

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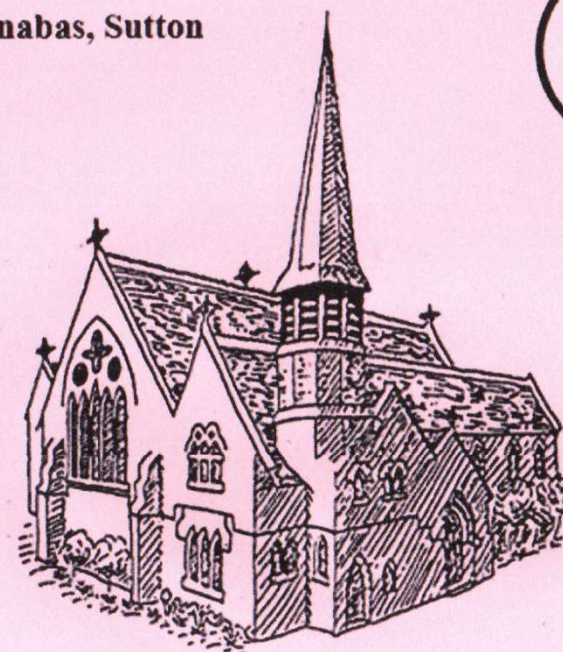
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Paper copies of the Magazine are available to purchase in Church, price £1.00. Digital versions can be emailed (cost 50p each; £2.00 per annum) - please contact the Editor.

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 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 for Bible Study at 10.15am in the Lower Vestry in the Church **normally but not always on the FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH after the 2nd Wednesday** (See Page 32 and/or Weekly Notices Sheets for precise dates). **EVERYBODY WELCOME**. Currently the Group is studying the Book of Job. 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



THE REVD KAYODE OYEBODE WRITES

Dear Friends,

As I write for this Autumn edition of *St Barnabas News*, I am filled with gratitude to God as I look back on the past year. **28th August 2026 marked one year since I was licensed and began serving as Associate Priest of St Barnabas Church, Sutton, in the Diocese of Southwark.** How quickly the year has passed! Looking back, I can only echo the words of the Psalmist: *"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."* [Psalm 126:3]

I came to St Barnabas with a desire to serve, listen, learn and, above all, walk alongside you as we discern God's purposes for our church and community. I have been deeply encouraged by the warmth of your welcome, the commitment of our worshipping community and the many ways in which members faithfully serve God and others. It has been a privilege to share with you in worship, Holy Communion, preaching, pastoral ministry, prayer, fellowship and the many activities that make up our life together. We have also been blessed during the past year through **a confirmation and baptisms**, reminders of God's continuing work among us.

A YEAR OF GRACE AND SERVICE— One of the things that has impressed me most about St Barnabas is the quiet and often unseen service offered by so many. From preparing the church for worship, welcoming people, serving at the altar, reading, singing and praying, to supporting community initiatives, providing refreshments, caring for our buildings and grounds, and offering pastoral care and friendship—**every contribution matters**. St Paul reminds us: *"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us."* [Romans 12:6]. The Church does not depend upon one person. **We are the Body of Christ, and each of us has a part to play.** In this new year together, I encourage each of us to ask: *What gift has God given me, and how can I use it for the building up of His Church?*

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE — Like many churches, St Barnabas has both joys and challenges. Let us remain faithful to the Gospel while responding creatively to the changing needs of our community in being a church where people of all ages and backgrounds feel welcome; where families and younger people can flourish; and which is outward-looking and ready to serve Sutton. Our **three-year Vision and Mission Action Plan** gives us an opportunity to consider honestly where we are and prayerfully discern where God is calling us to go. Jeremiah reminds us of God's promise: [“For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”](#) [Jeremiah 29:11]. We may not know exactly what the future holds, but **we know who holds the future** not simply preserving what we have received, but to faithfully ask how St Barnabas can continue proclaiming Christ, serving our neighbours and making disciples.

A CHURCH OF PRAYER — Above everything else, our future must be rooted in prayer. **Prayer is not an additional activity of the Church; prayer is at the heart of the Church's life.** Jesus says, [“Apart from me you can do nothing.”](#) [John 15:5]. We can make plans and organise activities, but ultimately, we depend upon God's grace. As we enter the Autumn season, I invite us to renew our commitment to prayer—for ourselves and one another; for St Barnabas and our community; for our Diocese and the wider Church; and particularly for those who are lonely, grieving, unwell, facing financial or family difficulties, or searching for meaning and hope. Let us also pray for our children and young people, that they may discover in Jesus Christ a Saviour and friend who will walk with them throughout their lives.

