and not just simply a religion taught in classrooms. So, what is it doing in 2024?

In Primary Schools it is delivering high-quality, fun, challenging and educational assemblies to nearly every primary school in the London Borough of Sutton. Its assembly team is out virtually every day and, on several days, can deliver five assemblies in different schools in one eight hour shift. Despite the strictures placed on speaking the name of Jesus out loud in schools, it allows them to proclaim their passionately belief in Jesus and openly and warmly encourage pupils to consider that they can make similar choices if they wish to. The schools appear to still love what SSW does; it asked them whether there was anything else that they felt SSW could help with, such as finding new ways to bring the light of the good news into the classrooms rather than just in school assemblies. Several schools responded positively and SSW is considering how it can provide for them. An interesting angle is that they have been asked by several teachers who are not Christians themselves to help them find ways of expressing the claims of the Christian faith through the eyes of a Christian.

In Secondary Schools, provision is seeing a new burst of energy. SSW has delivered lessons at Carshalton Girls School on the Persecuted Church (GCSE level) which Cheam High has also asked for. Cheam High has additionally requested a lesson to Year 7 about Easter. The Christian Unions [CUs] are all doing well. Wilsons, Sutton Grammar, Overton Grange and Carshalton Girls are either supported or led by SSW staff or volunteers and it is looking for opportunities to engage in the other schools. It is aware that CUs are meeting in Greenshaw, Wallington Girls, Wallington Boys and Nonsuch Girls, but they are self-supporting and run by the pupils.

SSW also runs a prayer group at Cheam High which has seen consistent numbers

Cheam High is starting a brand new Christian group, called Ignite, to be run at Thursday lunchtimes. This is a real work of God. Believing teachers have been provided who will help lead it, a room for them to gather has been found and there is a level of excitement within the Christian children who are talking about the opportunities this will give them. Not content with that, God has brought together Christian teachers who gathered to pray together. Please join with SSW to pray for revival in this school.

Our prayers are also asked for SSW's activities.

Assemblies – SSW never loses sight of the fact that this is where the majority of engagement occurs and thousands of children are exposed to a message of Hope every half term that they hear nowhere else. Please pray that each and every visit to a school lays another level of foundation that will be built on until a day of decision.

Lessons/Support for teachers – SSW is very aware that a significant number of teachers don't feel sufficiently resourced to deliver high quality RE lessons on the Christian faith. Please pray that SSW may be able to find ways to assist them and to present the truth of our Lord at all levels of knowledge and faith.

Easter Experience – A play about the events of Holy Week, Good Friday & Easter Day is staged each year by SSW with the help of volunteer actors from local churches. This year has seen the highest ever number of children in recent years booked in – just under 2,000 from 26 schools. Please pray that, as SSW starts this adventure at both Carshalton Methodist Church and at Sutton Baptist Church, children and staff alike will experience the good news for themselves and questions will form in their minds that need answering.

The St Barnabas Charity of the Month for July & August will be SuttonSchoolswork which is funded entirely by donations.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sat 16th March** Mothers' Union AGM (10.30am) in the Church
- Sat 16th March** 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Scout Group Spring Fair (11.00 – 2.00pm) in the Scout Hall, Westmead Road
- Fri 5th April** Mothers' Union Talk "Them & Us" about domestic servants & their employers (2.00pm) In the Church Halls
- Sun 7th April** Annual Parochial Church Meeting (after 10.30am service) in the Church
- Sat 13th April** Food and Craft Festival (11.00am-3.00pm)
Details to be announced
- Sat 13th April** Charity Darts Night (7.00pm) in aid of Leatherhead Swans in Epsom Conservative Club, 39 Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PW
- Wed 1st May** Mothers' Union Bring & Buy & Coffee Morning (10.00am – 12 Noon) at 7, Gauntlett Road in aid of "Away from it All" Holidays for the needy
- Sat 11th May** Bingo & Burgers
Event still under discussion
- Tues 28th May** Mothers' Union Talk "Threads through Creation" about a needlework exhibition depicting the Creation (2.00pm) in the Church Halls
- Mon 3rd June** "Home & Personal Safety", a presentation by the Metropolitan Police (2.00pm) in St Dunstan's Church Hall, Cheam
- Sat 8th June** Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service (11.30am) in Southwark Cathedral
- Sun 9th June** St Barnabas Day Choral Evensong & Tea
Details to be announced

