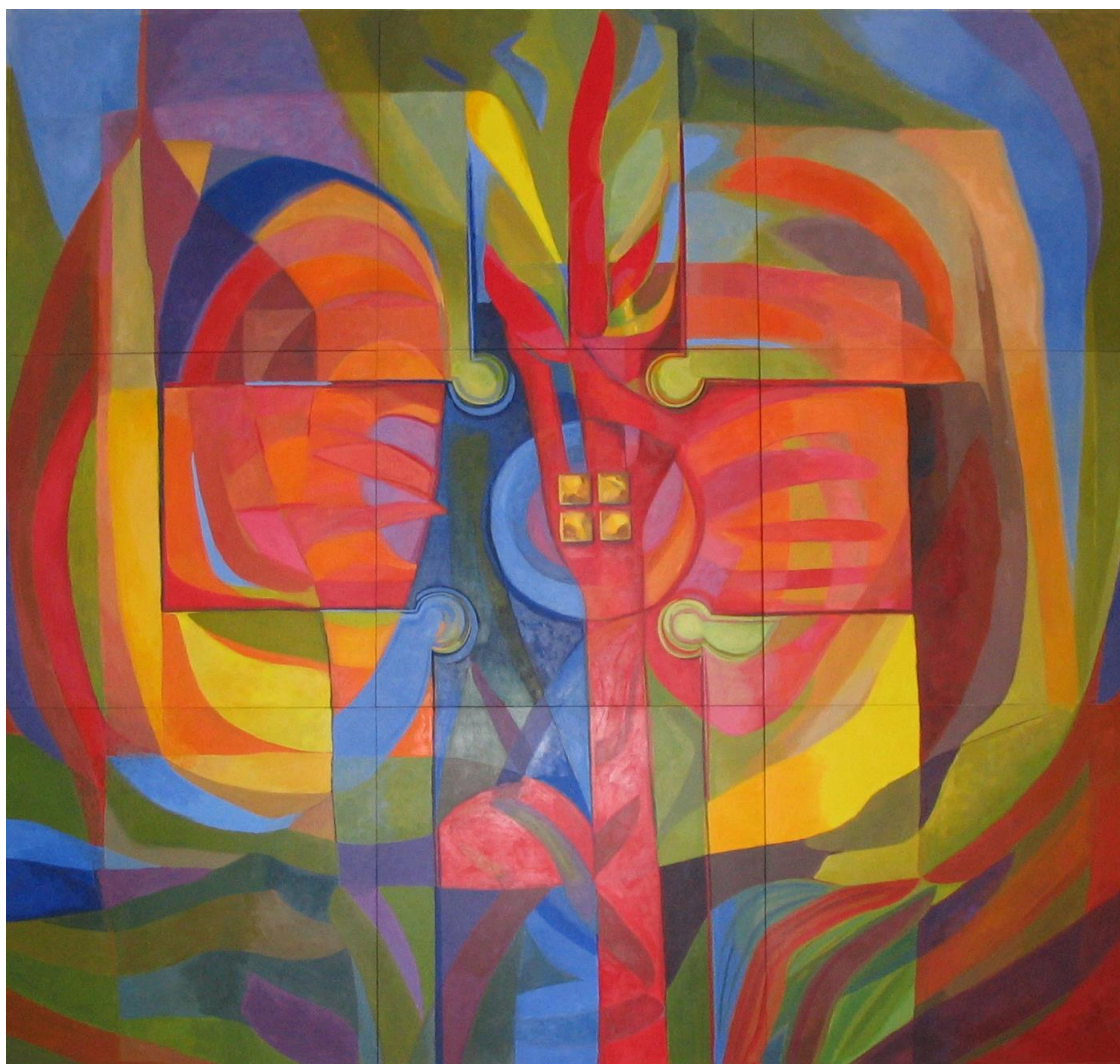


**St Barnabas Church**  
**Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8HA**

*Parish Information News  
Sheet*



**September 2018**

## **Events in September**

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	10.30am	Sunday School
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wed. 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Coffee Morning
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist with Baptism
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion 3 on 3 Service
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wed. 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Knit & Natter
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Barn Dance
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Harvest Festival Worship for All
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am 10.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Celtic Eucharist Sunday School

## **Message from the Vicar's desk:**

Dear Friends, this September we are launching our “Season of Invitation”, which you will have read about last month, as well as taking another look at how we worship. We did this back in April 2017 and the responses to that survey helped shape the last (almost) sixteen months of our worshipping life together. There have been calls to re-evaluate what we are doing and make changes. I want everyone to feel that their voice has been heard and for you to take this opportunity to share your perspective, so please do take part and let us know how you feel and what changes you’d like to see.

