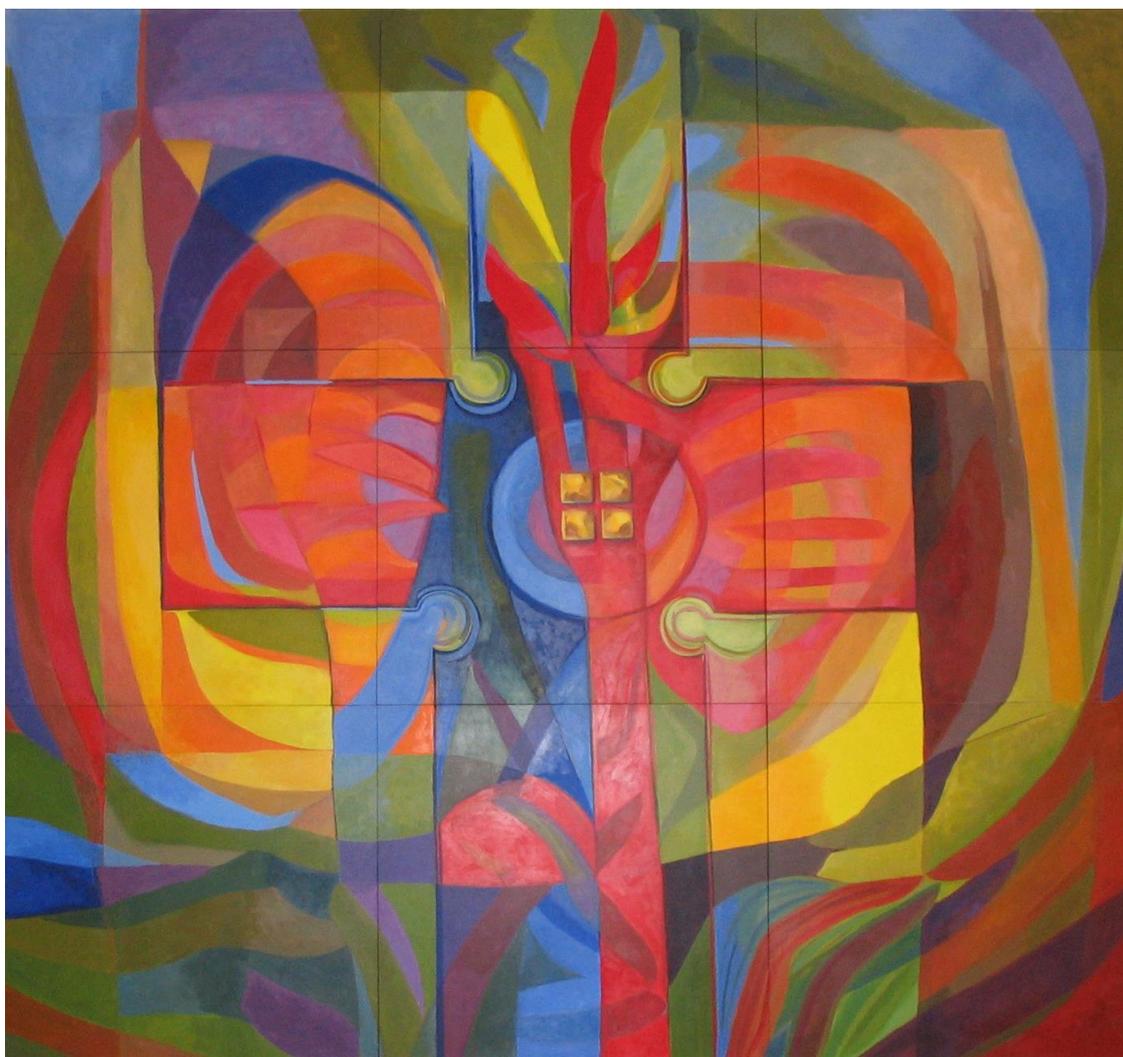


**St Barnabas Church**  
**Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8HA**

*Parish Information News  
Sheet*



***September 2019***

**Events in September:** *(Unless stated services take place at St. Barnabas Church)*

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>All Age Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Traditional Holy Communion - Christ Church</b>
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Coffee Morning
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>The Source - family friendly (Christ Church)</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Pets' Service – St Stephen's Church
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>3 on 3</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	PCC Meeting
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Knit & Natter/upholstering
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Barn Dance
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Harvest Festival</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Healing Service (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Essence Seasonal Celebration (Christchurch)</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist – Celtic Style</b>

## **Lectionary for September:**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September:	Luke 14. 1, 7-14
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September:	To be advised
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September:	Exodus 32.7-14 Luke 15.1-10
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September:	Luke 16.1-13
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Revelation 12.7-12 John 1.47-51

Well we knew it would only be a matter of time before we had an interregnum again didn't we! Michael's last few weeks seem to have flown by.

