

Summer 2026

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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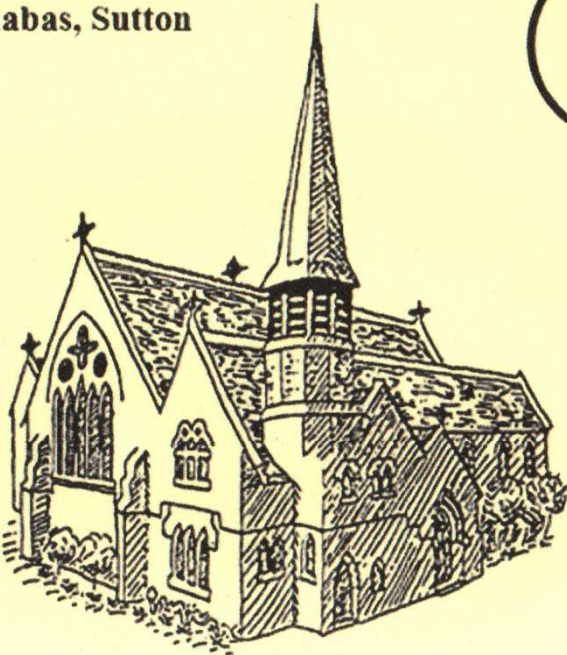
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St. Barnabas news

The Magazine of
The Parish of
St Barnabas, Sutton

DIGITAL
VERSION



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.

SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCH

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

Other than from 27th July to 31st August (inclusive), 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 4th October [Harvest Thanksgiving] & on 8th November [Remembrance Sunday] when there will be special services.

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.

BIBLE STUDY

A Group meets monthly for Bible Study at 10.15am in the Lower Vestry in the Church. Currently the Group is studying the Gospel of St Mark. Each session is a stand-alone one 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

KAYODE'S MESSAGE AT ST BARNABAS ANNUAL MEETING

Church Meeting [APCM] in May included the following key points.



Dear Friends,

Time moves quickly. It feels like only yesterday that I was licensed here at St Barnabas on Thursday, 28th August 2025. Now, nine months into this new chapter, I find myself sharing in my first APCM with you here.

At my interview, I spoke about the importance of teamwork, rooted in Scripture: *"For just as each of us has one body with many members... so in Christ we, though many, form one body"* [Romans 12 vv 4-5]. These past months have truly been a season of learning, unlearning, and relearning—of building, creating, and adding value together. I am grateful for the spirit of cooperation and unity that defines St Barnabas, and I believe we are called to continue in that same spirit.

We have shared both encouraging moments and challenging ones. The recent roof and building repairs, for instance, brought some disruption. Yet even in these circumstances, our unity has remained strong, and for that I give thanks.

Looking ahead, my deepest concern—and indeed my prayer—is for our shared vision: a growing church, a keen sense of family, a place where tradition and a warm welcome meet, and where all people feel at home, including those of other faiths or none. It has been heartening, for example, to see members of the wider community, including Muslim neighbours, join us at events such as our Open Saturdays.

At the same time, we must face honestly the key challenges before us: finance, clarity of vision, and the need to engage

more effectively with younger people and families. These are not small matters, and they will require all of us to work together creatively and prayerfully. As Scripture reminds us, “[Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain](#)” [Psalm 127 v 1]. Following on from our Three-Year Vision and Mission Action Plan (May 2025), I initiated a parish survey to help us reflect on how we are progressing. Thank you to those who responded. The results will be shared with all parishioners because this is a shared journey—your voice matters.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who contributes to the life of St Barnabas—whether visibly or behind the scenes: churchwardens, readers, servers, chalice assistants, welcomers, sacristans, Bible Stories for Children leaders, flower arrangers, and all who quietly see a need and respond. Your service is deeply valued.

We are moving forward in many areas but more remains ahead. We need to grow in numbers, in faith, and in regular attendance. We must also become more effective at welcoming and retaining families with children.

Encouragingly, we have welcomed new worshippers, held baptism preparation sessions, and will soon begin more, alongside Confirmation classes. These are signs of life and hope among us. Praise God!

As we continue together, let us hold fast to the words of Scripture: [Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another.](#) [Hebrews 10 vv 24–25].

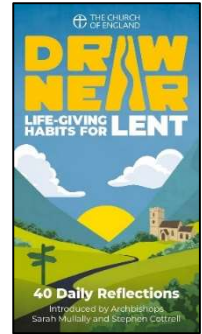
Thank you for your faithfulness, your partnership, and your prayers. May God guide us as we continue to grow together in His service.

