

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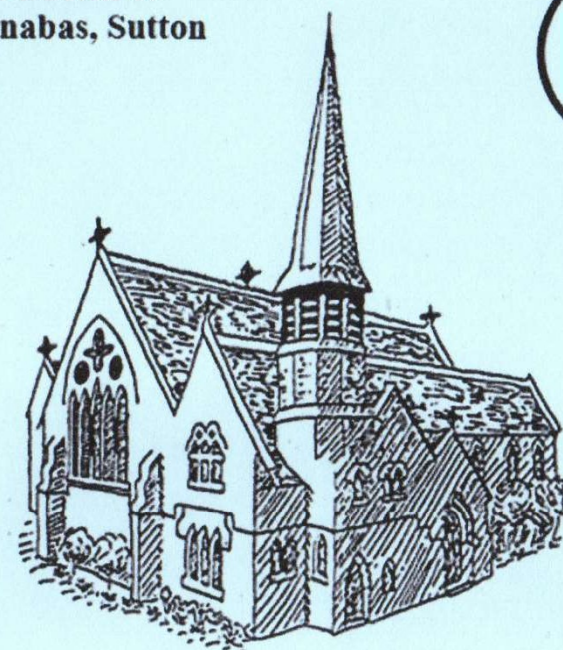
Paper copies of the Magazine are available to purchase in Church, price £1.00. Digital versions can be emailed (cost 50p each; £2.00 per annum) - please contact the Editor.

Winter 2025

St. Barnabas news

The Magazine of
The Parish of
St Barnabas, Sutton

DIGITAL
VERSION



SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCH

10.30am Parish Communion (Common Worship) with a Bible Story for Children in the Halls

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 (except on 30th November [Christingle], 28th December and 15th March [Mothering Sunday])

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; 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.

MOTHERS' UNION BIBLE STUDY

Members of Mothers' Union meet for Bible Study at 10.15am in the Lower Vestry in the Church on the **FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AFTER THE 2ND WEDNESDAY. EVERYBODY WELCOME whether a Mothers' Union member or not.** Currently the Group is studying the Gospel of St Mark. Each session is a stand-alone and so attendance is not necessary every month if that is not convenient.

ST BARNABAS ACTIVITIES & ORGANISATIONS

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

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

THE REVD KAYODE OYEBODE WRITES



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter for our Winter edition — my first Christmas with you as Priest of St Barnabas — my heart is filled with gratitude. These first few months and blessings. My wife and I have been deeply moved by your warmth, generosity, and faithfulness, all of which shine through so clearly in the life of this parish.

When I first read the Parish Profile during the interview process for this present role, three qualities stood out as some of the best things about St Barnabas:

- A strong sense of family — embracing, encompassing and compassionate.
- A deep appreciation for tradition.
- A genuinely warm welcome.

Having now experienced parish life first-hand, I can say that all three are absolutely true!

The Profile also mentioned three key challenges:

- Finances.
- Vision for the future.
- Engaging more young people and families.

These remain real challenges — as they are for many churches today — but I firmly believe that, with God's help, we shall overcome. Has He not already met us at our point of need? The progress made with our Church Roof and renovation projects is a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness and your generous support.

In time, as we develop our shared vision and seek to attract younger families, I am confident we will see fresh growth. With my background in HR, Learning and Development, and my passion

for people and pastoral ministry — and, I hope, a sense of humour along the way! — I look forward to working with you all in a spirit of collaboration and creativity. Together we can continue to discover new and better ways to make a positive difference in our church and community.

I want to express heartfelt thanks to everyone with no exception — from the PCC and those who serve faithfully in the sanctuary, to our talented friend who leads us in the Gloria even when there is no choir, to those who make tea, arrange flowers, clean, visit, and pray. Every act of service, whether seen or unseen, helps to build up the Body of Christ here in Sutton. As St Paul reminds us, “We are all one body, and each member belongs to all the others” [Romans 12:5]. Truly, we are stronger together.

I have also come to appreciate St Barnabas’ traditional “middle of the road” style of worship — it resonates deeply with my own background, even though we remain open to exploring other forms of worship where appropriate.

Our “Bible Stories for Children” group, organised by a dedicated member of the Mothers’ Union and a team of volunteers, is such a blessing. My hope is that it will continue to grow and expand to serve a wider range of ages in the months ahead. Likewise, as we develop, I would love to see a return of regular Evensong — perhaps once or twice a month — providing another opportunity for reflection and prayer.

To encourage shared creativity, I plan to introduce “brainstorming sessions” at PCC meetings, and eventually at parish-wide gatherings, perhaps every six months. This will give us a chance to generate new ideas and explore together how we can strengthen our ministry and mission.

Of course, this winter brings its own challenges for many — rising costs, uncertainty, and pressures that weigh on hearts and minds. Some are feeling the strain financially, emotionally, or simply

trying to keep going day by day. Into that reality comes the light of Advent and Christmas — not to deny the darkness, but to proclaim that “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” [John 1:5].

That light is Christ Himself — born in simplicity, sharing our humanity, walking beside us still. His coming among us is God’s declaration that we are never forgotten, never abandoned, and always loved. As Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house” [Luke 19:9]. That same message of grace and renewal is offered to each of us this Christmas, no matter how weary we may feel.

