

## A Special Service

St Barbara's was delighted to host a confirmation service on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Seven young people from two neighbouring parishes – St James, Styvechale and St Martin's Finham – and two adults from our own congregation were confirmed.

There was a wonderful sense of thanksgiving and celebration, as Christians gathered together from the three churches to pray for the nine candidates and to ask God's blessing upon them.



St Barbara's two adults were also baptized, a fantastic reminder that baptism, and welcome into the life of the church, can come at any age.

The Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, an Earlsdon resident, led the service, and preached on the importance of faith, using a number of visual illustrations from a recent visit to Rome. It was a memorable way to start Earlsdon's busy May Day weekend.

## Contacts

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The vicar is always ready to help in an emergency but would like to keep Monday as his day off.

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For more information go to  
[www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk)

## How's the Buzz?

In May, our Sunday afternoon service for young families will be nine months old. Buzz at St B's began in September last year, and since then over 170 adults and children have come along, enjoying the music, the drama, the crafts, the stories, that everyone can get involved in.

We've been swallowed by whales as we followed the story of Jonah, we've made beautiful Christmas tree decorations as we prepared for Christmas, we've eaten pancakes as we got ready for Shrove Tuesday, and we've learnt about the Easter story by walking around the

church, and finding each part of the story acted out before us.

Children love the informal and interactive nature of the service, and its half-an-hour length is just enough to keep their attention. And the sandwiches and cakes afterwards are popular with everyone, giving adults time to chat whilst the children eat and then play, whether its ball games or table tennis or more craft activities.

The next Buzz at St B's are at 5pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Do come along and join the buzz.

## Last Words!

I've been away on holiday in Scotland, and then over the May Bank holiday for a family weekend with my children and grandchildren in Manchester. So I missed the Baptism and Confirmation services - important in the life of the church community, when the baptized child is accepted into the church and then at Confirmation is welcomed as a full member by the community. I also missed the Earlsdon Festival, which I understand was brilliant!

There always seems to be a lot going on in Earlsdon - we have a good community newspaper, a vibrant, lively atmosphere in the shops, pubs, restaurants, our own theatre and the churches. In the Autumn we can look forward to another festival put on by CTEC, 'How great thou art' when we shall celebrate some of God's greatest gifts to us in music, poetry and dance.

For the Festival Rachel Owen, a young member of St Barbara's choir, is producing 'Noye's Fludde', a community opera by Benjamin Britten, and she is looking for singers and instrumentalists to take part. In particular, she needs people willing to sing solo's (boy trebles and girl soprano's (under 25) and instrumentalists including string players (grade 1 minimum), trumpeters and bugle players (grade 4 min) as well as recorder and percussion players. If you would like to take part please contact her at [rachel.wildlife@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rachel.wildlife@tiscali.co.uk) or call 01926 851568 by the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

We also have Authors in Earlsdon! I recently read a book by an Earlsdon inhabitant (a Consultant Paediatrician) who combined a very good manual on parenting and child development with christian life and discipleship. Well worth reading and informative if you have young children and want to extend your christian beliefs to them. It is "Growing Up to Be a Child" by Peter Sidebottom and available at most Bookshops.

Finally, I wish all my readers a good summer with time to relax and plenty of sunshine for us all! *Josie Ed*



# St Barbara's Newsletter

[www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk](http://www.stbarbarasearlsdon.org.uk)

St Barbara's Parish Church, Earlsdon

May/June 2015

No. 445

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## Early Risers!

Six o'clock on an Easter Sunday morning is not the normal time you would expect to see a group of people gathering round a bonfire. Most of us are still warmly wrapped up in bed, enjoying a bank holiday lie-in.

But this Easter, 40 people, from babes in arms and young children, all the way through to people in their 80s, gathered together before dawn to celebrate the joy of Jesus' rising from the dead, with the rising of the sun.

It was a wonderful time. We began by reading the Easter story round a bonfire in the dark.