Yours in Christ, Kayode Oyeboade

10th May 2026

LENT GROUPS

Some members of St Barnabas Church joined other churches in Sutton for weekly Lent groups, either in-person or on Zoom, organised by Trinity URC/Methodist Church to study the Anglican Lent book “[Draw Near: Lifegiving Habits for Life](#)” which has a forward by Archbishops Sarah Mullally and Stephen Cottrell who have written, “*Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too.*” *The booklet offers daily Bible readings, reflections, and practical steps focused on six core habits: worship, prayer, Scripture, communion, service, and sharing the Gospel.*”



The course ended with a service in Holy Week in Trinity Church where all the Lent Groups who had been meeting on Zoom had a chance to meet in person. A very worthwhile experience.

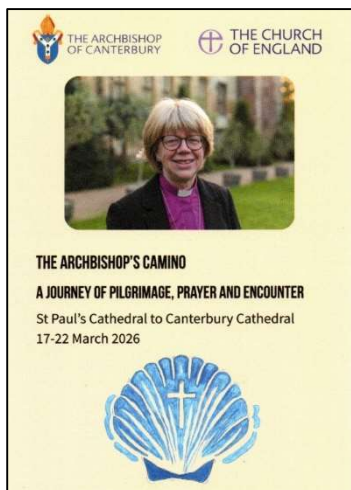
5TH SUTTON (ST BARNABAS) CUBS NEWS



On 8th March the Cubs went to RAF Hendon on a day trip. They travelled by the 154 Bus and Underground. They had a go with a 4D Virtual Red Arrows experience. It was very exciting and they even experienced flying upside down! They were able to sit in the cockpit of an aircraft and got involved in activities, including maps showing where aircraft were flying, and how they navigate aircraft. They also even designed their own squadron badge!

A good time was had by one and all. The Cub Leader was very proud of how well behaved they were, how they looked out for each other and how they decided together what exhibits they wanted to see.

SARAH MULLALLY'S PILGRIMAGE



On Tuesday 17th March, the Most Revd Sarah Mullally, who used to be the Team Rector of Sutton Team Ministry of which St Barnabas was a member, began walking from St Paul's Cathedral in London to Canterbury Cathedral, a distance of 87 miles before being enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March. She said "Pilgrimage is about walking with God, into God and also with other people as that seemed the right way to prepare to take on my new ministry and new role. Walking from St Paul's, where I have just

been, to Canterbury where I am going. Also, St Paul's at the back was the birthplace of Thomas à Beckett. Thomas also did this journey. It is a physical journey and a journey of Prayer."

Sarah wore walking boots and carried a staff. Her pilgrimage started with a service of Blessing in St Paul's, including prayers to protect those making the journey. She offered up a shell as a symbol of pilgrimage and in thanks for the hospitality of those who supported her on her journey.



Rosemary Walsh, who works in Trinity House, was in Southwark Cathedral to show support when Sarah called in there as part of the Pilgrimage to Canterbury. Sarah recognised her and said, "Say hello to everyone at St Barnabas." Rosemary asked whether she wanted anything to be prayed for and Sarah handed Rosemary a Prayer Card on which were two prayers:-

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for sending Archbishop Sarah as a shepherd to guide your people. Gift her with wisdom and fill her with the Holy Spirit; Help her to listen well, bring people together and serve as Jesus served. Amen

And we pray for ourselves: Strengthen us in faith, and grant us a heart like Christ's, gentle, humble and devoted to the truth, so that we may share the Gospel with Joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen



A CHARITY SOCIAL EVENT

On Saturday 14th March, Rosemary Walsh held a charity social event in the Church Halls on behalf of the Foresters Friendly Society of which she is the local Branch Secretary. Members of the church came along to support the cause. 50 people attended.

The afternoon began with a talk and films given by Soya Cutts, the Alzheimer's Society's Regional Fundraiser for Central & West London about the work the Alzheimer's Society does.



Afterwards, everyone played Kim's Game with the items shown on the screen. Then everyone went into the other hall to play various separate games in small groups, all of which entailed thinking. They included Chess, Draughts, Connect 4, Guess Who, Happy Families, Mastermind, Chinese Chequers, Pairs, 3 Dimensional Noughts and Crosses, Downfall and Squares. It was amazing how everyone joined in and really got involved with their games.

Just after 5.30pm Fish and Chips arrived followed by a variety of homemade desserts. Then there was a raffle. The children all helped by calling out the winning numbers. The event, which finished with a table Eagle Eye game, raised £416.15 for the Alzheimer's Society and £220.00 for St Barnabas Church.

LADY DAY, THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On 25th March, the Mothers' Union held a Lady Day Service in the Memorial Chapel at the same time as "Walk in Wednesday". It was lovely to hear the organ being played by one of its members, Marilyn Curtis. The service was an amalgamation of the Mothers' Union Cathedral Midday Prayers and a Eucharist led by the Revd Kayode Oyebode. After the service everyone joined the Wednesday Walk In folk for a lovely slice of cake and a rice and lentil dish donated by the Muslim ladies from the local mosque of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK who are now coming to "Walk in Wednesdays."