Advent calls us to wait with hope — hope that God is at work even in difficult times; hope that kindness and community can make a difference; hope that love, God’s love, will always have the final word. So let us continue to encourage one another, care for our neighbours, and keep our eyes on the Christ-child who comes to bring peace.

As we prepare to celebrate through our Advent and Christmas services — from the Christingle and Carol Service to the joyful Eucharist on Christmas Day — may we rediscover the deep joy of Emmanuel: “God with us.”

Thank you once again for your prayers, your support, and your patience as I continue to settle into ministry here at St Barnabas. It is a great privilege to share this journey of faith with you, and I look forward with hope and expectation to all that God will do among us in the coming year.

May “the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” [Philippians 4:7] and may His light guide your path through these winter days and always.

With every blessing, Kayode.

“The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched” [Isaiah 58:11]

COMING OUT OF THE INTERREGNUM

During our Interregnum, we were blessed with lots of different, interesting and helpful clergy taking communion services and baptisms including the Revds Charles Cotton who took 9 services, Anne Doerr who took 12 services and was, as well, a great help to our Churchwardens and John Burnistan who took five unusual (at least for us) services, with three sermons about the Creed and getting us to learn new choruses and doing things differently.

The Revd Anne Doerr returned to St Barnabas on Sunday 14th September as Kayode had already accepted a prior engagement that day before he was appointed to St Barnabas. The opportunity was taken to present Anne with some flowers as a token of our thanks to her for all her help and encouragement during our interregnum.



On his last service, on St Bartholomew's Day, on the last Sunday before the Revd Kayode Oyeboade was licenced, **the Revd John Burnistan** gave a 10 part sermon on our new priest based on [John 1. vv 45-51](#) where, when referring to where Jesus came from, Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, said, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

1. We should not be prejudiced that our new priest comes from Nigeria with its different culture.
2. The Revd Kayode needs to get to know the congregation and the whole parish personally.
3. We must change and be new people for Kayode.

4. We should welcome new people and be conscious that parts of our services may seem to them strange and out of date. (*Editor's Note: As a congregation we have always tried to be welcoming.*)
5. We are often judged by the smallest details. On the Memorial Chapel reredos is a painting of angels in the colours of the nations defeated in the First World War flanked by attendants wearing the cross of St George. It was painted in 1920, clearly a way of embracing reconciliation after such a terrible ordeal. Hope for the future depends on a willingness to heal memories of the past.



6. Make sure everyone can hear the voice of God at St Barnabas.
7. Make sure the church continues to be a pleasant place, in good repair, clean with nice toilets and a servery.
8. Ask God for his power to strengthen us when we are exhausted.
9. Be able to talk candidly, resistance to ideas should not tear us apart. Learning how to disagree is crucial.
10. Be encouraged by small successes and thank God that he has been with us over many of the last 25 testing years.

THE LICENSING OF THE REVD KAYODE OYEBODE

On the evening of Thursday 28th August, the Revd Kayode Oyebode was licensed as Associate Priest of St Barnabas by the Revd Nicholas Peacock, Acting Archdeacon of Reigate, on behalf of the Bishop of Southwark.

The church was packed with members of St Barnabas, Kayode's family, local clergy and members of the churches where Kayode had been taking services recently. Our two Churchwardens, Sallys Bramdaw and Reed were there with their staves! They only carry them when the bishop or one of his representatives is present.



It was a lovely communion service which was followed by refreshments provided by the St Barnabas congregation and Ronke, Kayode's wife. There was also a beautiful cake made by Sue Davis and coffee and wine. Everyone chatted happily together.

A fitting beginning to a new era.



FISH AND CHIPS QUIZ

On Saturday 6th September the St Barnabas PCC held a fish and chips quiz in aid of the Roof Fund. 28 people came along to enjoy the evening. The questions which were neither too hard or too easy were devised by Sally Bramdaw together with a table quiz of putting items in order; and the question master was Sally Reed. The winning team of Michelle and Helen Reed, the Revd Kayode and Ronke and Sheil Bramdaw won a box of Heroes. The raffle raised £88 to make a total of £248 for the evening to help the Roof Fund.

A very enjoyable time was had by one and all.

THE ST BARNABAS MAJOR REPAIR WORKS

The major repair works to the church building are still going on. Most of the work on the roof was completed before the weather started to turn for the worse as Autumn and, then, Winter began



to set in. More scaffolding and a ladder was fixed to the spire to enable repairs to be done to the turret. Inside the church, scaffolding was erected in the Memorial Chape and along the whole length of the South Aisle to enable plaster repairs to be done, following water having come in from the leaking



roof. Masonry repairs have also been done to some of the windows along the south wall of the Church and brickwork along the west wall. It is hoped that the majority of the remaining work can be completed by Christmas. Individual donations to the Repairs Fund can also still be made; there is a collecting box on the long table at the back of the church.

PEACE DOVES IN SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

During August and until 12th September, 'Peace Doves', an extraordinary installation created by internationally acclaimed sculptor Peter Walker was hung in the nave of Southwark Cathedral. The impactful installation featured more than 11,000 paper doves decorated with messages of peace, each representing a piece of a greater call for peace, making this installation a truly unique experience; some of the doves had been made on a Sunday earlier this year by children during 'Bible Stories for Children' and others by members of the St Barnabas congregation on VE Day.

