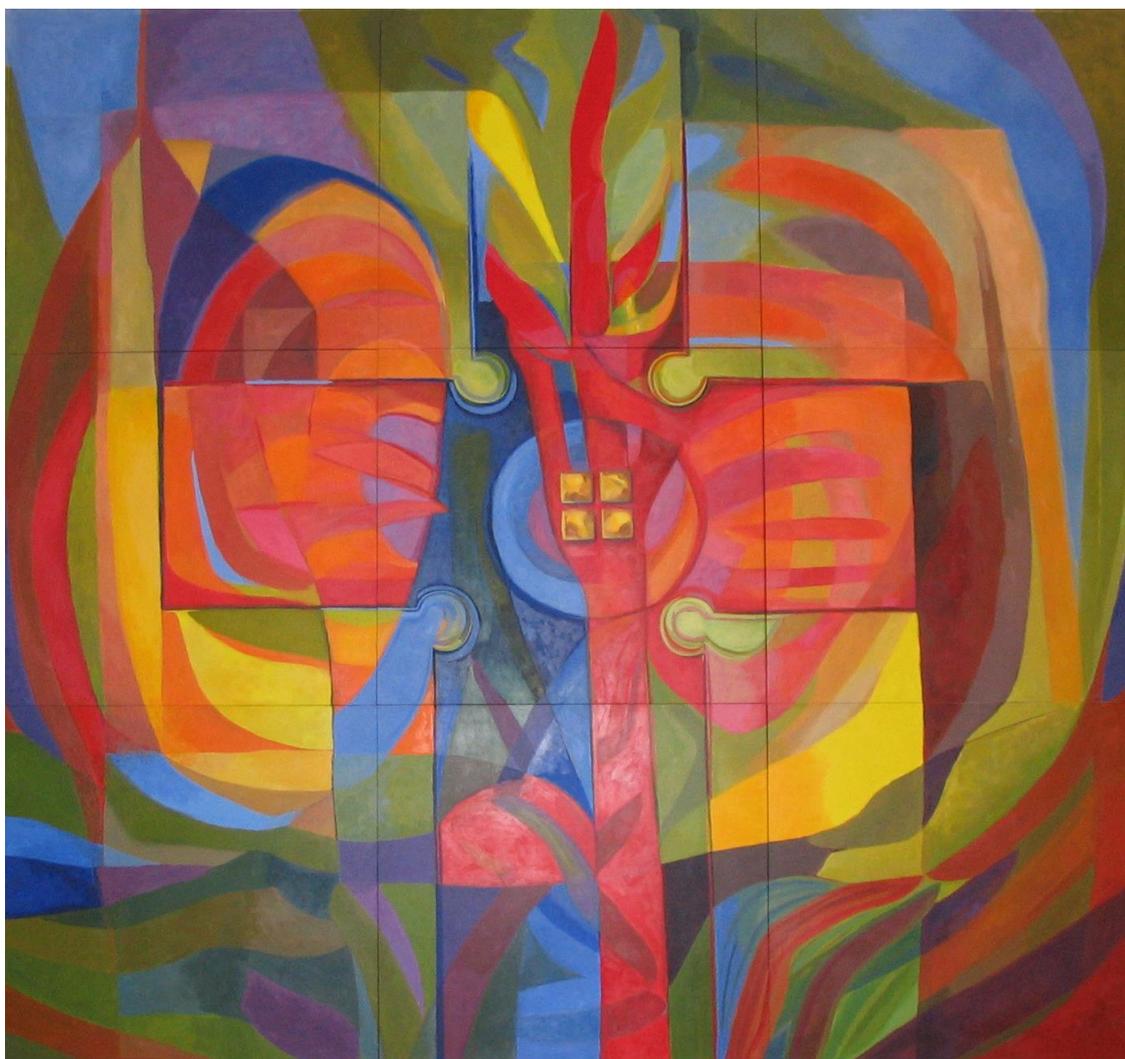


**St Barnabas Church**  
**Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8HA**

*Parish Information News  
Sheet*



***February 2020***

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

<b>Sunday 2</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Traditional Holy Communion - Christ Church</b>
Thursday 6	11.00am	Coffee Morning
	12.30pm	Soup Lunch
<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Knit and Natter (Christ Church)
	8.00pm	Parish Prayers
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
Thursday 20	12.30pm	Soup Lunch
Friday 21	2.00pm	Knit & Natter – St Barnabas
<b>Sunday 23</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (St Martin's Church)</b>
	<b>10.15am</b>	<b>3 on 3</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Christ Church Knit & Natter at The Cricketers
Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup>		See in newsletter

## **Lectionary for February:**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Presentation of Christ:	Luke 2.22-40
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent:	Isaiah 58.1-9a Matthew 5.13-20
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent:	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Matthew 6.25-34
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday next before Lent:	Exodus 24.12-end Matthew 17.1-9



## **WARDENS' WORDS:**

January is finally finished - surely the longest-seeming month in terms of the distance between pay days - and February is here, the shortest month, even with its extra day this leap year. Right in the middle of February lurks Saint Valentine's Day and cards are already in the shops along with chocolates and a whole host of other possible gifts for the special person in your life.