THANK YOU — I offer my sincere **thank you** to everyone who has supported me during this first year at St Barnabas—through your prayers, encouragement, kindness, patience and friendship. I am especially grateful to our **Churchwardens, PCC members, ministry teams, servers, readers, intercessors, volunteers, Mothers' Union and all who contribute, both visibly and unseen.** I also give thanks for our

wider community partnerships through which we seek to demonstrate Christ's love beyond the walls of our church. St Barnabas is not simply a building in Sutton; **we are a people called by God to be Christ's presence in this community.** Jesus says, [“You are the light of the world.”](#) [Matthew 5:14]. May we continue to shine the light of Christ through love, compassion, truth and hope.

ONE YEAR ON – THE JOURNEY CONTINUES — As I mark this first anniversary, I am conscious that it is not simply a time to look backwards, but also an opportunity to look forward. There is still much to do, people yet to reach, gifts yet to discover, ministries yet to develop and prayers yet to be answered. We trust that God has much more to accomplish through St Barnabas. St Paul encourages us: [“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”](#) [Philippians 3:14]. So, dear friends, **let us continue the journey together.** Let us worship, pray and serve together; encourage one another; welcome those who are new among us; and keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus Christ. As we enter another chapter in the life of St Barnabas, may we remember: [“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.”](#) [Psalm 127:1]. May the Lord build His Church among us, strengthen our faith, renew our hope, deepen our love and enlarge our vision. May St Barnabas continue to be a place where people **encounter Christ, experience God's love, discover their gifts and are equipped to serve.** Thank you for the privilege of serving among you. I look forward with joy and expectation to all that God has in store for us in the coming year. [“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.”](#) [Ephesians 3:20–21]

With every blessing,
The Revd Olukayode Oyeboode (Kayode)
Associate Priest,
St Barnabas Church, Sutton
Diocese of Southwark

MOTHERS' UNION 150th ANNIVERSARY

2026 is the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union and it has been celebrated in so many different ways this year.

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL SERVICE

The first big event was the Diocesan Festival Service on 9th May in Southwark Cathedral which began with a wonderful banner possession. The service was presided over by the Bishop of Southwark. It was one of his last services before he retired. After the service he had a photo call with the banners. [St Barnabas' on far right]



UK and All Ireland Commemorative Service at St Paul's Cathedral

The next big event was the UK and All Ireland Commemorative Service in St Paul's Cathedral on 10th June. 1,600 members attended, including six from St Barnabas. The whole service was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally who was Rector of the Sutton Team Ministry, which included St Barnabas, from 2006 – 2012. Firstly, Kathleen Snow, the current Worldwide President spoke about the history and legacy of the Mothers' Union. Sarah's sermon was based on Matthew 5:13-16 about the importance of salt and light. She said that Mothers' Union was prayer in action and they rolled up their sleeves to help others. The Prayers of Intercession were led by the Zonal Trustees and the communion took over 22 minutes to administer because of the large number



of people there. The singing was led by the Cathedral Choir and the Hackney Choral and there were banners from the Diocese of London, the Provinces of Canterbury, York, All Ireland, Wales, and Scotland and Mary Sumner House.



MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL GATHERING

The next day the Mothers' Union Annual Gathering was held at the Emanuel Centre, next door to Mary Sumner House, to which 650 people attended from the UK, All Ireland and worldwide, including three members from St Barnabas. The highlight was hearing the last six Worldwide Presidents, Pat Harris, Christine Ames, Trish Hayward-Brown, Rosemary Kempzell, Lynne Tenby and Sharan Harper reflecting on their time in office dealing with problems like The Troubles in Northern Ireland, changing the



Governance, and COVID, their experience travelling worldwide and setting up Literacy and Development Projects to enable people to help themselves. There were also talks about the work of the Mothers' Union including Preventing Domestic Violence, Away from it All Holidays, Prison Work, Tea at Two, Homelessness Initiatives and Modern Day Slavery. Bev Julian, the retiring CEO, after 10 years in the position, was presented with a bouquet plus a Canadian Mothers' Union Apron given by the present Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow.