The Dean of Southwark, Mark Oakley said spending time with the installation had a distilling effect as it asked people to look up, to look beyond themselves and the destruction that can happen and to instead seek harmony, beauty and a shared future shaped by peaceful relationships and justice.



There were some special late night viewings when there was an opportunity for people to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the Cathedral as day turned to dusk.



TRIBUTES TO TWO FORMER ST BARNABAS PEOPLE

On 24th September, St Barnabas Mothers' Union Branch compiled and led the Mothers' Union Cathedral Midday Prayers in the Harvard Chapel in Southwark Cathedral. The service included tributes to two former St Barnabas members, Marjorie Udall and Carole King. We were joined by one of Marjorie's sons, Andrew and his wife and one of Carol's daughters, Alice and her husband, her sister, Sarah who read one of the lessons and her cousin, the Revd Michael McLaughlin who led the prayers at Carole's funeral service and his wife.

Afterwards, copies of the tributes, which are included in the Mothers' Union Diocesan Remembrance Book, were given to each family by Rosemary Walsh, Mothers' Union Diocesan Secretary.



Vanessa Udall, Marjorie's daughter-in-law said, "Thank you so much for this service and for all your kindness and support. My husband, Andrew and I thoroughly enjoyed the tribute and I know Marjorie would have been delighted." Sarah Andrews, Carole's sister said, "Thank you so much for organising the service. It was exactly the right gathering to reflect on my sister's life. Please extend my thanks to everyone involved. May my sister, born Christine Hughes, at last "Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory".

A VERY BUSY HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEKEND

The weekend of the 4th & 5th October was indeed a very busy Harvest Weekend.

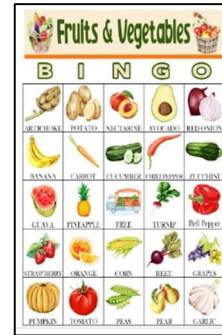


On the Saturday morning there were Morning Prayers at 10.00am as it was an Open Saturday, followed by church cleaning, flower arranging and Sally Reed making a very artistic display of vegetables in the chancel. While this was going on, a band of ladies including Sue Davis, Sue Stewart, Sally Bramdaw and Jennie Reed were busy peeling potatoes and vegetables.

At 2.00pm, as it was Grandparents' Day, the Mothers' Union had a special Mothers' Union service for the occasion held in the Memorial Chapel. The Revd Kayode Oyeboode preached the sermon and then all the grandparents were presented with a candle in recognition of their contribution to family life, community and help in passing on the Christian faith. Afterwards, during the refreshments, everyone had a chance to show each other photos of their grandchildren and talk about their grandparents and how they had enriched their lives.



At 5.00pm about 40 people sat down in the Church Halls for the Harvest Supper which consisted of chicken casserole, mashed potatoes, peas and rolls and sausage and pasta for the children followed by a lovely variety of warming English puddings. For entertainment, there was a game of Picture Harvest Bingo which



was won by Lynne and, also a raffle. The magnificent sum of £508 was raised for the roof fund by this social event.

The Church was full on the Sunday morning (October 5th) for the Harvest Thanksgiving Service including Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, all with their flags. The Cub Leader read the lesson and the Guides led the Intercessions. During the service everyone came up with their contributions for the Sutton FoodBank.



October 5th was also a very auspicious day for Kayode and Ronke as they were celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary. So, after the service, there was a special celebration with Kayode and Ronke providing delicious Nigerian food and champagne for the whole congregation to enjoy.



See also "Guiding for Good" on the next page.



GUIDING FOR GOOD

In October, members of the East Sutton District took part in Guiding for Good, a regional initiative run by @lasergirlguiding from 4th – 12th October.

The event was organised by Nicki Richards, 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Brownie Leader and East Sutton District Commissioner, who brought local Girlguiding members together to make a positive difference in our community. The event took place after the St Barnabas Harvest Church Parade so Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Young Leaders from the St Barnabas units headed up from Church to take part.



As part of the initiative, girls spent time in Manor Park, helping to keep the area beautiful by litter picking and feeding the fish — and, of course, it wouldn't have been a Guiding event without

having a packed lunch in the park! There was even time to form some



of the leaves in the shape of the Girlguiding Trefoil (see photo left) before bagging them up.



At its heart, Guiding for Good gives Girlguiding members the opportunity to live out one of the key parts of their Promise — to serve their communities and to help other people. It's a wonderful way to show what Girlguiding is all about: making a positive difference, building lasting connections and strengthening the ties within our local communities.

They were proud to play their part in this regional initiative and hope that their efforts might even inspire others to get involved or consider joining Girlguiding.



BEAVERS & CUBS NEWS



On Saturday 18th October, the 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Beavers & Cubs went to the New Scientist Live exhibition at Excel in London.

They had an amazing time. They saw a robot dog demonstration, looked at bugs under microscopes, went inside a Chinook helicopter and had stick insects on their arms. The cubs also made models of molecules



and atoms and had a Vet Experience even putting their arm up a plastic cow as vets would!!!