In the afternoon, the Most Revd Sarah Mullally was enthroned as the Archbishop of Canterbury in a wonderful service in Canterbury Cathedral which was televised live on BBC1;



again, a wonderful uplifting service which included the African Choir of Norfolk singing and dancing in the Cathedral. The reading for the Annunciation was read in Spanish and there were prayers in other languages reflecting that the Archbishop of Canterbury is head of the Anglican Communion. Sarah's sermon was based on Lady Day and Mary's answer "Yes" to God's calling.

Almighty God, you call your Church in every age o proclaim the Gospel of Christ: look with mercy upon your servant Sarah and grant that, as deacon, she may care for those in need, as priest, sustain us with the ministry of word and sacrament, and as bishop, guard the faith and build up the body of Christ in holiness. Give her wisdom and kindness that as archbishop, she may promote unity, seek truth, and lead us in the way of righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

RUNNING THIS TIME

On Friday 27th March the Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow from Canada and Bev Jullien, Mothers' Union Chief Executive, ran 10 kilometres along the side of the River Thames to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. They ran from Southwark Cathedral to Vauxhall Bridge and back again. Kathlyn will be running 15 10 km runs in different places in the World, making 150 kilometres for the MU's 150th Anniversary. The London run was her fourth.



Humphrey and Janice Clarke and Peter Brown along with Emma Peters from St Stephen's, Stockwell Branch went up to Albert Embankment Gardens to cheer them on their way. Emma Peters brought her branch's new Mothers' Union banner, featured in the previous MU "Southwark News." There were balloons and everyone dressed in Mothers' Union clothes.

At Albert Embankment Gardens the two runners stopped for a photocall. After they had passed us on their way back to



Southwark Cathedral, we boarded a 344 bus back to Southwark Cathedral for celebratory refreshments. Penny Lockhead, MU Southwark Diocesan President, Julia Jamieson,

MU Worldwide Zonal Trustee for Canterbury, Cynthia Smith and Comfort Fearon, both past MU Southwark Diocesan Presidents and members from the Cathedral MU Branch as well as the Bishop of Croydon, Bishop Rosemarie were all there to welcome the runners back. The runners had returned quicker than we did by bus, and beat us to the Cathedral but we were also given a noisy welcome when we arrived!!

Janice Clarke

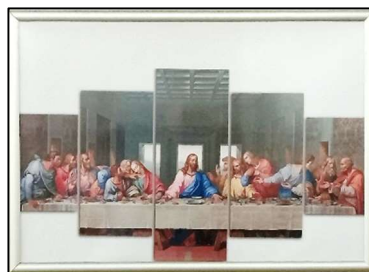
PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, this year falling on 29th March which was also the 142nd anniversary of the Consecration of St Barnabas Church in 1884, the Morning Service included the long six and a half page Bible passage about Holy Week, read beautifully by Dorothy Hannam. Everyone was given a palm cross and at the end of the service they all followed the cross around the church during the final hymn with their crosses held high.



During Bible Stories for Children, the children also had the Holy Week story from The Lion Children's Bible. They also made a living Easter Garden and they joined in the procession after they had come into church.

At the end of the service, Kayode and Ronke Oyobode presented St Barnabas with a picture of the Last Supper which was later hung in the coffee area.



In the evening Dorothy Hannam, Sally Reed and Cathy Brown joined with the Trinity Festival Choir to take part in "The Way of the Cross", music, readings and prayers for Holy Week which was held in Trinity URC/Methodist Church in Sutton. The Minister linked the most eloquently singing with readings and prayers and made it very moving. The evening raised money which was donated to "Aid to the Church in Need", a charity which supports Christians globally, targeting aid in ways identified by local sufferers as being the most effective.

As people left Trinity Church, they were given a book "Devotions for Holy Week" to follow each morning, midday and evening, written by the Minister, the Revd Catherine Hutton.

A MAUNDY THURSDAY FIRST FOR ST BARNABAS

On the suggestion of Sue Davis, a new way which she had experienced at another church to celebrate Maundy Thursday was introduced this year at St Barnabas.

The 15 people who came all sat around a long table, similar to Jesus and his Disciples at the Last Supper, beneath the painting which Kayode and Ronke had presented to St Barnabas on Palm Sunday. The evening meal began with prayer. Then Kayode blessed the unleavened bread, broke it and handed it round. Then we listened to the reading about the first Passover [[Exodus 12 v 1-14](#)]. Then everyone began the meal of scotch broth, cheese, unleavened bread, olives, nuts, tomatoes, cress and fruit. Psalm 78 was then read responsively followed by a reading about the first communion [[1 Corinthians 11, 23 - 26](#)]



The Revd Kayode then blessed the wine and we all had a small communion glass of wine. After that we heard the story of Jesus acting as a servant [[John 13 v 1-15](#)] and Kayode then washed the feet of those who had volunteered.



The last part of the Service was the gift of Peace and the command that everyone should love one another. The table was then cleared and the altar stripped.