Worship at St. Barnabas has been best described as an exercise in “give and take” because we all come from different church backgrounds, different denominations, and experiences, as well as bringing our own needs and desires about how we want to worship. And it has been a bit of a balancing act due to the sensitivities around worship these two and a half years. The starting point is always a church’s particular tradition and its theology, how it expresses what it believes about God in its worship. Our theology of inclusiveness is writ large in our welcome and, even more importantly, how we worship in the round. In many ways this is a lived out mission statement that even the casual visitor can’t miss. Inclusiveness is our badge of honour and proclaims who we are and what we’re about. Our tradition is trickier. St. Barnabas was rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition of the Church of England that spoke to a largely working class parish with its drama and colour in the liturgy. There were no pew rents as there was elsewhere in the town (inclusiveness for the poor). But thankfully that

too evolved, welcoming women's ministry and becoming more relaxed and accessible. That tradition centred in the sacraments is still changing and evolving. Our musical and other influences come, as often as not, from outside the Anglican experience. The keeping of Holy Week and the celebration of Midnight Mass are no longer the fixtures they were only five or six years ago. We are in a time of flux, but also one of creativity and opportunity. The decision about worship we make now will be the ones that take us through the interregnum to come until the new minister is in place and can take those decisions that will see the process continue into the future.

The biggest change you will notice soon is the new timing of worship, namely that we are going back to the "Early Bird" format with opening worship starting at 10am, with the gathering hymn and service proper beginning at 10:15am. This is an experiment at this point, the decision arising from the recent PCC meeting where the strong feeling was the service was too long and not starting on time. Some we keen to use this time to learn new songs, to add to our repertoire; as well as open up space for more prayer. My hope is that this will encourage more of you to take part in praise and prayer as we prepare for our worship. I know that opening worship has not been a great success in my hands as there is so much more to prepare every week for Sunday's service and the week is busy in itself. You are lucky to get two prayers beforehand and that isn't what this slot calls for. Filling fifteen minutes every week is a big ask of Sarah, Anna, and myself and I really do hope and pray that you all will be open to the opportunity to share this with us.

Our service pattern is open to change. The Worship for All on the first Sunday is not working as I had envisioned it would. It was intended as the go-to service for families with children wanting baptism, as the Church of England requires them to attend a service at least once before the christening. It is shorter, there is no opening worship, but only a few of the christening families come and usually only the once. When our Sunday School leaders and children were part of the planning and delivery, we had some success in the beginning, but those particular young people out grew Sunday School and we have lost capacity to do that and deliver Sunday School twice a month. If we had a church-run toddler group that might be different, but we don't have a sufficient number of children of our own any more to create a critical mass of youngsters that would make it attractive as it stands now.

The second and fourth Sundays are our Parish Eucharist, the standard Church of England Communion service as we have come to use it here at St. Barnabas. The Celtic Eucharist is an alternative that fills in the odd Sunday and has the potential to be more contemplative and gentle in its presentation for those looking to worship in that way. It is different enough to keep us on our toes, but not so unfamiliar that we can't keep up. We are grateful for our 3on3 service on the third Sunday because it has managed to keep our teenagers engaged with St. Barnabas while they explore more youth focussed worship the rest of the month elsewhere. I still hold out hope that a regular youth service may happen here in the future and evangelise the young people of Epsom!

Together all our services encompass a breadth and depth of worship experience that most people can find something that works for them, but we do need to

reconsider our service formats, our music, and prayer life to see if there isn't scope for fine-tuning. We need to ensure that our worship is mission-led and always has an eye to bringing others to Christ and making new Christians. That's really why we are here. Worship, as much as we may wish, isn't about scratching our particular itch. It isn't just our needs that we must take into account, but those of the wider community who have yet to find a church to call their own. Recent studies have shown that it doesn't matter what style of worship a church has or their tradition, as long as they worship with integrity and do it well, they grow. It's about sincerity and authenticity which we have in bucket loads here, so please give the worship survey some thought and attention.