In early November, we were all saddened to learn of the death of **Vanessa Lambert** from a heart attack. Vanessa and her husband, Derek, pictured here in 2014 with Susan Peake, the Assistant District Commissioner, retired that year after more than 50 years of devoted and loyal service to the 5th Sutton (St Barnabas) Scout Group and the Sutton District. They moved to the New Forest area for a well-deserved retirement.



MOTHERS' UNION RETREAT 14TH-16TH OCTOBER

Each year the Mothers' Union Southwark Diocesan Retreat is held at Wychcroft, the Southwark Diocesan Resource and Retreat Centre, which is open to all religious groups as a place for prayer and reflection. It is a Victorian house in the Surrey countryside near Bletchingley, five miles from Redhill Station. Both Shirley Tillman and Cathy Brown attended this year's retreat.



Shirley writes: We all arrived mid afternoon on the Tuesday and were greeted with tea/coffee and biscuits and a chance to mix with everyone. We all had our own bedrooms. At 5.30pm we met our Ish Lennox, latterly Faith Co-ordinator at Mary Sumner House, the Mothers' Union National Headquarters, who was to conduct the Retreat. She explained the programme for the retreat. The themes were seasons, growing with God through every stage of life - an invitation to explore the seasons of the soul together.

At 8.00pm that evening silence began and we all went to the Chapel. The silence finished at 10.30am on the Thursday. We then went to a Eucharist service, followed by lunch and, then, we said our goodbyes. The meals during the Retreat were lovely and plentiful.

There will also be a Mothers' Union Lent Quiet Day at Southwark Cathedral on Tuesday 24th February 2026 (10.30am – 4.00pm). Next year's Retreat will be held from 20th to 22nd October 2026.

A TRIP TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

On Saturday 18th October, there was a joint Church & Mothers' Union Outing to Guildford Cathedral. Twelve people left from the Church in three cars just after 1.00pm to meet in the refectory at Guildford Cathedral at 2.00 pm for tea



and a cake. They then walked over to the Cathedral to view Jacqui Parkinson's marvellous embroidery exhibition "Threads through the Cross". Janice Clarke acted as guide as she had already seen all three of Jacqui Parkinson's exhibitions earlier this year as reported in the Summer Edition of the St Barnabas Magazine.



When the trip had originally been planned, the afternoon was to have ended at 4.00 pm with the usual Saturday Said Evensong in the Lady Chapel but, as it was the Feast Day of St Luke, the Evangelist, there was a sung Eucharist in the Chancel. The choir was the New Gloriana Choir, a friendly, high standard choir that draws its members from South London and beyond. For over 20 years it has helped ensure that music is heard in Cathedrals at times when their resident choirs are on holiday as was the case on 18th October.



ANOTHER BUSY WEEKEND AT ST BARNABAS

Rosemary Walsh writes:

A CELEBRATION OF RONKE'S 65TH BIRTHDAY

The celebration of Ronke Oyeboode's 65th Birthday started with a communion service about Peace in Church with folk from St Barnabas, Ronke's children and grandchildren and friends from her previous churches attending. The service included a blessing and dancing! There was coffee and cake afterwards.

Then we went into the Church Halls. There was the birthday cake there and Nigerian snacks and lots of chatting and the children played with balloons. After that the Nigerian food came out and I tried a bit of everything. It was really nice. Rory enjoyed Guinness, a favourite drink in Nigeria and stayed behind when I went home to put the boys to bed. He joined in all the dancing and tried some different drinks. Ronke's sister sang lots of Nigerian songs and visiting clergy led prayers for about 10 minutes.

Ronke said she had a wonderful time and she was delighted so many people had come. Congratulations, Ronke.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE



The next morning the Revd Kayode Oyeboode took the Remembrance Sunday Service. The church was filled to the rafters with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides plus lots of their parents. The uniform group leaders took part in the service doing the reading and Eddy Driver and Peter Adkin doing the two voices for:

"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn" and

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them".

[See also Page 27]



WHAT A START

Sutton SchoolsWork is a local charity which the St Barnabas Charity of the Month regularly supports each year. It supports the provision of collective worship in Sutton's schools to increase the much needed knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith among our local children and young people which, in some cases, they will not otherwise ever receive. It employs two full-time schools' workers, one working in Sutton's primary schools and the other in Sutton's secondary schools. Their work includes Bible based assemblies and Religious Education lessons. Simon Ellingham, its director writes-

I cannot even begin to describe how exciting this academic year has been so far. I'll try, of course, but I don't think I've ever felt so positive about what God is doing in our schools. Maisie and Abby have kicked off in the primary schools with a bang. They had an amazing start to the new academic year with the new workshops now starting to take place in primary schools and 40 schools already booked in for primary assemblies

The most important thing to tell you about secondary schools is that we have given out, to people actually asking for one, over 200 New Testaments! I've delivered a session on a topic, and then invited all present to help themselves on the way out to a NT, but to only take it if they want to read it. I've specifically warned pupils not to do so if they have no intention of opening it up. And then they fly off the tabletop! I made a quick calculation and worked out that I've spoken in front of around 290 pupils now. What a success rate.....

And not just pupils; at least 3 teachers have taken one, and I've had one of them telling me about their need for something to give them meaning, and they've ended up saying they'll come to my church this Sunday..... Please pray that the word of God will be opened, questioned, examined and understood, and then accepted.