Despite the relentless commercialisation of this Saint's Day and its focus on romantic love, to the exclusion of all others, a quick look at the life of Saint Valentine shows us that he was all about a different kind of love. There are two Saint Valentines from 3<sup>rd</sup> century Italy, Saint Valentine of Rome and Saint Valentine of Terni. Both witnessed about their faith and helped persecuted Christians. Saint Valentine of Rome even tried to convert Emperor Claudius II when that ruler was trying to persuade him to abandon his faith and become a pagan instead. It was that evangelism that led to his execution. Although one of the Saint Valentines is reputed to have carried out Christian marriages between the young men and women of Rome, this was primarily to help the grooms avoid conscription to the Roman army: married men were exempt from military service. Eros – the Greeks' word for romantic or sexual love – was pretty thin on the ground.

Valentine promoted agape love, the Greeks' spiritual love. It is an unconditional love which walks hand in hand with compassion and empathy. It is not called forth by any outstanding qualities in those around us but comes from within. It does not judge but forgives all short-comings. The Buddhist religion refers to this type of love as "Metta" or universal loving kindness. Valentine risked his own safety, time and again, to help those in danger from persecution and share his knowledge of God's love. His actions were truly altruistic and his ministry must have been driven by a strong faith and a deep connection

with God's love, because to love and live as he did is very difficult for us humans unless we have divine assistance.

So what can we learn from Saint Valentine at St Barnabas? We are fortunate enough to live in a society where the worst persecution we can expect as Christians is scorn and rejection of our faith; perhaps a patronising response when we mention our choice to attend church, nothing life-threatening about that. There are still lots of ways that we can show agape love and care for one another as individuals and as a church. Jobs that might seem trivial or unimportant such as making tea and coffee or washing up are all part of how we minister to one another. We wardens are so thankful to everyone who already helps at St Barnabas. The more we show love and support for one another, the stronger we will be as a church. The more we know and experience God's love in our fellowship together, the more ready we will be to share it with the people of our parish. Agape love can become a habit to build, a muscle to strengthen just like any other and the more we do it, the easier it gets. God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

***Helen and Sarah***

**Coffee Morning:** This month's coffee morning will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Please do join us for a chat.

### **Soup Lunch:**

Our Soup Lunches, organised by Viviane, have proved very popular. They will start again on Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> and continue on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm. A lovely meal of several different soups, bread, cheese, fruit and cake all for £5.

**Knit & Natter:** Our next date is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Please come along to natter even if you can't knit!!

### **Events and Services for Lent**

As in previous years during Lent the congregation is warmly invited to services that are being held within the Epsom Ministry. We will not be "hosting" any Lent or Holy Week services but we will of course be having our normal service on Easter Day at 10.15am.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY - 26 FEBRUARY:**

**St. Martins:** 10.30am - Said Communion  
8.00pm - Sung Communion

**Christ Church:** Open for 24 hours of prayer with prayer stations based in themes and opportunities for corporate prayer at:-

7.00am - Morning Prayer

9.30am - said Holy Communion with ashing

12 noon Midday prayers

5.00pm Evening Prayer

8.00pm Compline

7.00am Morning Prayer

### **Lent Courses at St Martin's:**

1. A series of lectures in the evenings at 7.30pm in church on the following days:

Monday 2nd March, Tuesday 10 March, Tuesday 17 March  
and Monday 23 March

2. Lent study group and lunch on Wednesdays, following mid-morning communion from Wednesday 4 March to Wednesday 1 April as follows:-

10.30am Communion

11.15am Coffee

11.45am Study

1.00pm Lunch (In Church House)

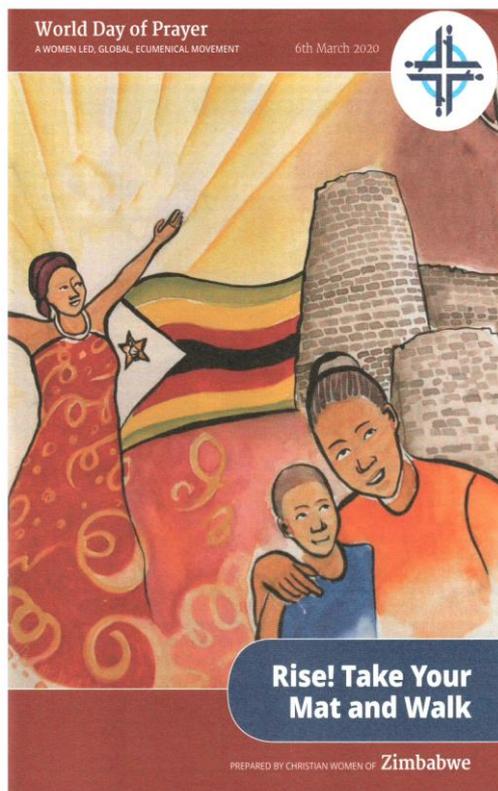
## Parish Prayers

Thank you to everyone who attended our parish prayer meeting last month. We used 2 bible readings to inspire and direct our prayers for St Barnabas during the interregnum and were particularly encouraged by the excerpt from 1 Peter. This described Christians within a church as "living stones .. being built into a spiritual house". We imagined God as a dry stone wall builder who has found the right place for each of us to grow and become the people He wants us to be. Everyone is welcome to join us for parish prayers this month in the church on Monday 10th February, 8.00-9.00pm.