CELEBRATORY PICNIC AND TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

On Saturday 13th June, from 12 Noon to 2.00pm, the Reigate Area, of which St Barnabas is a part, held a celebratory Picnic and Teddy Bears Picnic in Manor Park, Sutton. 35 people attended, including eight children from St Barnabas Bible Stories for Children and their mothers. The afternoon began with prayer and a reading about Jesus and the little children, read by Loyce Muhindo, and the song "One More Step Along the Road I go." Then everyone sat down and had their picnics and did a Teddy Bear Quiz. Then it was time for fun and games with a tin can alley,

singing and actions to Helen Oxenbury's, "We are going on a Bear Hunt", egg and spoon races, races with a bean bag on your head and a ball going over your head and under your legs in which both young and old joined. Sue Davis had made a special birthday cake for the occasion which was cut up and divided between everyone after "Happy Birthday, Mothers' Union" had been sung, plus two varieties of biscuit made by Margaret Fisk from Tadworth Branch. After that the children went and played in the play park. A lovely event and the weather was perfect.



THE BISHOP'S GARDEN PARTY

Tuesday, 16th June was another day with lovely weather for the Bishop of Southwark's Retirement Garden Party and 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union Party held in the Bishop's Residence in Streatham. Nearly every branch sent a representative including Cathy Brown from our branch. Penny Lockhead, the Diocesan President and Bishop Christopher made short speeches and the bishop said Grace. Everyone sat in chairs in the garden and later all signed a retirement card for the bishop, which was presented to him along with a bottle of wine. A really wonderful occasion.



TALK BY PAST WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT, ROSEMARY KEMPSSELL

On an exceedingly hot Wednesday evening during heatwave conditions Rosemary Kempzell, a past Worldwide President came to talk to our branch about "Illiteracy doesn't make Sense", about the Literacy Circles she set up 25 years ago in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan. The women in sub-Saharan Africa are often treated as 2nd class citizens because they cannot read and write.

The original training for these groups was held in Uganda in English. The facilitators then returned to their own countries and taught reading and writing in their own languages with everyone in a circle which has proved much better for adult learners. They then split up and formed more groups so that more people could learn reading and writing skills. They also learnt arithmetic so they could sell their goods at the market and get the right change without being diddled and literacy helped with form filling.

Saving groups were also set up, where members all saved a little money then if there was a family crisis the money could be borrowed or more importantly the money could be distributed to those who wanted to start micro businesses. Mothers' Union has supported 415 active savings groups distributing 6,600 active loans.

Literacy groups have also helped reduce Domestic Violence, helped women learn about hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry and budgeting.

The original Literacy circles were set up with the help of Comic Relief and later with the help of Five Talents but when the funding didn't have any sponsors the Mothers' Union members all generously helped out. Literacy and Development Groups have now spread to Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Solomon Islands and Rosemary is sure that it will

spread to more countries and continue to flourish.

A prayer for women learning to read and write

We give our heartfelt thanks, dear Lord, for the generosity of members, donors, trainers and facilitators who, for over 25 years, through the Mothers' Union Literacy Programme, have enabled women to believe in themselves.

Women have been empowered; they have been raised from the depths of illiteracy to many wonderful opportunities in leadership. Women have been enabled to realise their true potential and for this we praise Your Holy Name.

May this life-changing, life-giving programme continue and grow for many years to come.

In Jesus name we pray, **Amen**

Lynne Temby, OBE, a former MU Worldwide President



branch, Peter Redding and Evelyn Otim.

ROUND FULL CIRCLE

In November 2009, when Sarah Mullally was Sutton Team Rector, she asked if she could "hijack" our Mothers' Union Bring & Buy and Coffee Morning at Shirley Tillman's house to help set up a Young Mum's Bible Study Group. Patricia Butler and Kerry Guest were some of the first mums involved.

The group flourished and eventually was run by Christ Church where Evelyn Otim got involved and then it was run by the Minister's wife at Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church. When the Minister's wife went back to work, it returned to St Barnabas Church under the auspices of the Mothers' Union where it has become a Bible Study Group for anyone although, at the moment, most of the attendees are Mothers' Union members. It is currently led by Rosemary Walsh and Pam Green. It is held once a month in St Barnabas' Vestry. *[See inside front cover]*

If anyone wants to join us, just ask Rosemary or Pam. We have just finished studying St Mark's Gospel and have started the Book of Job. However, each session is stand-alone so it doesn't matter if you miss any.

During COVID, Evelyn Otim's husband died suddenly - the ambulance could not get there in time – and the members of the Group and Christchurch came to support her.

It is now wonderful that Evelyn has become a member of our Mothers' Union branch and, of course, Sarah Mullally is now Patron of the Mothers' Union.