I've started my Knife Crime and County Lines series at Oaks Park, and, once again, have been delighted at the engagement of the pupils and the positive influence we can have on them to think about their choices and consequences. As a result of these sessions, we have struck up conversations about faith and I've encouraged many of them to talk about church and even to find one to go to. Several children have approached me in the corridor as I've walked through and excitedly produced their NT telling me that they're reading it every day now.

I've delivered a Persecuted Christians lesson at Carshalton Girls, which went well as always and then watched in wonder as 5, clearly Muslim, girls picked up a NT as they left and immediately opened them.

We've delivered our annual GSUS workshop to Year 9 at Sutton Grammar, and have been delighted at the response of the boys to the message of hope found in Jesus Christ that Christians around the world know to be true.

I've booked in an entire year's worth of activity at Cheam High, Greenshaw, Oaks Park, Sutton Grammar and Carshalton Girls and I'm now trying to work out how I can possibly fit in others!

Our Christian Union groups have started up and, as always, we're finding a complete range of attendance numbers across the borough. Some are strong, with good numbers attending regularly, others have yet to really take off but we're keeping faithful in coming along, providing an opportunity for pupils to meet together to seek fellowship, encouragement, teaching and discussion. We have non-Christians attending at nearly all of them, so, please continue to pray that they will find answers to their queries.

I have spoken at Worcester Park Baptist and Wallington Baptist and been overwhelmed by the support for our work. At both venues, I had people approach me to offer their time and prayer, and I always come away from these times refreshed, invigorated and

encouraged to keep going. We are visiting Sutton Vineyard and Cheam Baptist to let more know about our work.

So, please pray for :-

Oaks Park as I finish my County Lines series and that we may now find a way of starting a CU. Also, that the teacher who wanted to find an answer to their spirituality questions might find faith in Jesus, and settle into a church.

Cheam High as I commence the Knife Crime and County Lines sessions, offering NTs out as part of the workshop.

Greenshaw, Carshalton Girls and Sutton Grammar as we plan towards our new range of lessons.

Carshalton Boys as we find a new venue for our CU as the library is no longer suitable.

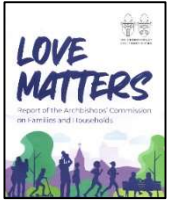
And all of our Christian Unions: Greenshaw, Overton Grange, Cheam High, Carshalton Girls, Carshalton Boys & Sutton Grammar – that, at each one, pupils may find a safe place to talk, ask and discover.

Thank you for your continued prayers. Without them we would be so, so much less than we are able, through the grace of God, to be.

And finally, a plea.... We are now looking at 32 schools attending “**Easter Experience**” next year, another increase on our previous record numbers. However, we are in urgent need of people to help play parts at one of our 5 venues. Whether you have previously been involved or have never been part of this fantastic event before, please, please consider taking part. You certainly won’t regret it! We currently have around 30 wonderful people already signed up, but need around 6 more to ensure we have sufficient cover across the 4 week period, starting from 23rd February and ending on 20th March. If you can give a few days then please let us know through our office (020 8644 2800).

LOVE MATTERS

This is the fourth in our series on the Report of the Archbishops’ Commission on Families and Households.



4. THINK CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Every child should be valued, loved and supported to flourish from the moment of conception, through childhood and beyond. Christian teaching places emphasis on starting children off on the right path in life, respecting their vulnerability and fostering trust. The vast majority of parents want to do the best for their children but this is not always easy. Parents usually need help and this requires close collaboration between home, school, church and the community.

Adverse child experiences (ACEs), such as parental conflict, domestic abuse, mental illness, substance abuse and poverty, are associated with poor child outcomes. These are more prevalent among families who are poor, isolated or living in deprived circumstances. Certain groups of children are more at risk than others, including children born prematurely, those with a disability or complex health needs, children in care, and asylum seekers. Children and young people need to be protected from harm. Children as young as six are involved in carrying drugs as part of county lines activities. Children as young as ten access pornography.

Understanding the triggers that drive young people into criminal activities, gang culture, drugs and missing school is essential if the risks are to be addressed and safe environments provided where young people can socialise and be offered afresh beginning. Finding time to listen to children and young people,

taking their wishes, dreams, views and concerns seriously is essential if they are to be at the centre of the Church of England's vision for a younger, more diverse Church. This empowers them and builds their resources.

WHAT THE CHURCH CAN DO

Encourage and support all parents in the raising of their children.

Be alert to the needs of parents who are struggling and children who are at risk of abuse and neglect, and provide loving, caring and non-judgmental support for mothers, fathers and carers to combat adverse childhood experiences.

Ensure a culture of openness and willingness to talk about parenting challenges, destigmatise help-seeking and promote cooperative working between faith communities, charities and local government, offering support in a kind, non-judgmental way.

Introduce programmes that support parents and children, such as the Parents' Promise, The Naked Truth, Safe Families and Home for Good in churches locally.

Encourage and support current and prospective kinship carers, foster and adoptive parents, and honour, celebrate and offer practical support to all those who are caring for children and young people.

Advocate for children and young people in the care system, supporting them to find caring, loving homes where they can develop a sense of security and belonging.

Enable children to learn about relating well to each other as early as possible in a child's life, and help children to develop skills which increase their resilience to stress and adversity.