It was a most moving and meaningful service. If you did not come along this year, I would suggest you make a point of coming next year.

Janice Clarke



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

On Good Friday morning all the various churches in Sutton met outside Asda in the High Street, organised by Churches Together in Sutton & Cheam, led by Rick Adams from Sutton Christian Centre. A large crowd of Christians filled the High Street walking behind crosses and banners.



There were hymns old and new, "And can it be that I should gain", "What can wash away my sin," "Nothing but the blood of Jesus", "In Christ Alone", "How deep is the Father's Love for us," readings from the Bible and contemporary interpretations of the Good Friday events by Bear Grylls.

Everyone walked from Asda to outside the St Nicholas Centre,



where the Revd Kayode gave an excellent reflection about Good Friday, then up to outside Lidl's where the Revd Kan Yu, from the Sutton HongKonger's Church, led the closing prayers.

In the afternoon St Barnabas Church held a short mediative service.

EASTER DAY



There was a very joyful atmosphere on Easter Day – 'Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia' and it was wonderful to see Sally Bramdaw with her son, Adam and his wife,



Amber and their three grandsons over from Australia for Abigail and Ray's wedding [see Page 14].

At the end of the morning service, the St Barnabas Handbell Ringers played "Jesus Christ is Risen Today", "Lord of the Dance" and "He Lives!" with all the children in the church joining in with tambourines for "He Lives!"



Sue Davis had made a beautiful sSimnel cake#, pieces of which the congregation enjoyed with their coffee after the service.

A fruitcake associated with Lent and Easter. It is distinguished by layers of almond paste or marzipan, typically one in the middle and one on top, and a set of 11 balls made of the same paste said to represent 11 of Jesus's disciples, leaving off Judas.

AN EASTER TEA

The Mothers' Union AGM was held on 10th April, the Friday after Easter. Humphrey Clarke had made a PowerPoint presentation of the 2025 MU activities for everyone to watch. Kerry Guest, the branch treasurer, gave details of the 2025 accounts and on her suggestion, it was voted to change our bank, to reduce bank charges. After that, we saw a film from the 'Hymns We Love' series about the hymn "Thine Be the Glory"

We then all sat around a long table and had a super Easter Tea with savouries and three beautiful cakes made by Sue Davies and Pearl Essex. As several members were ill, Shirley Tillman took plated up teas to Beryl Thirtle, John and Andrew Child and Valerie Blackwell in their homes.



THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN

The children planted out an Easter garden with real plants for Easter Day then, on the Sundays after Easter, they celebrated the Joy of the Resurrection.



Firstly, they heard about Mary Magdalene going to the tomb and finding the Risen Lord. The children made a "He is Risen" paper craft game. James Bramdaw selected the answers when the children came into church after his brother's baptisms.

The next week they heard about the Road to Emmaus. They then decorated boiled eggs and did Easter Egg rolling on the path at the side of the church.

The following week was about Doubting Thomas and they made a poster.



On the fourth week they heard about the disciples having breakfast on the beach with Jesus after they had fished all night and caught nothing and were told to throw their net on the other side of the boat exactly as happened when they had first met Jesus. The children then reinacted the scene: Edward was Peter throwing the net on the other side of the boat; Seby and Ben were James and John and Angelo was Jesus on the beach. After this they all had fish shaped fish fingers and rolls for breakfast, just like 2,000 years ago.

FOUR BAPTISMS AND A WEDDING

On Sunday 19th April, Hunter and Mitchell Bramdaw, two of Sally Bramdaw's grandsons, who were visiting from Australia were baptised by the Revd Kayode Oyeboade during the Sunday morning service. [see also paragraph below beginning 'On Thursday 2nd April.']



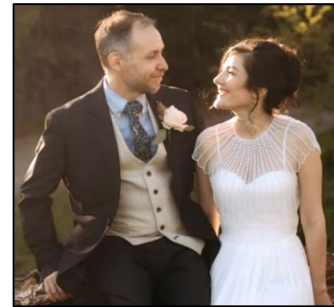
On Sunday 26th April, Ariana Riley, daughter of Jordan and Rianne Riley, was baptised by the Revd Kayode Oyeboade during the Sunday morning service. Kayode said "It was truly an uplifting event and the family at baptism felt excited and blessed by God."



On Sunday 17th May, Nia Serena Thomas, daughter of Tomas and Claire Thomas, was baptised by the Revd Kayode Oyeboade, also during the Sunday morning service. Nia, aged 2, was taken by the lighted candle that was presented to her at end of the service and she managed to blow it out at the second attempt.