**Yours in Him,  
Michael**

## **EARLY WORSHIP NOW STARTING AT 10.00AM!!**

At our meeting in July the PCC had a long discussion about Worship and the opportunity to learn new songs to broaden our Worship, but also the fact that we have now become a bit hit and miss with our start time and as a consequence how services can also go past 11.30am.

Many members of the congregation will remember that prior to the interregnum we did have "Early Bird" worship and this started about 10.05am and people came into Church, when worked for them and we started our service about 10.20am. In the "Early Bird" time it was sometimes lay led, and we sang and prayed.

We felt that nowadays families were sometimes put off attending if the service did go on past 11.30am and equally, we wondered, if with our rather shabby starting times, maybe we have inadvertently lost a bit of respect for God. The comment was made that if you turn up for an appointment i.e. a hairdresser, you have to be there at a certain time!

Members of the congregation have often commented on how much they have valued the early worship part of the service, prior to the service beginning more formally, as they find it helps to properly prepare them. People, as is the norm at St. B's, arrive for the service whenever it works best for them, and if they arrive and find us singing or praying they are always welcome regardless of where we are in the service.

So we thought we would begin with a longer period of early worship, like the old days, and we thought it would be a good idea to be start our Worship and praying at 10.00am and the more "formal" part of the service will start with our Gathering Hymn at 10.15am. However, we really want to use the 15mins before the Gathering hymn as an opportunity to explore worship in whatever form it may take.

Yes we want to pray, yes we want to sing and yes we will also use it as an opportunity to learn new songs, BUT we want to use it to explore too!

We want to have an open mike, time for the congregation to come forward and pray too, or to give a short testimony about how God has been at work in the past week, or to share. Whatever it may be, the invitation is there and we hope that however we collectively use this 15mins, we want to really prepare



ourselves for Worship and to come before God's presence ready to hear his word. **Sarah Ford**

### **Could you be a Server?**

We have an urgent need for a couple of servers, particularly to help during the holiday time, but also on an ongoing basis. Could you please have a think about it?

It is an enormous privilege to be able to assist and prepare the altar for the service and help the Clergy prior to communion. You would not have to be a chalice assistant, (offer the wine during communion), but you would need to be available to help clear the altar after the service too. If you think that you may be able to help in this way or know more about it, please do speak to Sarah or Helen.

**Readers and Intercessors:** The July-September list is in the narthex. We still need both readers and intercessors on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> (Harvest) and 30<sup>th</sup> September so please sign up if you are able to assist. Thank you.

### **Birthdays this month:**

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

### **Barn Dance:**

Our next big social and fundraising event will be the Barn Dance on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale at £10 per adult. There are also family tickets and/or children's tickets. Tickets can also

be bought on line, using Paypal, by going to our website, so please send the link:

<https://stbarnabas-epsom.org.uk/barn-dance/> and invite as many people as possible. We expect this to be another “sell out” as the previous one was so popular. However, a lot of preparation is required to make this a success and we would love to have as many volunteers as possible. Even if you cannot help on the night, but are free in the morning, we will be setting up from 10.00am, and we would love to see you! We also need volunteers to help out on the night with such jobs as manning the door; the bar; helping serve food; clearing and cleaning up afterwards. We need to convert the “barn” back to our Church at the end of the day, so If you can help, please put your name on the sign up list, or if you find yourself free please just come on down!

**Harvest Festival:** Is on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and our food donations will go to our local Food Bank. To help you decide on your donations, we will have on display for several weeks beforehand, a list of the food which the Food Bank most need at this time. By way of celebration we will have extra special eats after the service!!

If you are free to help as a sides person on the day please can you let Kathy know, extra help on the day would be appreciated.

