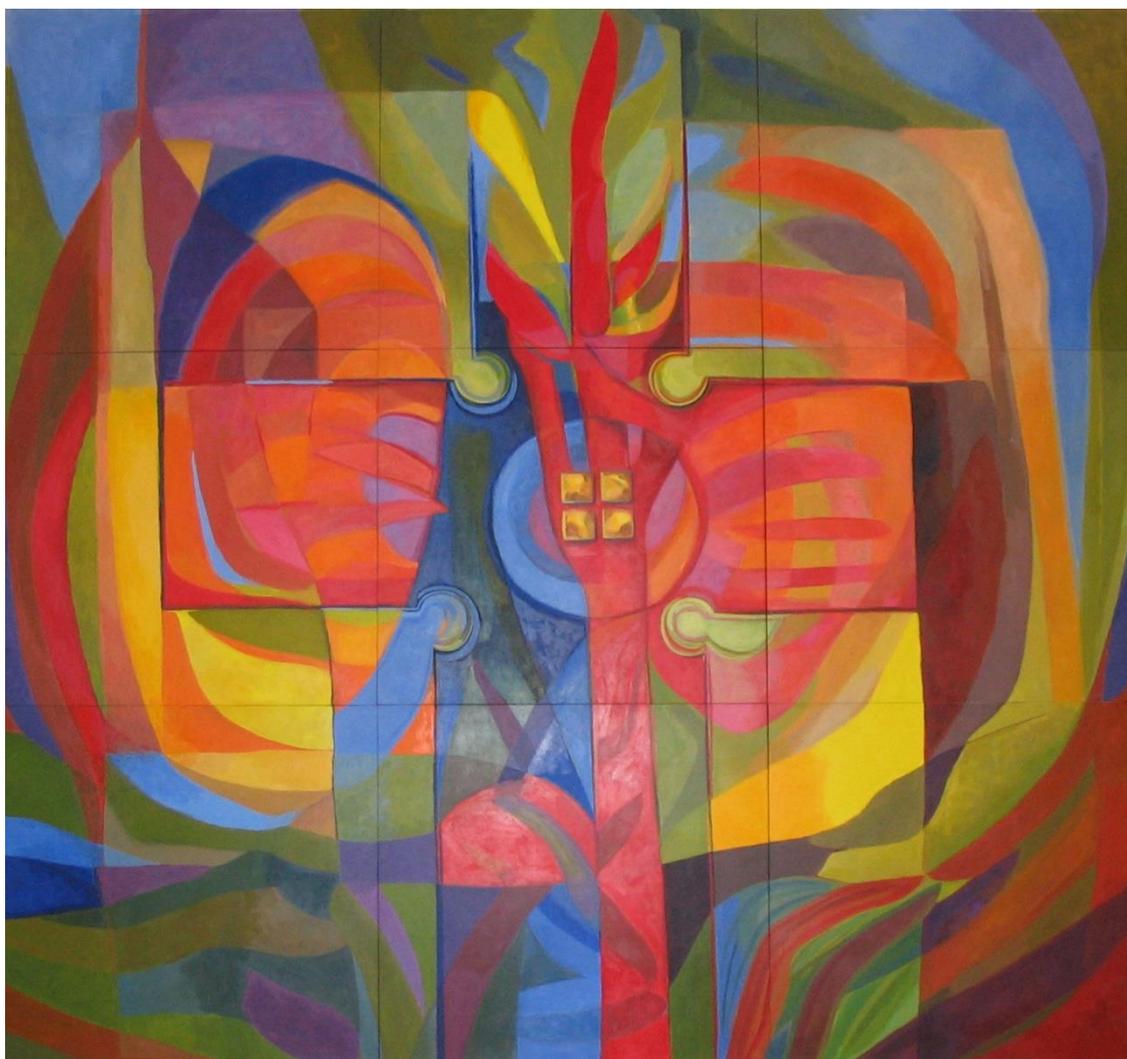


St Barnabas Church
Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8HA

*Parish Information News
Sheet*



June 2019

Events in June

Saturday 1st	9.30am 3.00pm	Morning Prayer Derby Cream Tea
Sunday 2nd	8.00am 10.15am 12.30pm	Holy Communion Patronal Service Patronal Lunch
Thurs 6 th	11.00am	Coffee Morning
Sunday 9th	8.00am 10.15am	Holy Communion Pentecost Eucharist
Sunday 16th	8.00am 10.15am	Holy Communion Trinity Sunday 3 on 3
Wednesday 19 th	9.00am 9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion
Thursday 20 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Friday 21 st	2.00pm	Knit and Natter and Upholstering chair seats
Saturday 22 nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 th	8.00am 10.15am	Holy Communion Refugee Sunday
Monday 24 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday 25 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 26 th	9.00am 9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Holy Communion

Thursday 27 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Saturday 29 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 30 th	8.00am 10.15am	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist

Message from the Vicar's desk:

In November 1998 I arrived in London to take up the post of Pastoral Assistant at St. Matthew's, Westminster. Two clergymen I had met the previous year had suggested that I ought to be sponsored for training for ordination and the best place for this would be St. Matthew's. There has been a long tradition of having two Pastoral Assistants, one to run the church office and the other to work as classroom support in the church school. I was assigned the school and spent many an afternoon sweeping both paved playgrounds and removing rock-solid chewing gum from asphalt. Not a chore I can say I miss.