Sally Bramdaw writes:- **On Thursday 2nd April, Abigail Bramdaw married Ray Ware** at the County Arms Wedding Venue on Wandsworth Common. It was a beautiful day, bright and sunny, which exactly matched everyone's mood. Abi looked absolutely radiant, and Ray was bursting with pride and happiness as well. It was



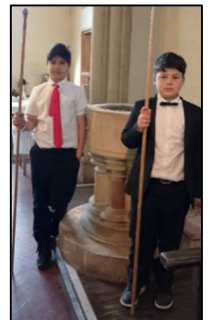
wonderful for Sheil and I to have both our children together on such a special day, as well as our grandsons. After their wedding night, Abi and Ray had a honeymoon at home so that they could spend as much time as possible with Adam, Amber, James, Hunter and Mitchell and we all had some special outings together.

Adam, Amber, James, Hunter and Mitchell came over in the middle of March to celebrate Abi and Ray's wedding. Adam qualified for 10 years' long service leave this year, so they were able to spend a month with us. We certainly packed a lot into it - with the wedding of course being the highlight and Hunter and Mitchell's baptisms a close second. James was christened at St Barnabas 9 years ago when he was one year old. Hunter (8) has always shown a keen interest in church life and events and asked if we could go to St Barnabas on Easter Day as well - we were so glad we did as the handbell ringers played beautifully at the end of the service.



All three boys loved the red double decker buses and always made a beeline for the top deck front seats! They also enjoyed feeding the squirrels and ducks in Grove Park. It was a bit of a squash with us all in our house, but good fun as well, and the house certainly seemed very quiet when they left in the middle of April.

James and Hunter were very impressed by their grandmother's churchwarden's wand and posed for a photo shoot with the churchwardens' wands. They were in awe of Sally having the power to win against "bad guys"!!



PARISH PUMP

Several members of St Barnabas congregation have been 'in the wars' lately. Please remember them in your prayers and telephone them for a friendly chat or visit them to cheer them up.

Barry Carter had a stroke just before Easter followed by heart problems. After being in hospital, he is now back at home with carers coming in each day.

Beryl Thirtle fell over in her kitchen on Easter Day whilst preparing dinner. She has a hair lined fracture of the hip and has been confined to the upstairs of her house for some weeks but she is now managing to get downstairs once a day for a meal. She has a key safe so she is able to be visited.

Pearl Essex got out of bed during one night and tripped over her walking stick and fell down. She could not get up and was on the floor for the rest of the night. Fortunately, her neighbours noticed that her curtains had not been opened and, as the front door was bolted, eventually the fire brigade had to break in. She had dislocated her hip and now has clots on the chest. Her leg will be in a split for 6/8 weeks. Pearl says she is being well cared for in St Helier Hospital and, after the original shock, she is now happy to have visitors for a short time and have a chat with them.

Dorothy Hannam tripped and fell down on her face in the street when going home one evening and damaged her jaw and teeth. She is still in great pain but her jaw has to heal before she can have appropriate medical and dental treatment. However, she is now able to produce the Weekly Notices Sheet for St Barnabas again.

Eleanor Holley collapsed at work with very high blood pressure but she has now been able to start to return to work for short periods of time as part of a phased return to full time work.

John Child is still able to be brought to church when the weather is warm and dry. He continues to be visited by carers who hoist him in and out of bed into a chair and back again twice each day. As well as his hearing problems, his sight is starting to fail as well but he remains in good spirits and is well looked after by his son, Andrew.

Congratulations to Abigail Bramdaw and Ray Ware on their marriage in Wandsworth on 2nd April - see page 14.

Congratulations to Michael Okoye, Mary Okoye's grandson who, having been baptised as a baby in Nigeria, gave a testimony affirming his faith in a ceremony in front of the congregation on Easter Day at the Hope Church in Sutton which operates as part of The Co-Mission Churches Trust in Southwest London and meets in Sutton Grammar School.



Congratulations to Dawn Barnes, Humphrey and Janice Clarke's granddaughter, who climbed Kinder Scout, the highest mountain in the Peak District at 636 metres, on 2nd May to raise money for The Samaritans. It took them five hours to climb to the top and back, not including when they stopped for some short rests!



Dawn, aged 15, with three other school friends, has been organising annual charity events since 2020. The charities have

included Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Research and Treetops Hospice and, to date, they have raised over £6,000.

The Samaritans was started in 1953 by Chad Varah, an Anglican Priest at St Stephen's Church, Walbrook and father of five, after taking the funeral of a 14 year old girl who, with no one to talk to, ended her life after her first period, which she had not been told anything about; she thought she had an STD (sexually transmitted disease). He started a telephone line for people on the verge of suicide so they could talk to someone and, therefore, be less likely to take their own life. The Service is confidential and non-judgemental and often having human contact reduces distress and despair. The Samaritans was the world's first crisis hotline. The actual phone used, is on display in St Stephen's, Walbrook in the City of London. They also prioritise suicide prevention. In 2024, in the UK, 1 in 4 people had suicidal thoughts at some point in their lives and 20 lives are lost per day to suicide.