We had a lovely service on his last day on Sunday 25 August and we said goodbye to Michael in good St Barnabas fashion over a glass of bubbles and chocolate!!

We thank Michael for his dedicated service at St Barnabas and wish him and Ben all of God's blessings as they settle into St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, Worcester Park. Which although not far away is in the neighbouring Diocese of Southwark.

So it feels a bit like the end of a term with Michael leaving and the holidays over, and we start our Interregnum in time for the new school year so to speak!

The word Interregnum literally means the "time between Kings", but in Parish life means the time between Vicars, but we really need to constantly be assured and remind ourselves that God is the King. He is always amongst us and his Spirit is with us.

Legal responsibility during an Interregnum falls to the Churchwardens and the Area Dean to have responsibility for the Parish. To that effect we have already had meetings over the Summer with the Area Dean, Des Williamson, Rosemary Donovan (Christchurch) and Nick Parish (St. Martin's). It is to the Epsom Ministry that we look for help with our services, as far as they are able too.

Even if we had well over 100 members in our congregation and were fully paying our Parish Share, the Diocese would take the opportunity of a Vacancy to look at what is the best way to fulfill the Ministry in Epsom.

As you probably are aware, Paul Bryer the Archdeacon of Dorking, moved to Cornwall over the Summer. The Bishop has

appointed Rev. Martin Breadmore to be the new Archdeacon and he will take up his new position at some point in November. In the meantime the Archdeacon of Surrey, Paul Davies is covering the vacancy.

As you may have seen in the brochure, Paul Davies is preaching at the opening service for Epsom Mental Health Week on 6 October. We are delighted to say though, that we have secured our first booking and Paul will also lead our service and celebrate with us that day too.

The Area Dean, Des Williamson has met with Paul Davies and the Archdeacon is currently familiarising himself with the Epsom Deanery and St Barnabas too. Although in very initial discussions it is clear that Paul Davies does not want to wait until Martin Breadmore arrives in November, and is wanting to explore various possible options and what is best for the Deanery and us.

At some point we hope that we can be involved in those discussions and in a position to feedback to the PCC, but at the moment discussions are in the very early stages. Rest assured through, we aim to keep everyone as informed as possible and will be writing monthly in the news sheet about all sorts of things going on.

So in the meantime we have had to accept that, especially as numbers of attendees are small, and there are other services provided at either Christchurch or St. Martin's, as part of Epsom Ministry, we cannot carry on with all of the same number of services in our Interregnum. We have especially focused on making sure we continue with 10.15am on Sundays.

During the Interregnum we will not be able to have an 8.00am Communion service on Sunday. However, St Martin's have an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, which

has approximately 25 in the congregation, and all are welcome to attend.

During the week, in Michael's time we have had morning prayer every day and Communion on Wednesday morning and evening. Again, it will not be possible to hold these services during the Interregnum. Please do make sure you have a look at the monthly news sheet as the Services at Christchurch and St. Martins will also be put into the diary.

As a new school year is filled with hope and opportunities, so it is exactly the same with an Interregnum. Yes, it may be a chance for reflection, waiting and listening to God's word, but it also gives us a big opportunity for hope.

Hope in the knowledge that we know that whatever the outcome of the next chapter in the life of St Barnabas Church, God is with us and guiding us every step of the way. Yes, we will have challenges ahead, but there will be new opportunities as well. We are a Church family and with our faith will come out stronger than ever, and together we can make sure that we are also reaching out and helping those in our community too.

In the service on Sunday 8 September we will be exploring what we can ALL do in the interregnum and how it can be an exciting time for us, with new opportunities that we want to grasp, as we all grow in our faith. So please try and make this a date to come to Church and be involved.

In the meantime as your Churchwardens please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if we can help in any way or if you have any ideas and concerns you wish to bring to our attention.

Finally, can we just put in a plea for your prayers for God's blessing and guidance for us both.

*Helen and Sarah*

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> marked my last Sunday at St. Barnabas, a day of farewells and good-byes that marks the end of my three and a half years as Interim Minister. Sadly things did not turn out as I envisioned they might when I arrived and circumstances beyond my control have forced this move to a new parish. I don't doubt that God does have a plan for St. Barnabas and that it will fulfil his purposes for Epsom in God's good time. That doesn't make it easy for you all, but do keep faith and support Helen and Sarah as they carry the heavy responsibility of the interregnum. It will come right in the end!