Enable the voices of children and young people to be heard and respected, and make church buildings and open spaces safe places for children and young people, working in partnership with youth groups, local organisations, local authorities, schools, and other faith communities.

Be especially vigilant in respect of young carers in each community and find ways to support them and their families.

Walk alongside young people when they are worried or stressed, at risk of dropping out of school, or getting into criminal activities, and model kind and caring relationships.

Put children, young people and families at the heart of local mission and ministry

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

Read Mark 9.33-37 & 10.13-16

What do we learn from Jesus about how we treat children and their families?

Read Mark 9.14-10.45 in your own time.

Reflect on what else these chapters reveal about children and families.

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

How might we foster a culture in which churches becoming safe, supportive places for children and young people, and where their voices are heard, is central to local mission and ministry at all levels?

NEXT TIME – THINK FORGIVENESS AND KINDNESS

THE EFFECT OF DOMESTIC ABUSE ON CHILDREN

At the October Diocesan Meeting of the Mothers' Union which was attended by members from St Barnabas, the keynote speaker was Micheline Ravololonarisoa from Madagascar and a member of St Barnabas, Mitcham Branch.

She began by explaining saying that domestic abuse is about control – how one person uses an intimate relationship to control another person, often their partner or former partner. The controlling behaviour forms a pattern, rather than being a one-off incident and, In the vast majority of cases, it is experienced by women and is perpetrated by men. The UK Government's definition is that it is "any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

It is very common and the statistics are shocking. More than one in four women in the UK have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16. Refuge services in England supported an estimated 10,824 women and 12,989 children in 2022-23 and that all community-based support services supported an estimated 120,518 women and 156,673 children. However, 61% of all the referrals received in refuge services were rejected for various reasons, the main one being a lack of space or capacity.

She went on to say that domestic abuse is not just an issue between adults—it is child abuse in itself as it can have a devastating impact on the victims and their families, with children and young people at risk of serious harm to both their emotional and physical health. It undermines children's safety, development and well-being with effects that can last a lifetime if not addressed.

Short-term effects for children range from bed wetting in infants and toddlers; a drop in school performance and difficulty in

concentrating and guilt or self-blame for the abuse for school-aged children to risk-taking behaviours (alcohol, drugs, unsafe sex), aggression, truancy, or running away and withdrawal, low self-esteem and having difficulty forming friendships for teenagers.

The longer-term psychological and emotional effects can involve mental health disorders; a higher risk of anxiety, depression, PTSD, eating disorders and self-harm; and attachment and trust issues leading to difficulties in forming healthy relationships later in life, fear of intimacy or mistrust of authority figures. The cycle of abuse may lead some children to normalize abusive behaviour, increasing the risk of their becoming victims or perpetrators in adulthood. The Parent-Child Bond becomes damaged, the abuse undermines the non-abusive parent's ability to provide consistent care as their energy is consumed by survival. Coercive control may lead to children becoming manipulated or controlled by the abusive parent, creating fear and confusion. The home, which should be a sanctuary, becomes unpredictable and unsafe, eroding a child's sense of stability. In a nutshell, children who grow up in abusive households are more likely to experience domestic abuse in their own adult relationships and struggle with parenting, either becoming overprotective or replicating harmful patterns.

What can we all do about it?

- Pray
- Bring the shocking facts to people whenever an occasion allows
- Support the Rise Up / Red Chair / 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign which runs from 25th November [the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women] to 10th December [Human Rights Day]. During this period, there will be a Red Chair on display in Church and there will be details of where victims can get help on the inside of the toilets in the Halls and the Church.

MOTHERS' UNION 2026 PROGRAMME

Everyone is welcome to all meetings and events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Fri 5 th December (10.00am)	'Big Give' Coffee Morning for Uganda with a Raffle at 7, Kings Lane, Sutton, SM1 4PB
Mon 15 th December (11.30am)	MU Diocesan Advent Service in St. Mildred's Church, Addiscombe (5 mins from Addiscombe Tram Stop)
Tue 17 th February (2.00pm)	The Revd Kayode Oyeboke introduces himself, followed by Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday in St Barnabas Church Halls
Fri 6 th March (10.15am)	World Day of Prayer Service prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria In the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue
Wed 26 th March (10.00am)	Lady Day Communion Service in St Barnabas Church
Fri 10 th April (2.00pm)	"Hymns We Love" – a talk on "Thine be the Glory" in St Barnabas Church Halls
Sat 9 th May (11.30am)	Diocesan Festival Eucharist Service in Southwark Cathedral
Mon 11 th May (10.00am)	Bring & Buy & Coffee Morning at 6, The Crescent, Sutton, SM1 4HU in aid of "Away from it All" Holidays (AFIA)
Sat 16 th May (10.30am)	'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Walk in Benhill Recreation Ground (Starts at St Barnabas Church)
Wed 10 th June (5.00pm)	MU 150 th Celebratory Service in St Paul's Cathedral Entry by ticket available until 16 th December 2025 at https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150-celebratory-service/
Thurs 11 th June (10.30am - 5.00pm)	MU 150 th Annual Gathering at Emmanuel Centre 9-23 Marsham St, London, SW1P 3DW Entry by ticket available from 16 th November 2025 at https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150-celebratory-service/
Sat 13 th June (10.30am - 4.30pm)	Reigate Area Teddy Bears' Picnic in Manor Park, Throwley Way, Sutton, SM1 4AH
Tues 23 rd June (7.45pm)	"Illiteracy Doesn't Make Sense", a talk by Rosemary Kempself, former MU Worldwide President in St Barnabas Church