Interestingly, Chad Varah's wife, Sarah was the Central President (now known as Worldwide President) of Mothers' Union in 1970 - 1976 and his brother, the Revd Edmund Varah, served his first curacy at St Barnabas between 1956 and 1958. If you would like to add to the girl's fund raising effort go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-for-the-samaritans>. To date they have raised £1,170 for the Samaritans.

Anyone feeling suicidal can call 116 123 free at any time from any phone.

BRING & BUY AND COFFEE MORNING

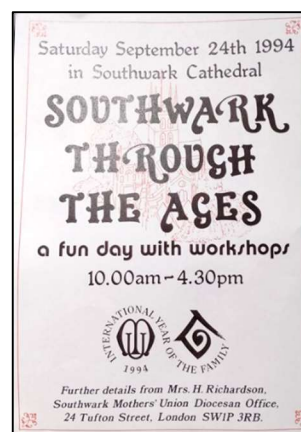
A Bring & Buy and Coffee Morning at Sue Stewart's house on Monday 11th May raised £194.40 for Mothers' Union "Away From it All" Holidays (AFIA) which celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year. It provides for those in desperate need, who have never had a holiday.

BANNERS A PLENTY AT THE CATHEDRAL

Over 20 Mothers' Union Branch Banners took part in a procession at the beginning of the Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 9th May which this year marked the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union in Winchester in 1876 and which now has over four million members in over 80 countries around the world.

At the end of the service, the Bishop of Southwark gathered all the banner bearers, together with their banners, on the chancel steps for a photo shoot. The St Barnabas Branch banner [far right in the photo] was carried by Peter Brown.

[Ed: Mothers' Union admits men as well as women!]



There was also a display in the Cathedral showing various activities and work which Mothers' Union had undertaken in the diocese over the last 150 years. Included was a flyer for a fun day with workshops in 1994 in Southwark Cathedral organised by Mothers' Union. I well remember that workshop as I was there and tried handbell ringing. That led to me setting up the St Barnabas Handbell Group in 1995 which continued without a break for the next 22 years until 2017 during which time I taught over 40 people at St Barnabas to ring handbells. The group was reformed last Christmas when five new ringers and two 'old hands' rang three carols. Three Easter hymns were also rung on Easter Day and, all being well, a further two hymns will be rung on St Barnabas Sunday (14th June).

Humphrey Clarke

FAITH, FOOTBALL & FELLOWSHIP

Daryl Robson is a 37-year-old former football player who last played as a midfielder for East Thurrock United in Essex in 2015-16.



I always dreamed of being a professional footballer, so it was unbelievable to be signed to the Middlesbrough football academy at just 9 years old. Most kids just dream of something like that. My god was football but, in my teenage years, my mind was like a washing machine, constantly going around in circles full of anxiety, worry, fear and panic attacks. I suppressed all my mental health issues and looked to escape. It left me with a gaping hole in my soul.

I built my whole life on being a footballer; it was my identity, my security, my everything. At aged 18, Middlesbrough FC told me I would not be offered a professional contract. This left me feeling depressed and empty. I was so full of anger, shame, and embarrassment. Without football, I felt lost and didn't know who I was as a human being. I went to Ireland and signed a professional contract with Galway United. Whilst it brought more money, more respect and the status of being a professional in my first season, I was injured for five months. Not being able to play when I had built my whole life around playing football left me feeling lost and empty. I turned to drink, sex and gambling. I was in a cycle of living in nightclubs and parties, often returning home at 6.00am and questioning the purpose of my life. I would ask myself, "Is there more to life than this?"

My uncle was a heroin addict who had tried to commit suicide and was sectioned in a psychiatric hospital. One day, a lady prayed for him and he had a powerful encounter with Jesus. His life turned completely around. He would regularly pray for me, but I just didn't want anything to do with Jesus.

After one Saturday after a night at a club, I returned home at 4.00am. At 9.00am, I woke up with a hangover and thoughts running through my mind: 'try the Church.' I thought, 'why not?' I got up, put the same nightclub clothes on and went to the service, stinking of booze. For the first time, I heard that Jesus loved me, that he died for me and that he could set me free from the fear of death. I didn't understand everything but I responded to the call to repent of my sins and trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

I walked out of the church with an unbelievable peace. I felt clean on the inside; the fear of death and panic attacks stopped. It was like a spiritual veil had come down over my eyes. I recognised that the choices I was making were destroying me. I had made a god out of football and I couldn't build my life on it anymore.

I became a brand-new man in Christ. My heart changed, my mind changed and my life changed. I was finally set free to play football without fear. I wanted other footballers to experience the life changing power of Jesus and so I founded 'F3'. F3 (Faith, Football, Fellowship) is a Christian ministry and charity dedicated to sharing the gospel and providing community for professional footballers to help players navigate the pressures of the sport through a relationship with Jesus, F3 has grown from a small Bible study in London into an international network. Daryl Robson

This is just one of the powerful stories featured in Hope Together's new 'Goal of Life Football Gospel' sharing real testimonies from professional footballers alongside the Gospel of Mark.