In spite of my own sense that there was so much left to do, I am aware that we have changed together as a church in positive ways. St. Barnabas has stepped out beyond its shared ministry with LMLMM and the Sunnybank Trust to reconnect with the people who live in the community around us. Who would have thought that we'd have fundraising and social events on this scale again, blessing us with new people and contacts in the wider community? After the difficulties of the previous vacancy, we have discovered a "can do" attitude that shows the confidence we have as a congregation, not only in ourselves but also in God. We have also been blessed with new faces joining us because they are attracted to our welcoming, inclusive ethos that makes room for everyone at God's Table.

I hope that we have created a more open way of doing church so that everyone feels heard and differing views are appreciated. This has been a challenge at times, especially around the issue of worship, of what we do and how we do it! Beyond that though, I have a sense that decision-making isn't something done by the few or just the PCC, but by the whole congregation. Colleagues have been amazed that I would consult the PCC much less the congregation about whether or not I should have a Civil Partnership with Ben. I have it on good authority that I am the only vicar in the Church of England who has entrusted this decision to their congregation. But I had faith in you just as you have had in me! There is a mutuality and appreciation for

what we all bring to St. Barnabas, a quality that really makes the Kingdom real for all who want to be part of it. What an incredible gift from God that is, one I am sure you will hold on to.

Another shift has been in our relationship with our sister Anglican churches in the Group Ministry. Starting with our PCC prayer meetings to discern the path God was calling us to take, there was a lot of work around letting go of the past and being open to whatever relationship God may have in store with the others in the Group. Thanks to Rosemary Donovan and Nick Parrish's support, we have had productive meetings with our Archdeacons and Rural Dean to get the Diocese to really consider new, creative solutions to the dilemma we have with meeting the new Parish Share and funding ministry here. We wouldn't be so far along without their support nor would we have the clergy cover they are providing either had relationships not been mended and the damage of the past healed. St. Barnabas has every reason to stand tall alongside her sister churches and work together to minister to all of Epsom together. The future is in Bishop Andrew's hands, but the Group and Deanery will have an important say in the shape of future ministry here. I know you will welcome the team as they cover much of the vacancy and that they will enjoy their time with you.

Finally I would like to say just a few "Thank yous" to Sue; and to Helen and Sarah for being outstanding, supportive churchwardens: to Ruth and Hilary for all they do keeping the church running (and keeping me on track and to deadlines!); but also to each and everyone of you for all that you are and all you have given me both personally and professionally. You have touched my life in ways I cannot thank you enough for, and it really has been the greatest of blessings to walk with you all in this pilgrimage of faith we have shared!

With every blessing, Michael.



**Church Repairs:** Please continue to pray for the work and also the money to fund it. The Building & Maintenance Team are working their way through the recommendations from the Quinquennial inspection - there is a lot still to be done.

**Knit & Natter:** Our next date is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. We will also continue upholstering the church chair seats in future get-togethers. Please try to come along to help.

**August Baptism:** Haylan Dollie Higgins-Woozeer. May she grow in strength, wisdom and love in Jesus' name.

**Music for Services:** If you have any new songs that you would like us to learn, then please let Anna or Sarah know so they can include them in our early Worship or when choosing the music for the service. In addition, is there a song that we have not sung for a while that you would like us to sing, then please add it to the list in reception.

**Deanery Synod Representative and Churches Together in Epsom Rep:** We have vacancies for both these posts and would be grateful if anyone who is interested contact either one of the Church Wardens or Janet Roberts for further information.



4<sup>th</sup> George Cooper  
6<sup>th</sup> Sarah Ford  
8<sup>th</sup> Mary Wood  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jenny Vincent  
28<sup>th</sup> Matthew Jansen

**BIRTHDAYS**

Parish Prayer Chain: *Together We Can Make a Difference*

Please sign up to prayer triplets – list in the narthex.

**Sick List:** We pray for Nigel Ford, Vanessa and family, Clare B and family, Trina, Eileen Lamble, Peter, Jill, Lilly, Tommy.

**RIP:** It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Maria Harman. Maria, Jo's sister, had been a member of our congregation for a number of years. She and Jo had recently moved into Rosebery Manor and had settled down well but Maria suffered a fall. Funeral arrangements are not yet known. We extend our sympathy to Jo and family.

**Barn Dance:** Tickets are now on sale for our Barn Dance on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September – at £10 each. Limited tickets available so please book early. We are looking for helpers so if you can help in any way (setting up, door duty, bar duty, serving food, washing up, tidying up) please put your name on the list in the narthex.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning:** Will be held at St Barnabas on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10.30am. Please add this to your diary and invite friends and relatives along. We hope to have the Mayor of Epsom in attendance.

**Churches in Epsom:**

9<sup>th</sup> September at 10am:

Christchurch's monthly Knit and Natter.