## **Parish Prayer Chain:**

*Together We Can Make a Difference*

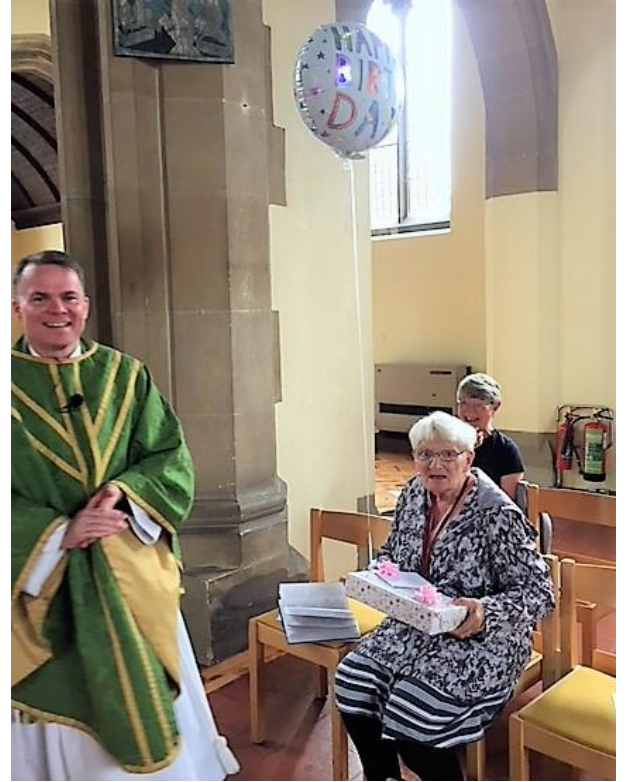
Please sign up to **prayer triplets** – list in the narthex.

Please continue to pray for **Hossein** as his appeal hearing to remain in the UK, has been postponed.

**Sick List:** We continue to pray for Doreen throughout her treatment. We also include Stephanie in our prayers.

We remembered with fondness, **Joan Atkinson**, on the first anniversary of her passing. The flowers were provided by her family.





Susie's 69<sup>th</sup> birthday was marked with a gift, balloon and cake after morning service on 11<sup>th</sup> August.



Curtis Fox was baptised during our morning service on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

**Flowers:** Just a reminder that there is a list for people who would like to donate flowers for a Sunday, either in memory, anniversary, or just because you would like to see flowers in the church. If you would like any further information please speak to Betty.

**Garden:** There is a new member on the gardening team and he has been helping by cutting back the brambles among the fence and in the car park. A marked improvement!

## **TIME FOR A LAUGH!**

**At the pearly gates,** a taxi driver and minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Peter next greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

**The children were lined up** in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note

and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

**For the vicar's 50th birthday**, the congregation decided to give him a new suit. He was so touched by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

**A vicar's wife** was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The older boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

**The Pope and the Rabbi:** Several centuries ago, the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal: he'd have a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy; if the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged and wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Italian, and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, they agreed that it would be a 'silent' debate.

On the chosen day the Pope and rabbi sat opposite each other. The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. The rabbi looked back and raised one finger. Next, the Pope waved his finger around his head. The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat. The Pope brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine. The rabbi pulled out an apple. With that, the Pope stood up and declared himself beaten and said that the rabbi was too clever. The Jews could stay in Italy.

Later the cardinals met with the Pope and asked him what had happened. The Pope said, 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs. Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. The rabbi responded by pointing to the ground to show that God was also right here with us. I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins, and the rabbi pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin. He bested me at every move and I could not continue.'

Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won. 'I haven't a clue,' said the rabbi. 'First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy, so I gave him the finger. Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews and I told him that we were staying right here. 'And then what?' asked a woman. 'Who knows?' said the rabbi. 'He took out his lunch so I took out mine.'

## **Parish Contacts:**

Office: Ruth Mey (Thursdays)  
Hilary Batt (Fridays)

Email: [stbarnabasepsomoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabasepsomoffice@gmail.com)

Phone: 01372 721518

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Michael Roper

Tel: 01372 722874

email: [gore\\_lodge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk)

(day off: Friday)

**Churchwardens:** Sarah Ford  
Helen Dyke

**Deanery Synod:** Janet Roberts

**Safeguarding Rep. for Children  
& Vulnerable Adults:** Deborah Kind

**Electoral Officer:** Anne Baxter

**Parish Treasurer:** PJ Jansen

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

**PCC:** Father Michael Roper (Chair)

Kathy Appleyard

Ruth Mey

Hilary Batt

Janice Pond

Helen Dyke

Janet Roberts

Sarah Ford

Frank Sinnock

Wendy Hurst

Muriel Stafford

PJ Jansen



**Stewardship Rep.**  
**Sunday School**

Ruth Mey  
Helen Dyke

# **CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS AT ST BARNABAS**

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

**Epsom Gardening Club:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7.30pm (except June, July and August)

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

**Jo Jingles:** Toddlers' group Tuesday 9.30 – 12 noon and Thursdays 9.30 – 2pm in term time.

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

**The Brigitte Trust:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7.00pm.

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

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

**KITES:** Every Thursday from 5pm – 8.00 pm.

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

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