Date to be arranged	Summer Outing – Guided Tour of Nonsuch Palace Gallery (Cost £5.00)
Sun 9 th August (from 10.30am to 2.30pm)	'Takeover Sunday' (Mary Sumner Day) MU to do readings & intercessions then a '15 to 150' Cream Team with donations & a 'Bring & Buy' & a Raffle in St Barnabas Church
Sat 29 th August (10.00am)	Wave of Prayer in St Barnabas Church
Wed 14 th Oct (7.45pm)	A Taizé Service in St Barnabas Church
Thurs 29 th Oct (2.00pm)	'My Trip to Jordan' – an illustrated talk by Sue Davis in St Barnabas Church Halls
Bible Study – Fri after 2 nd Wed monthly at 10.15am	in Lower Vestry, St Barnabas Church
Midday Prayers - 4 th Wed monthly (ex December) 11.45am – 12.15pm	in the Harvard Chapel in Southwark Cathedral

MUSIC FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY EVENING AT TRINITY URC/METHODIST CHURCH

Cathy Brown, Sally Reed and Dorothy Hannam sang with the Trinity Festival Choir under the direction of its Musical Director Stephen Haylett in Trinity URC/Methodist Church, Sutton on Remembrance Sunday evening to sing Sir Philip Ledger's Requiem, 'A Thanksgiving for Life' which he composed in 2007. It had all the usual Latin movements of the Requiem Mass but these were interspersed with settings of some wonderful poems by the mystical English poet, Thomas Traherne. The piece began with the birth of the soul and ended with its final journey to paradise, and included a softly yearning 'Pie Jesu', sung by a soprano solo.

There was some really thrilling and dramatic singing throughout the evening. As well as the Requiem, the choir sang Sir Hubert Parry's 'My soul, there is a country' and Maurice Duruflé's 'Ubi Caritas', which flowed beautifully into Elgar's 'Nimrod'.

The Trinity Festival Choir performs concerts 2 to 3 times a year and they are always of a very high standard.

PARISH PUMP

RIP Sally Steele (12th June 1951 – 24th June 2025) Sally Steele was known by many of the congregation for her work organizing Mothers' Union 'Away from It All' (AFIA) holidays for underprivileged families (she often came to talk at our annual Bring and Buys for AFIA) and her work with the Sutton Women's Refuge, including



Sally Steele speaking at an AFIA Bring & Buy in 2021

collecting items and money to help women who had suffered from Domestic Violence. Over 300 people gathered for her funeral service at St Dunstan's, Cheam on Friday 29th August. The family, her four children and two grandchildren told us about what a wonderful Mum she was. We heard that she had been involved in Girl Guiding and Scouting (where she

met her husband), been a Barts nurse, joined choirs, been keen on amateur dramatics as well as her Mothers' Union work. There were many light hearted episodes especially jokes about her love of cheap Sainsbury's wine which is no longer produced and her bright pink fence around her home. She was buried with her husband in St Dunstan's graveyard.

After **Carole King**'s funeral on 25th April this year, her daughters dedicated an area of Woodland Trust Woodland to Carole and scattered her ashes there. They chose Stratton Woods near



Swindon, a spot roughly midway between where they live. There is a post with a plaque remembering her. It is a lovely spot and Carole loved trees and woodland. (See also Page 9).



The appointment of the Revd Dr Geoff Dumbreck as the next Archdeacon of Reigate has been announced by the Bishop of Southwark. He is currently Vicar of the South Croydon Benefice and Area Dean of Croydon Central Deanery. He is expected to take up his new role in early January 2026.

Congratulations to Sally & Sheil Bramdaw

who have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married at Epping Register Office on 27th September 1975. Sally has been attending St Barnabas for about 40 years ever since they moved to Sutton. She was a leader of the St Barnabas Mums & Babies' Group, a Sunday School teacher and Mothers' Union Branch Leader. She has also been PCC Secretary for a number of years and is now also one of our Churchwardens. She also runs the St Barnabas Bible-a-Month Club on behalf of the Bible Society.



Former member of St Barnabas, **Gill Hutchison** was on holiday in Malta with her husband, Stuart (a former St Barnabas Churchwarden), when she had a bad fall which left her with a broken shoulder and a punctured lung. She is recovering in hospital in Valletta and receiving good nursing and physiotherapy but it will be some weeks before she can fly home. One of her daughters has been able to fly out to visit her. Meanwhile, Stuart had to fly back home on his own to their flat in Bognor Regis. They had visited Malta some years ago with the late Brenda Richards who was a former Churchwarden and Lay Reader at St Barnabas. Brenda died in 2024, aged 103.