We then lit candles and walked into the church,

and sang a song that Christians have been singing every year at Easter for the last 1500 years. And as the sun rose, so we celebrated the rising to new life of God's Son, the children rattling shakers and tambourines.

After the service we all had a very welcome cooked breakfast in the vicarage.

The meaning of Easter can sometimes get lost these days with all the chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies. This service was a very special way to remind us all, young and old, of Easter's true meaning.

So do put it in the diary, set those alarm clocks and come along next year!



**Last lingerers by the Easter Bonfire**

## Midweek Service for the Under 5s

Back in February, St Barbara's and Earlsdon Methodist Church began a new midweek service for the under 5s. We've had babies as young as 3 months come along, as well as 1,2,3 and 4 year olds. It's a lovely time of songs, stories, treasure hunts and craft, and its been great to see the children engaging in their own unique way. Do come along.



meets every Wednesday in school term-time from 9.30-10.00am with snacks and crafts afterwards at Earlsdon Methodist Church (on the roundabout opposite the library). Please note the new time (15 minutes later), but doors still open at 8.45am for early birds. And don't worry if you are running late – come along anyway. We know how hard it is to be on time for things with young children to get ready!



## Thought for the Month

## A vibrant community!

It's been quite a year!

This time 12 months ago we moved into the vicarage, began worshipping at St Barbara's and started to get to know Earlsdon.

It has been a wonderful year. Our children have loved all the clubs and activities to get involved with, from choirs, to cubs and beavers, to ballet, to tennis, and all the many more things that we just couldn't fit in. We've loved the high street and the array of shops and cafes. We've spent many a happy hour exploring the woods down by Canley Ford, or playing football in the War Memorial Park.

And we've loved the sense of community that we've experienced. The number of community groups that use St Barbara's Church Hall alone is phenomenal, but it's the willingness of people to say "hello" and stop and have a chat that we've so enjoyed too.

And we've been struck by how that sense of community leads to action. The Earlsdon Festival is a remarkable community initiative that rightly Earlsdon should be proud of, a time when relationships are built and good things are celebrated. The campaign to keep open the library was another great example of people coming together to ensure that a place important to our com-

munity was not lost.

We've experienced community too within the church: a warm welcome, generous hospitality, a caring for the needs of others. Delighting with people in joyful times (baptisms, weddings, the sharing of good news), and standing alongside people in tough times (funerals, and caring for those going through difficult times). The church is a community within the community, a place where healing can be found, joy expressed, help found, burdens shared, hope found.

We shouldn't be surprised that community matters to us all. It's what we were made for. We are not made to be isolated individuals, but people who thrive when in relationship with others and when in relationship with God himself. People who delight in being loved and loving in return.

And in doing so, we reflect the image of the God who made us. A God who is always welcoming us into the community of heaven, and into the community of his church. For the Christian message is above all a message of love expressed, of relationships restored, of a new community embracing heaven and earth.

It's a community good to be part of.

## Have you ever thought of having your child baptized?



If you have recently become a parent or a grand-parent, or you have friends who have, you will know the incredible joy that a child can bring.

Even though as babies they can seemingly do so little, dependent on others for their every need, they evoke the most amazing response from us. We want to care for them, love them, do whatever we can for them. And we want to give thanks for them.

At St Barbara's, our service of baptism (also known as christening) is a wonderful way of expressing our thanks to God for the gift of our child. It's a way too of saying that we want them to grow up knowing about God and living out Christian values of love, compassion and justice.

You don't have to be a regular church-goer to have your child baptized. You just need to be someone that wants to thank God for your child and wants them to grow up knowing God's love for them. Our hope is of course that you'll want to keep coming – we love welcoming new families into the life of our church – but that's for you to decide.

And baptism isn't just for babies. If you have older children, or if you yourself haven't been baptized, why not think about it? It is never too late!

Why don't you come along to one of our Sunday morning services (at 10am every week) or to our *Buzz at St B's* service (5pm on the third Sunday of every month) to find out more.