LAMBETH PALACE VISIT



Seven members of St Barnabas Church went to the Lambeth Palace Open Day on Friday 31st July organised by the Dioceses of London and Southwark Mothers' Union. 723 people attended in all including Kathleen Snow, the Mothers' Union Worldwide President.

Lambeth Palace has been the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury for 800 years.



It was very interesting visiting the various rooms. Cathy Brown and Janice Clarke sat on the sofa which Queen Elizabeth II used to sit on when she visited the Archbishop of Canterbury.



We also saw the shell of Archbishop William Laud's tortoise! (Archbishop 1633-1645).

The chapel was particularly outstanding. The floor was covered with medieval tiles. The Palace had been bombed during the Second World War down to the level of the top of the choir pews. Post War, the stained glass windows had been replaced by beautiful intricate stain glass windows and the ceiling had been painted with vibrant pictures of St Augustine, the 1st Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket being murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, Queen Elizabeth I's first Archbishop, Matthew Parker, the First Synod and the face of Christ. At the back of the choir pews there were enamel plaques to the different worldwide members of the Anglican communion.



There were also some eye-catching pictures of the Life of Jesus by the Ethiopian artist, Nebiyu Assefa on display. [See next page]

There were very delicious refreshments served in the main courtyard but the best part of



the day was seeing so many Mothers' Union friends.

The first five pictures of Nebiyu Assefa's pictures shown below depict some of Christ's miracles; the next six, events of Holy Week with the last three those of Easter Day, the Ascension and the Day of Pentecost.



TAKE OVER SUNDAY

On Sunday 9th August, Mary Sumner Day, each Mothers' Union branch took over the main Sunday service in their churches to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. At St Barnabas we used the 150th Commemorative Service held in St Paul's Cathedral taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury as the basis for our service.

The service was led by Janice Clarke, branch leader with Revd Kayode doing the priestly parts. Peter Brown, Mothers' Union member paraded the Mothers' Union banner round the church. The Scriptures were read by Mothers' Union members Sheila Collis, Pam Green and Sue Davis who also took the role as server. The history of the Life of Mary Sumner was read by Rosemary Walsh MU Diocesan secretary and the Reflection on Mary Sumner and the Mothers' Union collect was read by Janice. The intercessions were led by Cathy Brown, MU Reigate Trustee, Ronke Oyeboade and Shirley Tillman who read list of passed members who had died. During the service we heard a recording of the Ladies Choir at St Mildred's, Addiscombe singing Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer and, of course, the icing on the cake, was Mothers' Union member Marilyn Curtis playing the organ for the service.

Afterwards, there was a light lunch of sandwiches and cake, a craft table selling jams, vegetables and crafts and a raffle which included a 150th Anniversary bag, a 150th Anniversary badge and a 150th Anniversary Prayer Book amongst other items. There was also a PowerPoint presentation of Mothers' Union branch activities since 1952.

£211 was raised for Mothers' Union funds.

AFIA (AWAY FROM IT ALL)

The Mothers' Union arranges holidays or day's out for families under pressure. On 10th August, Elizabeth, Timothy and Tiana went

on an AFIA day out to Godstone Farm as they weren't able to go on an AFIA holiday this year. Elizabeth and her family had never had a holiday and they had also been moved to what is turning out to be an inappropriate flat. They really enjoyed the day's outing, especially in the play area. They were driven by car there and back; the children had never been on a motorway before. The St Barnabas congregation donated £61 spending money to help make their day be extra enjoyable.



HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

**Saturday 26th September
12:30 to 4:30pm**

No entry charge

Suitable for adults and children

For more details, speak to Rosemary Walsh



LUMINISCENCE: THE NEW 360° IMMERSIVE LIVE SHOW

An incredible immersive light show, LUMINISCENCE is now at Westminster Cathedral until 31st October telling the story of London, voiced by star of Downton Abbey, Hugh Bonneville and blended with live performances of classical music's greatest composers brought to life by the Lux Aeterna choir.

Highly recommended by Sally Reed who has been to see it.

For details and tickets go to: <https://luminiscence.com/london/>

ST BANABAS DAY CELEBRATIONS

To celebrate St Barnabas Day, on Saturday 13th June, Sally Bramdaw, Sue Davis, Sue Stewart, Dorothy Hannah and Jennie Reed worked really hard producing a beautiful BBQ. There were sausages, chicken, burgers and spinach and cheese pie with various salads followed by fruit salad and junket. It was a super supper enjoyed by all of us and raised £290 for the Church.