Stuart & Gill Hutchison with Brenda Richards on her 100th birthday in 2021

Congratulations to Sarah Mullally, Sutton Team Rector from 2006 to 2012 whilst St Barnabas was one of the three churches which formed that team, who was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury designate on 3rd October. Her election will be confirmed on 28th January in a service at St Paul's Cathedral and this will be followed by an Enthronement Service in Canterbury Cathedral on 25th March. At that service she will firstly be installed by the Archdeacon of Canterbury on the diocesan throne, signifying her role as Bishop of Canterbury; the Dean of Canterbury will then install her in the 13th century Chair of St. Augustine to mark her inauguration as Head of the Church of England and leader of the Anglican Communion. (Whilst, technically, the King is head of the Church of England, the person holding the role of Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop and is the spiritual leader of the Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.)



During Sarah's six year involvement with St Barnabas, she instigated a Friday morning Mums' Bible Study Group which is now the Mothers' Union Bible Study Group and also a midweek Morning Prayer Service which is now held during Open Saturdays. Sarah also oversaw the complete electrical rewiring and major roof repairs projects at St Barnabas in 2011 and conceived the idea to re-open the South Path. She also cut the celebration cakes for the 125th Anniversary of the Consecration of St Barnabas Church on Sunday 29th March 2009 and the St Barnabas Big Diamond Jubilee Lunch in 2012 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, on both occasions using the silver trowel that had been used in 1882 when the foundation stone of the Church was laid.







CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
(including a Grand Raffle)
at Janice Clarke's house at
7 Kings Lane, Sutton, SM1 4PB
on
Friday 5th December 2025 at 10.00am – 12 Noon
in aid of
Mothers' Union Savings Project in Uganda

**All donations and money raised will be
doubled as part of the Big Give
Christmas Challenge**

**If you can't attend,
Janice will have raffle tickets available in Church
on Sunday 30th November after the service.**



SAVING TODAY FOR A NEW TOMORROW

In rural Uganda, poverty often means more than just going without. It means living each day on the brink. For many families, a bad harvest, a child's illness, or a sudden rise in food prices can tip them into crisis. Without savings to fall back on or access to fair credit, even a small setback can be devastating. But there is hope.

The Mothers' Union's new Savings Project will support 1,200 participants, mostly women, in four dioceses in Uganda. The women will form 60 self-managed savings groups, where they can save small amounts weekly, access fair and flexible loans, and gain vital training in:

- Financial literacy and budgeting
- Small business and entrepreneurship
- Climate resilient farming techniques.

This isn't just about money, it's about dignity, hope, and long term change. It starts with a shift in mindset for both the men and women. When families can invest in their farms together, send children to school and afford healthcare, they begin to build lives of resilience and purpose.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

10.15am
at the
Salvation Army Church
45 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, SM1 4DD

prepared
by the
Christian
Women
of Nigeria





INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk Registered Charity Number 233242




Court "Wellington", 3449 of Foresters' Friendly Society invites you to a

Fish & Chips & Charity Fundraiser

A 'Brain Gym' in aid of its
National President's appeal for the
Alzheimer's Society

Saturday 14th March 2026
3.30pm for 4.00pm until 7.30pm
in St Barnabas Church Halls, St Barnabas Road,
Sutton, SM1 4NP



Enjoy an afternoon of seated games to help keep your
little grey cells fit. For all ages and all abilities.
Also, a film about the dementia.
Includes a dessert and tea/coffee.

£15 per adult (£6 sausage & chips box for children)

To book your place please speak to Rosemary Walsh or
email court3449@forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk by 5 March

Sunday 30th November 10.30am	Children's Society Christingle Service Please bring an orange
Friday 5th December 10.00am – 12 Noon	Big Give Christmas Coffee Morning at 7 Kings Lane, Sutton [See Page 31]
Sunday 14th December 4.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carol Service with a Christmas Tea afterwards In the Church
Monday 15th December 11.30am	Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Service at St Mildred's Church, Addiscombe
Wednesday 24th December 4.00pm	Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Service Children can come dressed as a Nativity character
Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm	Christmas Midnight Communion Service in St Barnabas Church
Thursday 25th December 10.30am	Christmas Morning Communion Service in St Barnabas Church
Thursday 1st January 2026 10.30am	New Year's Day Communion Service with refreshments afterwards
Saturday 14th February 5.00pm – 7.30pm	Valentine's Day Afternoon Tea Dance in St Barnabas Church Halls
Tuesday 17th February 2.00pm	Talk by the Revd Kayode Oyebo to introduce himself, followed by Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday in St Barnabas Church Halls
Friday 6th March 10.15am	World Day of Prayer Service at the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue [See Page 31]
Saturday 14th March 3.30 for 4.00pm	Fish & Chip Supper in aid of Alzheimer's Society in St Barnabas Church Halls [See Page 31]

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It costs over £600 a week to run the church here at St Barnabas which does not include funds for any major repairs. All of this has to be found from those who worship or visit here.

If you a regular worshipper and not already a member of the Planned Giving Scheme but would like to join, please speak to Humphrey Clarke or telephone him on 020 8661 1016. Alternatively, please do place what you are able to afford in the Offertory Plate as you come to church each week.

St Barnabas Pre School	Contact:- Phone: 020 8661 8927 or email stbarnabaspreschoolsutton@gmail.com
Kumon (Maths & English classes)	Contact:- Yumna Joubaily (07941 265988)
Pilates	Contact:- Lorraine Thurlow (07958 356035)
Model Railway Club	Contact:- Dave Smith (01342 712078)
The Bradley School of Chess	Contact:- Wendy Bradley w.bradley5@live.com