SPECIAL SERVICES

Mothing Sunday (10th March)



- 9.00am Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Family & Parade Service

Palm Sunday (24th March)



- 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm St Luke Passion
with the Trinity Festival Choir in
Trinity URC/Methodist Church, Sutton



Maundy Thursday (28th March)



- 7.30pm Holy Communion
[with optional washing of feet]

Good Friday (29th March)



- 9.45am for 10.00am Walk of Witness
Meet outside ASDA
2.00pm Meditative service at St Barnabas

Easter Day (31st March)



- 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Solemn Evensong

Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lady Day) (Monday 8th April)



- 10.00am Holy Communion`

Ascension Day (Thursday 9th May)



- 7.30pm Holy Communion

THE SOUTH VALLEY ROOF

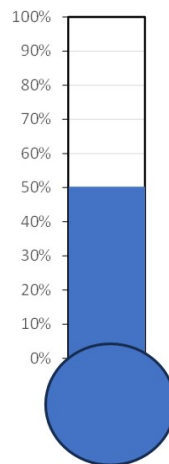
In January, three contractors submitted tenders to the PCC for the urgent major South Valley Roof and other sundry important, mainly masonry, repairs needed to the Church about which I reported in the last edition of the Magazine. At the very least, the repairs could cost £286,570, up from the last estimate of £250,000. On behalf of the PCC, I am now applying to six bodies who each may make a grant towards the cost of the repairs and, on 1st February, I launched a general appeal for donations to the congregation and friends of St Barnabas. If you did not receive a letter and one was not enclosed with this Magazine, but you would like to make a donation, please get in touch with me. My contact details are on the back cover.

An appeal has also been made to all the other 131 churches in England dedicated to St Barnabas to help with our fundraising as we had helped one in a similar way in 2020.

There was a very good immediate response to the appeal for donations from the congregation and friends of St Barnabas; in the first month, £11,596 was donated for which the PCC is extremely grateful. At the time of writing, just under £143,600 is still needed to reach the minimum target.

Humphrey Clarke

PROGRESS TO DATE	
LEGACY	£40.0k
PCC RESERVES	£27.5k
FUNDRAISING SOCIAL EVENTS	£6.0k
INDIVIDUALS' DONATIONS	£16.9k
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	£1.4k
ACCUMULATED INTEREST	£3.8k
VAT REFUNDABLE	£48.5k
	£144.0k



FROM THE ST BARNABAS' REGISTERS

FUNERAL

12 January 2024 Barbara Joan Braig
at North East Surrey Crematorium



ST BARNABAS ACTIVITIES & ORGANISATIONS

The St Barnabas Bunnies Parent and Toddler Group meets in the Scout Hall in Westmead Road on Fridays for children aged 0 – 4 years accompanied by their parents or carers. *Contact: Eleanor Holley on 07871 489350 or email: stbarnabasbunnies@hotmail.com.*

The St Barnabas Mothers' Union meets regularly throughout the year
Contact: Janice Clarke (020 8661 1016);

For details of **Scouts, Cubs & Beavers** linked to St Barnabas:
www.scouts.org.uk/groups/10011871?loc=SM1%204RY&slug=5th-Sutton-%28St.-Barnabas%29

For details of **Guides, Brownies & Rainbows** linked to St Barnabas:
Contact:- Zöe Crimmings 07740 704068

ORGANISATIONS MEETING AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALLS

St Barnabas Pre School	<i>Contact:- Phone: 020 8661 8927 or email stbarnabaspreschoolsutton@gmail.com</i>
Kumon (Maths & English classes)	<i>Contact:- Yumna Joubaily (07941 265988)</i>
Pilates	<i>Contact:- Lorraine Thurlow (07958 356035)</i>
Yoga	<i>Contact:- Carly O'Connor (07852 986922)</i>
Model Railway Club	<i>Contact:- Dave Smith (01342 712078)</i>
The Bradley School of Chess	<i>Contact:- Wendy Bradley w.bradley5@live.com</i>
Zumba with Beryl	<i>Contact:- Beryl-Joan Bonsu berylb@sky.com</i>