The next day, Sunday 14th June, there was a special service for St Barnabas Day which included the baptism of Edward Green. It was a joyous day for his family. At the end of the service the St Barnabas Handbell Ringers played two hymns, "And Can It Be" and "To God be the Glory". This was a special performance as Walter Green, Edward's son, had been learning to play handbells as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. Over the course of 8 months from October 2025, Walter had mastered the difficult art of handbell ringing as part of a group, with a bell in each hand with tunes that included both melody and harmony. He played in 8 different tunes across three public performances. The skills he learnt were team work, working in a mixed aged group and the ability to be able to perform in front of an audience and he showed reliability and perseverance. At the end of the performance, Humphrey Clarke, as his assessor, presented him with a good report. His mother, Pam and his sister Ella also learnt alongside him, playing in all 8 tunes over the period.

After the Service, during coffee, Sally and Sheil Bramdaw presented Peter Brown with a football signed by Pelé, the famous Brazilian player of the 1960s & 70s. This was the time when Peter Brown had first been introduced to following football which is now, of course, his favourite hobby!



A week later, on Sunday 21st June, Edward Green was confirmed at All Saints' Church, Carshalton, in a Confirmation Service presided over by the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallet along with candidates from All Saints, Carshalton and St Patrick's, Wallington. It was another special day for Edward and his family. They would like to thank everyone, especially the Revd Kayode, for supporting Edward and making this possible at such short notice. A confirmation cake was made by All Saints' Carshalton to celebrate the occasion.



VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

A special appeal was made in Church on Sundays, 5th & 12th July for the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal after northern Venezuela was struck on 24th June by a rare and devastating "doublet" earthquake sequence, where a magnitude 7.2 shock was followed just 39 seconds later by a magnitude 7.5 event. The Committee brings together 15 leading UK aid charities at times of crisis overseas to raise funds quickly and efficiently. More than 6,400 people were reported dead, about 86,300 were injured or hospitalized and tens of thousands still remain missing. In La Guaira, Venezuela's principal historical port on the Caribbean Sea, entire streets of homes were reduced to rubble with families having to live in tents.

Donations at St Barnabas meant that £135.81 was able to be sent to the appeal.



3RD SUTTON (ST BARNABAS) GUIDES NEWS

Girlguiding

3rd Sutton (St Barnabas) Guides had a fantastic weekend away for their summer camp at Blackland Farm Tented Village, enjoying the perfect mix of adventure, friendship and time in the great outdoors.

The girls embraced a range of exciting activities, including axe throwing, crate stacking and tunnelling, challenging themselves to try new things, build confidence and encourage one another along the way.



As the evenings drew in, everyone gathered around the fire to toast marshmallows and make delicious s'mores, so named as a contraction of the phrase "some more" because they taste so good that people always want another one.

One of the highlights of the weekend was simply spending quality time together in the beautiful countryside. Whether relaxing with friends, enjoying games on the open green spaces or watching the spectacular sunsets, the camp offered the perfect opportunity to unwind, appreciate the outdoors and build lasting friendships.



It was a weekend full of adventure, fun and personal achievement, creating memories that will stay with the girls for years to come. A huge thank you to all our volunteer leaders who gave up their time to make the camp such a success. It's only through volunteers that we can continue to provide these opportunities, if interested then please head to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>

A CONCERT FOR REFUGEE WEEK

On Friday 19th June, in the presence of the Mayor of Sutton, the Refugee and Migrant Network Sutton held a concert for Refugee Week in Trinity URC/Methodist Church, which included the Trinity Festival Choir, of which Cathy Brown is a member, a Ukrainian Choir, a bassoon and piano duet, very talented young children playing violin and piano duets, flute and piano duets, double bass and piano duet and a trio of clarinets and bassoon. What talented young people we have living in Sutton!

There were also poetry recitations from around the world, read in their original language and then translated into English. However, the most moving piece was a poem read forwards and then backwards creating a completely opposite meaning. It was called "Refugees" and had been written by Brian Bilston, a contemporary British poet. Technically known as a backwardsy/forwardsy poem (see next two pages), it is best read out loud.

At the end of the concert Ann Morrison, who had been running the Refugee & Migrant Network Sutton for 20 years, organising language lessons and helping migrants fill in their administrative forms, was presented with a bouquet as a thank you for her long stint of voluntary work in Sutton.



REFUGEES

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.