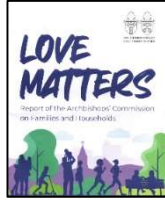
Available now from:

https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Shop/Products/503616/Shop/Books/Gospels/Goal_of_Life.aspx at £1.25 per copy — perfect

for sharing during the 2026 World Cup.

LOVE MATTERS

This is the sixth and last in our series on the Report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households.



6. THINK DIVERSITY

We need to celebrate the rich diversity in our society and seek the common good. Families and households face an interconnected set of personal and societal challenges and these can threaten their ability to flourish and live the best possible life. Poor housing, isolation and loneliness can result in poorer physical and mental health. Loneliness and isolation are often associated with ageing. Dementia is a growing issue as people live longer.

By placing love, hope and faith at the heart of a reimagined society we can value and support everyone, especially those in need, the marginalised and less advantaged, regardless of culture, creed or background.

WHAT THE CHURCH CAN DO

- Understand and offer support to tackle the serious personal and societal challenges impacting on individuals and families locally.
- Promote the wellbeing of individuals and families experiencing loneliness, mental health challenges, and dementia, ensuring that all churches are dementia-friendly and able to support individuals and families in their caring responsibilities.
- Strive to enable everyone to flourish and live their best life, working in partnership with other churches and faith groups, and public and private sector organisations.

- Ensure that every decision taken locally is scrutinised for its impact on families and children.
- Create an environment in which love permeates our relationships and daily lives, and loving relationships are central to our health and wellbeing, whatever our age, background, faith or gender

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 12.

What does this say to us about diversity and how we treat one another?

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

When we think of diversity, how far does it encompass variations in family life and structure, single-person households, cultures, faiths and those who are marginalised, and place love at the centre of all we do?

LOVE: THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

The love we have talked about in **LOVE MATTERS** is the love taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ, in his life and sacrificial death: love that serves the needs of others at deep personal expense, that demonstrates the depth of friendship and family love; a love that cares for the stranger, and a love that affirms and accepts one another, showing kindness, gentleness and forgiveness. It is the love that creates a haven of security in which individuals can flourish spiritually, emotionally, physically, personally and in community with others. The challenge for every church community is to put this kind of love at the heart of its mission.

THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

At the meetings on Sunday 10th May, Sally Reed stood down as a Churchwarden; she was thanked for her past services – she has served a record five times as churchwarden since 2002 covering a total period of 12 years. David Hall stood down from the PCC but will be continuing as Church Electoral Roll Officer. Sue Davies has taken his place on the PCC. As Treasurer, Humphrey Clarke gave a report on the PCC finances and explained how the money was raised to repair the Church roof. He also encouraged those who were not members of the Planned Giving Scheme to seriously consider joining it so that the PCC can budget with certainty.



From the poet laureate, John Betjemen's poem, Septuagesima[#]

*Let's praise the man who goes to light
The church stove on an icy night.
Let's praise that hard-worked he or she
The Treasurer of the P.C.C.
Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles,
The nave and candlesticks and tiles.
But most of all let's praise the few
Who are seen in their accustomed pew
Throughout the year, whate'er the weather,
That they may worship God together.
These, like a fire of glowing coals,
Strike warmth into each other's souls,
And though they be but two or three
They keep the church for you and me.*

[#] Septuagesima - marked the start of a 17-day pre-Lenten season in traditional Christian liturgical calendars, serving as a period of preparation for Lent. Meaning "seventieth" in Latin it was the ninth Sunday (70 days) before Easter.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE WILL BE A BUSY DAY

From 12 Noon until 2.00pm, Mothers' Union Reigate Area (of which St Barnabas is part) will be holding a 150th Anniversary Celebration Picnic in Manor Park in Sutton. It is hoped that as many people as possible will go and take with them friends, family, young and old - all ages will be welcomed. The plan for the picnic is to start with a prayer, reading and song. All those attending are asked to bring their own picnic and seating, rug or chairs. There will be a number of activities arranged for all ages, including a tin can alley, egg and spoon races, colouring and a playground for young children close by. People are also asked to bring teddies for a teddy bear picnic. It is also a great way to get to know others from other churches in the Area. There will be a 150th Anniversary cake and biscuits and a chance to see vintage buses running on the 213 route. Free rides will be available from Sutton Bus Garage.



From 5.00 until 8.00pm, St Barnabas will be holding a St Barnabas Day Barbecue to celebrate our Patronal Festival in the Preschool Play Area in St Barnabas Halls. Booking is essential by Sunday 7th June at the latest. Tickets: £15.00 for over 16's, £7.50 for Ages 3 -16; discounts for family tickets. Please sign up on the form at the back of the church. Payment must be made by 7th June at the latest. To save waste, we are asking that you make your food choices in advance - see the sign up sheet in Church.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

There will be a Confirmation Service on Sunday 21st June at 5.00pm in All Saints' Church, Carshalton. If you would like to be confirmed then, please speak to the Revd Kayode Oyeboade or email him at ooyebode57@yahoo.co.uk or ring him on 07375 482670 as soon as possible.