22<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.30pm:

Healing service at St Martin's Church

## **Dates for your Diary:**

21 <sup>st</sup> September	7.30pm	Barn Dance
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	10.15am	Harvest Festival
5-12 October		Epsom Mental Health Week
10 November	10.15am	Remembrance Service with uniformed groups
7 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Dinner and Cabaret

## LAST LAUGH

**A bus full of ugly people** had a head on collision with a truck. When they died, God granted all of them one wish. The first person said, "I want to be gorgeous." God snapped his fingers and it happened. The second person said the same thing and God did the same thing. This went on and on throughout the group. God noticed the last man in line was laughing hysterically. By the time God got to the last ten people, the last man was laughing and rolling on the ground. When the man's turn came, he laughed and said, "I wish they were all ugly again."

**On their way to get married**, a young Catholic couple is involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting, they began to wonder: Could they possibly get married in Heaven? When St. Peter showed up, they asked him. St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left. The couple sat and waited, and waited. Two months passed and the couple were still waiting. While waiting, they began to wonder what would happen if it didn't work out; could you get a divorce in heaven? After yet another month, St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven." "Great!" said the couple, "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?" St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard onto the ground. "What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple. "OH, COME ON!," St. Peter shouted, "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have any idea how long it'll take me to find a lawyer?"

**Jesus, Moses, and an old man** go golfing. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green. Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes

his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish. As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"

**A Jewish businessman** in America decided to send his son to Israel to absorb some of the culture of the homeland. When the son returned, the father asked him to tell him about his trip.

The son said, "Pop, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity." "Oy vey," said the father. "What have I done?"

He decided to go ask his friend Jacob what to do. Jacob said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel, and he also came back a Christian. Perhaps we should go see the rabbi and ask him what we should do."

So they went to see the Rabbi. The Rabbi said, "Funny you should ask. I too sent my son to Israel. He also came back a Christian. What is happening to our young people? Perhaps we should go talk to God and ask him what to do." The three of them prayed and explained what had happened to their sons and asked God what to do. Suddenly a voice came loud and clear from Heaven. The Voice said, "Funny you should ask, I too sent my son to Israel..."

## Parish Contacts:

**Office:** Ruth Mey (Thursdays)  
Hilary Batt (Fridays)  
**Email:** [stbarnabasepsomoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabasepsomoffice@gmail.com)  
**Phone:** **01372 417813**

**Parish Priest:** Vacancy

**Churchwardens:** Sarah Ford  
Helen Dyke

**Parish Treasurer:** PJ Jansen

### **Safeguarding Rep for**

**Children & Vulnerable Adults:** Sarah Ford

**Deanery Synod Rep:** Vacancy

**Electoral Officer:** Anne Baxter

**Stewardship Rep:** Isobel Johnson

**Children's Ministry Leader:** Helen Dyke

**Church Website:** [stbarnabasepsom.org.uk](http://stbarnabasepsom.org.uk)

### **Parish Church Council:**

Kathy Appleyard	Hilary Batt
Helen Dyke	Sarah Ford
Wendy Hurst	PJ Jansen
Ruth Mey	Craig Mey
Frank Sinnock	Muriel Stafford

## Clubs and Organisations at St. Barnabas Pastoral Support

**Love Me Love My Mind:** Various meetings throughout the year with *Epsom Mental Health Week* in October.

**Drop-In: Mondays** from 4.00 – 7pm (*meal and activities*) and **Wednesday mornings** at 10.00am for coffee.

**Let's Talk Epsom:** Support group for people dealing with depression and anxiety issues. *Run by Love Me Love My Mind.*  
Wednesdays 7:30pm

**KITES Club:** Social and support group for adults with learning disabilities and their friends. Every Thursday from 5pm – 8.00 pm.

**The Brigitte Trust:** support for people with life-changing illnesses. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7.00pm.

**The Meeting Room:** Lunch for all. Wednesdays 11.30am – 2.30pm.

## Children's Groups and Activities

**NCT Toddlers Group:** Friday mornings 9.30 – 11.30am *in term time.*

**Jo Jingles:** Toddlers' group Tuesday 9.30 – 12 noon and Thursdays 9.30 – 12.15pm *in term time.*

**Rainbows:** Tuesdays at 4.15pm *in term time.*

**Brownies:** Wednesdays at 5.45pm *in term time.*

## Social Groups

**Epsom Gardening Society:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7.30pm (*except January, February and August*)

**Epsom W I:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7.30pm (*except August*).



## ***A Prayer for our Interregnum***

Loving God, as we journey together through this period of Interregnum, we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us.

At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit, to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer.

We ask that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need and have courage to face our future and embrace the unknown, with praise in our hearts, in loving obedience to you.

Amen.