Brian Bilston, a British poet and author, (born 14 June 1970)

REFUGEES

The world can be looked at another way
Do not be so stupid to think that
A place should only belong to those who are born there
These are people just like us
It is not okay to say
Build a wall to keep them out
Instead let us
Share our countries
Share our homes
Share our food
They cannot
Go back to where they came from
We should make them
Welcome here
They are not
Cut-throats and thieves
With bombs up their sleeves
Layabouts and loungers
Chancers and scroungers
We need to see them for who they really are
Should life have dealt a different hand
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
So do not tell me
They have no need of our help.

Brian Bilston, a British poet and author, (born 14 June 1970)

PARISH PUMP



RIP: Richard Browne, a member of the former 6.30pm Evensong congregation, died on 7th June. He was 79. The Revd Kayode Oyeboode conducted his funeral service at North East Surrey Crematorium on Wednesday 1st July



Congratulations to **Arthur Massingham-Young** who was baptised by the Revd Kayode Oyeboode during the Sunday morning service on 5th July.



After a long wait, **Peter Brown** had his eye operation on 17th July.

Congratulations to **Shirley Feihong**, Iris' daughter, who attained a Guinness World Record on 10th April when she achieved the largest display of origami hats/caps - 2,205. Shirley was inspired by the Guinness Book of Records which she was given for her birthday. The rules for records are strict and the attempt was made in April this year in the Sports Hall at Bootham School in York where she was helped by the school's biology teacher and some members of the British Origami Society. Shirley's vision, dedication and many, many hours of folding and carefully arranging the spectacular display of origami hats made the achievement possible but such records are not achieved without help behind the scenes: the school's biology teacher who is also a member of the British Origami Society and its volunteer members helped to sort the hats into order, count them (and count them again... just to be sure!), filmed the process, fetched boxes, completed paperwork and kept everything running smoothly.



There was an astonishing amount of planning, administration and preparation before a single hat even made it on to the display.

Congratulations to Nina Romano on her passing her 'A' Levels in English, Spanish and Dance, all with Grade A.

Congratulations to Josh Shanley (Shirley Tillman's grandson) on his obtaining two distinctions and one merit in his Electrics and Lighting examinations.



A warm welcome to Sutton to **the Revd. Allen Bower** who was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Nicholas Church, Sutton on 27th July. A widower, he has been an ordained minister for 11 years and has come to Sutton from St Saviour's Church, Sunbury. Prior to that he was at St. Matthew's Church, Tipton in an Urban Priority Area in the West Midlands. Allen has been involved in ministry with London City Mission, prisons and ex-offenders and was formally Dean of Racial Justice for the Kensington Episcopal Area; he is passionate about justice, mentoring and being a voice for the marginalised.

INTERNATIONAL AFTERNOON

Saturday, 29th August was another busy day for St Barnabas.

WAVE OF PRAYER

In the morning, the Mothers' Union held its annual Wave of Prayer Service, where members pray for their linked Dioceses around the World. This year the service was led by Cathy Brown.

INTERNATIONAL AFTERNOON

Then, In the late afternoon, the Social Committee put on an international event to celebrate the Revd Kayode's 1st Anniversary of his appointment at St Barnabas. Graham Reed, on his first time back at St Barnabas since his illness thanked Kayode.



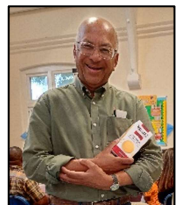
There was delicious buffet food from around the World, mostly made by Sue Davis with help from Sue Stewart, Sally Bramdaw and Jennie Reed.



Some of the people there wore international costumes - Sue Davis - Vietnam, Jennie Reed - Spain, Kayode's sister and cousin-in-law - Nigeria and Sue Stewart - Africa.



Afterwards there was International Bingo using flags from around the World, which was won by Sheil Bramdaw. There was also a raffle. The whole event raised £375.



ST BARNABAS EMBRACES DIGITAL GIVING

"All things come from you and, of thine own, do we give unto you"
1 Chronicles 29:14

From the very beginnings of the Early Christian Church offerings were fundamentally used for mutual aid and charity and were redistributed to support widows, orphans and the impoverished, there being no such thing then as Social Security benefits. As the Church grew over the 2nd and 3rd centuries, organized structures for managing these funds emerged, laying the groundwork for the formal administration of the Church. Those offerings were made in coins and, then, in notes and coins as inflation took hold in the mid 20th Century. It was then that St Barnabas Church, as did most Anglican churches in England, introduced its Planned Giving Scheme whereby those who joined the scheme pledged to give a regular sum to the Church each week or month whether or not they actually attended every week or month, in lieu of a cash offering when they did attend. This had the benefit of the Church being able to seriously budget for its known expenditure, a large proportion of which went to support its clergy. Those who did not join a Planned Giving Scheme were still able to make a cash offering whenever they attended church.