**3 on 3:** Due to school holidays, the February 3 on 3 will be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. January's 3 on 3 was another good programme of message and song.



## World Day of Prayer: 10.30am Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March.



This is an annual service held in towns and cities worldwide. This year's service is prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and will be held at St Barnabas. It is always a very moving service and introduces us to the lives of women, sometimes very different to our own. The Mayor & Mayoress of Epsom & Ewell will be attending and we ask you to show your support for the women of Zimbabwe. We are also looking for volunteers to help with refreshments, collections, etc. Please speak to Kathy or Ruth if you are able to help.

## Fund Raising and Social Events in 2020.

Our first event of this year will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. It will be a **Quiz, plus music provided by Sarah**, and promises to be a really good evening - you can sing your hearts out as well as exercise your brain! Tickets are now on sale at £10 each and include a light supper. Please bring along whatever you would like to drink as we will not have an alcohol licence that night. The proceeds will go towards a new frame for the piano as, at the moment due to the frailty of the legs, the piano cannot be moved as it could collapse.

Further fundraising events will include:

Derby Cream Tea:

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Epsom Male Voice Choir Concert:

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Barn Dance:

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October



## **BIRTHDAYS**

22<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Clements  
28<sup>th</sup> Sam Dyke

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, Vanessa, Eileen Lambie, Penny, Julie, Nigel Purton, Eileen and Jeff.  
There is a new list for February/March in reception if you would like to add anyone's name.

### **Recycling the “non-recyclable”**

Every year, countless pieces of waste end up in landfill sites or incinerators across the UK because most local authorities don't recycle them. We can work with a company called TerraCycle, which operates across 20 different countries, and can collect and recycle almost any form of waste, from coffee capsules to pens or plastic gloves. We can help to end this enormous loss of resources and protect the environment by starting to collect crisp packets through the Crisp Packet Recycling Scheme. St Barnabas now has a collection box for any brand of crisp packet, plus multipacks from which we just ask to have crumbs removed.

**Readers and Intercessors:** We are still looking for readers and intercessors in February and March. The list is in reception and we would be grateful if you could sign up. Thank you.

**Churches Together in Epsom Rep:** We still have a vacancy for this post and would be grateful if anyone who is interested contact either one of the Church Wardens or Janet Roberts for further information.

**Electoral Officer:** We welcome John King as our new Electoral Officer. If you have any queries about the electoral roll or would like to update your details on the roll, please speak to John.

# LAUGH

**Teacher:** “Why are you late”.

Student: “Class started before I got here”

**Teacher:** “Glenn, how do you spell crocodile?”

Glenn: “Krokodial”.

Teacher: “No, that’s wrong”.

Glenn: “Maybe it is wrong but you asked me how I spell it”.

**Teacher:** “Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?”

Donald: “HIJKLMNO”.

Teacher: “What do you mean?”

Donald “Yesterday you said it’s H to O.”

**Teacher:** “Now Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?”

Simon: “No sir, I don’t have to, my mum is a good cook”.

**Teacher:** “Clyde, your composition on “My Dog” is exactly the same as your brother’s. Did you copy his?”

Clyde: “No, sir. It’s the same dog”.

**Teacher:** “Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn’t have 10 years ago?”

Winnie: “Me”!

**Teacher:** Harold, what do you call a person who keeps talking when people are no longer interested”?

Harold: “A teacher”.

## **What Does It Mean To Be British?**

A British national daily newspaper asked readers: “What does it mean to be British?” Some replies were hilarious but this one from a resident of Switzerland stood out:

“Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then going home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and

watch American or Australian shows on a Japanese or Korean TV, which will soon be powered by a Chinese nuclear power station”.

And the most British thing of all? “Suspicion of anything foreign.”

**When** I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children – just like it says on the bottle.

**Be** nice to nurses. They keep the doctors from killing you.

**I** always offer two choices for dinner – take it or leave it.

**Instead** of a sign that says “Do not disturb”, I need one that says “Already disturbed, proceed with caution.”

**Sometimes** I panic and think there’s a crazy person in my house. Then I realise it’s just me.

**I’m** on a nut-free diet. I avoid people who drive me nuts.

## **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

Email: [churchwardens.stbarnabasepsom@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardens.stbarnabasepsom@gmail.com)

**Parish Treasurer:** PJ Jansen

**Safeguarding Rep for**

**Children & Vulnerable Adults:** Sarah Ford

**Deanery Synod Rep:** Sarah Ford

**Electoral Officer:** John King

**Stewardship Rep:** Isobel Johnson

**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*)

**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 2nd Tuesday on alternate months 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.