And our vicar, Tulo, is always happy to chat more about what would be involved. You can get in touch with him by email: [tulo@raistricks.com](mailto:tulo@raistricks.com) or phone: 024 7501 7889.



## WHAT'S ON AT ST BARBARA'S

## Every Sunday

## 8.00am Holy Communion

This is a quiet, meditative service which takes place in the beautiful side-chapel inside St Barbara's Church. The service lasts about 40 minutes and is attended by between 10-15 people each week.

## 10.00am Parish Communion

This is our main Sunday service, lasting just over an hour, attended by adults and children of all ages. We sing hymns and modern songs, led by an excellent choir, there is a thought-provoking talk, and time for prayer.

It is attended by about 100 people each week and children are especially welcome. We have groups that cater for pre-school, primary and secondary school ages, that meet during the service.

## Mid-week Service

**Holy Communion:** Every Wednesday at 11.30am

This is a small, intimate communion service that follows the Book of Common Prayer. It provides a space of quiet and stillness in the middle of the week to pray and reflect, and receive communion.

**Prayers and Bears:** Every Wednesday at 9.30am at Earlsdon Methodist Church. A service for the under-fives and their parents/carers, followed by snacks and crafts

## Every Month

**Buzz @ St B's:** 17 May 5pm

21 June 5pm

19 July 2015

This is a fun, creative and interactive service for families. The service involves lively songs, craft, drama and other activities. It lasts 40 minutes and is followed by tea, with a delicious range of sandwiches and cakes.

## Special Services

**Soul Space 7 June 6.30pm**

A simple 40 service of silence, meditation, prayer and reflection, allowing one's soul to breathe.

**Choral Evensong 5 July 6.30pm**

A beautiful service of readings & prayer set to music led by our excellent choir.

## Other Events

## Friendship Group

This has merged with the Earlsdon Methodist Group which meets every fortnight in Wellspring at 2.15pm

**May 13th "Inter-arc"** Howard Wallace

**May 27th** Tim at the Piano Tim Sheasby

**June 10th** Cream Tea and "Bring & Auction"

**June 24th** "Two on the tracks" Music from the 40s part 2

**July 8th** 1950 - Bound for England Ilse Wilson

## Social Events

**Film nights** - 7pm for 7.15pm in the church hall, on the first Thursday of the month.

**June 4th** 'The Time Traveller's Wife' (2009) 12A A romantic drama about a Chicago librarian with a gene that causes him to in-

voluntarily time travel, and the complications it creates for his marriage.

**July 2nd** Mr Morgan's Lost Love (2013) 12A with Michael Caine and Michelle Goddet. He is a widower in Paris who speaks no French; she's a dance instructor less than half his age. Can she become part of his family, or will his estranged adult children put a stop to this?

## From the Registers

## Baptisms

**26th April** Isla Speedy, Jessica Mahiques-Pearce, Max Braithwaite

**2nd May** with confirmation Rachael Moorley and Andrew Friesen

## Funerals

**13 April** Margaret Ashby

## Churches Together in Earlsdon &amp; Chapelfields

**Prayer Breakfasts** Saturdays 8am

**6th June** St Mary Magdalen Church

**4th July** All Soul's Church

## Other Events

**Wed 13th May 7pm** CTEC AGM at St Barbara's Church

**Sunday 24th May 12.30pm** Pentecost Picnic on Hearsall Common (or in Hearsall Baptist Church Hall if it is wet)

**Saturday 30th May 10am - 4pm**

Day of Reflection in Berkswell Parish Room led by Revd David Butterworth, NEC Chaplain. The theme will probably be 'Listening to God and my neighbour'. Contact the vicar if you wish to take part.

## Would you like prayer for someone or for yourself?

Feel free to e-mail Christine on [cob27@mac.com](mailto:cob27@mac.com) or telephone the vicar on 024 7501 7889. Prayers could be said at the Wednesday or Sunday services as well as being added to the prayer chain that can be confidential if desired.