Such a dual system of giving continues to this day but, with a very increasing percentage of people no longer carrying cash but using a digital card instead for purchases in shops (compulsory on London Buses since 2014), an increasing proportion of church goers who were not members of the Planned Giving Scheme were finding that it was no longer possible to make an offering when they came to church.

So, I submitted a four page report to the PCC proposing a method of digital giving for its consideration at its June meeting as not only were an increasing number of members unable to make an offering but also the PCC was increasingly finding it was

having difficulty 'making ends meet' with it now costing over £600 per week to run the church here at St Barnabas and maintain a Christian presence in the parish. The report was accepted and the PCC agreed that, subject to any comments and advice of Southwark Diocese that the PCC should introduce such a scheme and I was authorised to take matters forward on that basis.

I was put in touch with Luisa Santos, the Diocesan Digital Giving Advisor who was exceedingly helpful. We were able, at no charge, to have a two week trial of the system which seemed to suit St Barnabas needs. A wireless connection to the internet is a pro requisite to any digital system so that the offerings can be made from a debit or credit card direct to the church's bank account. The system chosen for the trial had the ability to connect to the internet via any one of the mobile telephone masts near St Barnabas Church.

The trial carried out on Sundays 12th & 19th July was successful and St Barnabas embraced digital giving on a permanent basis from 9th August.

The digital device is alongside the Offertory Plate as you come into church and can be used by anyone who wishes to make an offering but does not have any notes or coins. It works in a similar way as do machines in shops, cafés and restaurants with the notable exception that you decide how much to give rather than the amount being entered direct from the shop till. The device has three suggested amounts, one of which can be selected with just one press on the amount on the screen or you can choose your own amount. You then tap the top of the device with your plastic debit or credit card or point your mobile phone at it if it holds your cards. If the amount you selected is more than the



current 'chip and pin' limit, there is a facility to enter your card's pin number. Also, occasionally, as you may also be asked in shops, you have to insert the card in the machine and enter your pin number to confirm that it is you using the card. You can have a receipt sent to your email address if you so wish and, if the amount is over £30, you can choose to Gift Aid your donation as well, thereby increasing your offering by 25% at no cost to you; the 25% comes direct to St Barnabas from the UK Government by way of a refund of the income tax which you will have paid on the offering. All digital offerings under £30 automatically qualify, as do similar cash offerings for an additional 25% to be added for the benefit of the church under the UK Government's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.



As well as offerings to support the work of St Barnabas Church, the digital device can also be used in exactly the same way to make donations to each Charity of the Month. In the early months of the device's use, I will be on hand to show people how to switch the screen to the relevant Charity of the Month. Likewise, the machine will also be able to be used to pay £1.00 for a paper copy of the Parish Magazine as well as tickets to the various social events that are organised at St Barnabas.

There will be no compulsion to use the digital device and cash offerings in the form of notes and/or coins will continue to be accepted as they have always been for those who still prefer to use cash. And regular monthly offerings will continue to be accepted by the Planned Giving Scheme which is so central to the PCC's budgeting of its outgoings. If you would like to consider joining the scheme please have a word with me in church or email me at stbarnabashontreasurer@outlook.com and I will be pleased to explain how it works.

Humphrey Clarke, PCC Treasurer

SUTTON SCHOOLSWORK END OF YEAR REPORT

During the School Year 2025 -26 Sutton Schoolswork delivered a record number of Christian religious lessons, assemblies and other activities in Sutton's schools. Within the London Borough of Sutton there are 45 Primary schools and 15 Secondary schools.

IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1, but mostly 5, assemblies delivered to 16,500 children in 37 schools.
880 children from 14 schools had Year 1 Creation Treasure Hunters.
720 children from 12 schools had Year 2 Discover Christmas.
1,075 children from 16 schools had Year 2 CSI Easter.
910 children from 14 schools had Year 3 Bible Explorers.
2,295 children from 31 schools had Year 4 Easter Experience.
935 children from 14 schools had Year 5 Ordinary Extraordinary Christmas.
1,415 children from 22 schools had Year 6 Transit.

In total workshops were run at 26 of the 45 schools and a record 31 schools attended Easter Experience.

IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

940 New Testaments distributed to pupils and staff who asked for one.
167 lessons delivered in 5 schools.
15 assemblies delivered in 3 schools.
Christian Unions either run or supported in 6 schools.