GROWING UP IN AN ONLINE WORLD

Mothers' Union members have been given an opportunity to take part in a Government Consultation about increasing the age to 16 years old by which children are able to use social media. Those members with children and grandchildren were sent a questionnaire with 54 questions to fill in, so their opinions could be heard.

Online activities for many children can be beneficial with educational programmes, learning computer skills, contacting their friends and family and watching instructive film, like how to sew a button on, and it helps the parents to know where the children are.

However social media also has a detrimental effect on children. 60% of 8 to 14 year olds look at social media between 11.00pm and 5.00am and end up suffering from lack of sleep. They miss out on reading, physical activity and socialising. Social media interferes with children's ability to concentrate at school, disrupts sleep patterns, causes mood and behavioural changes and is bad for their overall wellbeing.

Some of the contents on social media are harmful, showing pornography, self-harm, and suicide, eating disorder films and inciting misogyny, hatred and bullying. Also, many platforms have algorithms making the children addicted to watching more. Children are also exposed to gambling, chat bots and messaging services. There have been cases in the news of children having died as a result of getting involved with social media.

Although there is a minimum age at the moment of 13 for social media, 81% of 10 to 12 year olds have a social media account. Over 180,000 families in the UK have signed a Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact. Australia, Austria, Italy, Spain, Germany and Ireland already have higher age limits for children to use social media.

Regrettably, children under 16 know how to get round age limits. They use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).

An NSPCC survey in 2018 of 40,000 children aged 7 to 16, found 24% had live streamed and 6% received a request to remove their clothes. Children have been groomed and coerced into live streaming illegal content.

To stop children disrupting lessons with their smartphones many schools are becoming mobile free environments.

However, the children being banned from the digital world do not get the chance to develop their digital and media literacy skills. They need to learn how to use the internet safely and learn that the information on their smart phones is not necessarily true. Children should be taught in school online skills so they are safe in the modern media world.

Also, many adults need additional help and information so they can support their children's safety online.

This is such an important issue as our children need to be guided and protected as they grow up in our online world.

Extracts from "Growing up in the Online World: A National Conversation" presented to the UK Parliament by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology by Command of His Majesty the King, March 2026

A PRAYER FOR INTERNET ADDICTION

Heavenly Father, we come before you acknowledging the challenges posed by internet and social media addiction. Help us find the right balance between online and offline life. Guide us to set healthy boundaries and to be disciplined in our choices. Grant us strength to prioritise real life connections and to invest in our spiritual growth. May your wisdom guide us as we navigate the digital world. **Amen**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sat 13th June**
12 Noon
150TH MOTHERS' UNION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PICNIC in Manor Park, Sutton (See Page 25)
- Sat 13th June**
5.00pm
ST BARNABAS DAY PATRONAL FESTIVAL BARBECUE in the Preschool Play Area at St Barnabas Halls. (See Page 25)
- Sun 21st June**
5.00pm
CONFIRMATION SERVICE at All Saints' Church, Carshalton (See Page 25)
- Tues 23rd June**
7.45pm
"ILLITERACY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE"
An illustrated talk for everyone about the setting up Literacy & Development Groups in Sudan, Burundi, Malawi and Rwanda by Rosemary Kempzell, former Mothers' Union Worldwide President in St Barnabas Church.
- Fri 31st July**
VISIT TO LAMBETH PALACE. For details and tickets go to:-
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lambethpalace-hope-open-day-tickets-1987683690425?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Sun 9th August**
after 10.30am
Service
A CREAM TEA with SANDWICHESW, ETC. FOR EVERYONE (including a "Bring & Buy"/Craft Table and a raffle) to celebrate Mothers' Union's 150th Anniversary in St Barnabas Church.
- Sat 22nd August**
A TROPICAL AFTERNOON/EARLY EVENING EVENT
Save the Date now – Full details to be announced later
- Sat 29th August**
10.00am
Mothers' Union Annual Wave of Prayer in St Barnabas Church.
- Sat 3rd October**
HARVEST SUPPER in St Barnabas Halls
- Sun 4th October**
HARVEST FESTIVAL

- 28 -

FROM THE ST BARNABAS' REGISTERS

BAPTISMS



- 19 Apr 2026 Hunter John Rai Bramdaw
Mitchell Daniel Rai Bramdaw
- 26 Apr 2026 Ariana Marlene Riley
- 17 May 2026 Nia Serena Thomas

It costs over £600 a week to run the church here at St Barnabas. 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 into church each week.

ORGANISATIONS MEETING AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH HALLS

- 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*