In total, workshops were delivered to nearly 5,000 pupils across the borough during the school year.

Sutton Schoolswork employs two full time workers, one for primary schools and one for secondary schools, plus a number of volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed each Lent to take part in Easter Experience when the events of Holy Week are enacted across the Borough. If you would like to take part in that, please email primary@suttonschoolswork.co.uk. See also <https://suttonschoolswork.co.uk/>. Each July and August Sutton Schoolswork is the Charity of the Month at St Barnabas.

REGULAR WORK AT CHURCH WHICH FEW KNOW ABOUT

At each Annual Meeting thanks are recorded for all those people who quietly undertake all kinds of work not only to keep the church clean and tidy but to make sure that it continues to be maintained for use by all. Most tasks are unseen as are those who do them. Just one example occurred earlier this Summer. Whilst professional work was being undertaken in the Vestry it was noticed that the drain outside was blocked and had overflowed during a very heavy downpour of rain [see Photo 1]. Twenty four hours later, whilst the water had receded through the drain, it was clear that the blockage had been caused by a buildup of soil and debris in the drain [see Photo 2]. To the rescue came Robert Caple with a good pair of rubber gloves and cleared out about three inches of silt which was blocking the gully. Once cleared he ran the vestry tap for a while and the water did not back up [see Photo 3]. However, it is suspected that, whenever there is torrential rain, the drain system is not adequate to take all the water away; it runs to a soak away which was constructed in 1971 in the middle of the Vicarage garden [Photos 4 & 5].

Drain clearance and other such similar jobs are regularly required. If you think you can and would like to help whenever needed, please speak to the Churchwarden, Sally Bramdaw



OH DEAR - NOT MORE SCAFFOLDING?



As people came to Church on Sunday 26th July they could have been forgiven for thinking, "Oh dear, not more scaffolding. What needs repairing now?". However, I was able to reassure them that no new repairs were needed to be done. The painting of the window frames and downpipes and other sundry work had not been able to be completed earlier in the New Year and, as scaffolding is now required as a health and safety measure (ladders no longer being considered appropriate for such work), it had been decided to complete the final parts of the 2025 roof and building repairs and refurbishments during August when there would be less people using the church driveway and Halls. The cost of the work had already been set aside in the 2025's accounts and so no additional fundraising was required.

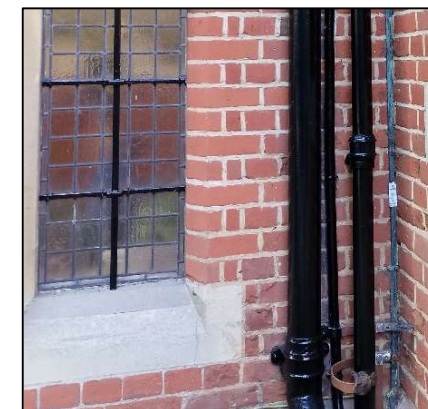
Humphrey Clarke



Example
of
painting:

<<
Before

>>
After



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Until Wed 7th October: **'Threads Through the Cross'**, a textile art exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson is taking place at Southwark Cathedral. It features large, intricate silk panels depicting the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Friday 18th September: **Bible Study at 10.15am** in Lower Vestry
[See inside front cover for more details]

Saturday 3rd October: **Harvest Supper 4.00 – 7.00pm** in St Barnabas Church Halls. Adults £15.00; Children under 16 £7.50; Family Ticket £35.

Sunday 4th October: **Harvest Festival Service at 10.30am** in St Barnabas Church. Harvest Gifts will again be donated to Sutton FoodBank. The items it most needs are Tinned Tomatoes; Tinned Fruit; Long Life Milk; Coffee; Tinned Fish.

Wed 14th October: **A Taizé Service in St Barnabas Church at 7.45pm**, arranged by Mothers' Union and led by Patricia Butler. Everyone welcome whether a Mothers' Union member or not

Thurs 29th October: **'My Trip to Jordan' – a talk by Sue Davis at 2.00pm** in St Barnabas Church Halls

Sun 1st November: **All Souls Remembering Service & "Bring you Own Lunch" at 12 Noon** in St Barnabas Church

Sun 8th November: **Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.30am** in St Barnabas Church

- 32 -

FROM THE ST BARNABAS' REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

14 June 2026 Edward John Green
5 July 2026 Arthur Massingham-Young



CONFIRMATION

21 June 2026 Edward John Green
at All Saints' Church, Carshalton



FUNERAL

1 July 2026 Richard John Browne
at North East Surrey Crematorium



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