I had been forewarned that it was very difficult for a gay person to get a bishop to sponsor them for ordination at that time. Pronouncements from General Synod and a simmering rebellion at the Lambeth Conference earlier that year over homosexuality created an atmosphere of suspicion and uncertainty. Candidates for ordination were under a microscope and often very closely questioned about their relationships. The only way forward for me was to keep quiet and remain forever single and/ or invent a fictional girlfriend and talk about her at my various interviews. More senior clergy had advised both options. So I kept quiet and decided to stay single.

That was the plan, but life often upsets the carefully balanced applecart. Also at St. Matthew's there would appear an actor chap who made a bit of extra money cleaning the clergy house. He would show up of an evening to clean, often while I was cooking my supper in the clergy kitchen. Needless to say, he was soon eating such exotic things as Southern Fried Chicken. That actor chap was Ben and thanks to the matchmaking skills of the Parish Secretary we began seeing each other. The Vicar was not amused! That was tantamount to career suicide in his book and not to be entertained for a moment.

We managed to survive the three year process it took to gain a place on a Bishops selection conference and my two at Vicar School in West Yorkshire. There was never any guarantee that I would be ordained nor of securing a curacy. All could come crashing down by being asked one simple question. I wasn't prepared to lie, so we knew there may not be a happily ever after. Since then I have been asked that question and replied honestly. It has cost me jobs and opportunities. It could have cost me the chance to come here to St. Barnabas, but God kept me on track and we got there eventually.

All this seemed like a distant memory as Ben and I exchanged vows at St. Matthew's in front of family and a few close friends. We are older now and a bit wiser. The Church has changed a little but still has a way to go before everyone finds their place at God's table. I think St. Barnabas has changed a bit too these three and a half years. We are that bit more inclusive now. What we may have wrestled with in our heads, we now accept in our hearts. A few people had asked if we were going to hold our Thanksgiving service at St. Barnabas, but not everyone would have felt comfortable with that and I would never want to make anyone feel uneasy in their own church. My preaching is a different thing, that can make us uncomfortable in a good way! Then there was also the Bishop to consider. He wasn't thrilled to say the least and wanted everything to be as discreet and low-key as possible. The Church is still a battleground when it comes to sexuality and there are a lot of people who would cause a fuss for the hierarchy. So we chose St. Matthew's and it was a truly life-changing occasion!

There is something about standing in front of family and friends in God's house making promises and giving thanks, that resonates in the depths of the human heart. It is a time and place to encounter God and celebrate, as well as acknowledge, his role in bringing two people together and transforming their lives through

the blessing of love. It's also about making a covenant to sustain that love through thick and thin because we know that God will be with us come what may. What we shared that day wasn't marriage as far as the Church is concerned, but it was as close as we can get. We are very grateful for the Parish's support and all your cards, prayers, and good wishes. Thanks to you a dream I had thought unobtainable has finally come true. **With Love,
Michael.**



Michael will be away on holiday from 3rd June to the 18th June. There will only be Sunday services whilst he is away. In an emergency please contact Rev. Rosemary Donovan at Christ Church or Helen Dyke, our Church Warden.

Church Clean Up: 29th June from 10am has been chosen as our next clean up day. We hope that it will see all hands on deck as there is much to do. Even if you are only able to stay for half an hour, or sit and clean the brass, or do some weeding, it all helps. Please do your utmost to come along to help. *Thank you.*

Celebrating with Michael and Ben: On Sunday, to celebrate their civil ceremony, we toasted Michael and Ben and Helen presented them with a small gift.





BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Kathy Appleyard
- 11th John Hindmarsh
- 17th Geoff Dyke (70th Birthday)
- 24th Sarah Kind
- 27th Marion Hutchinson

Are you a good photographer?

Ecclesiastical Insurance Competition is asking every church to send a single photo showing what makes their church special, whether taken by a professional or a member of the congregation on a smartphone. Every church, its congregation, and community is unique. From the volunteer who holds everything together, to the children's groups who brighten up the Sunday services. From the beautiful flower gardens, to the exceptional architecture of your church building. No two churches are the same, and we want to celebrate what makes your church special. How would you show how unique and special your church is in one photo and win up to £5,000 for your church? The competition opens early June and more information about the competition, as well as details on how to enter will be available here when the competition opens.

Thy Kingdom Come is back at Guildford Cathedral! From 4pm on 9 June, Christians of all denominations will gather in praise and prayer – come along and join your brothers and sisters in Christ from around the area at this special event.

From 16:00 – 18:00 bring your picnics to enjoy some live music and entertainment outside the cathedral before we join together in a contemporary worship service with a message by Pete Greig until 19:00. There will then be a chance to join a prayer vigil led by the Bishops of Guildford and Dorking that will finish at 23:00.

No need to book – just show up for as much as you would like! Please note there will only be parking at the cathedral for blue badge holders. All others should park as directed on the University of Surrey campus (about a 10 min walk).

Children's Y Group: Our Y group for young people met on Sunday 26th May. We discussed the topic of friendship: how our friends influence us and vice versa, as well as the joys and

challenges of being a friend to others. We hope to meet again in July before the summer holidays.

Welcome: We welcome our youngest member – Forrest. A son for Holly and a brother for Poppy.

We also welcome Martin back, together with his partner Polly and her daughter Vivian.

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, Eddie (gardener), Leslie, Eileen Lamble, Caroline and family, Liz and family and Baby Jimmy.

Upholstering chair seats: At the June Knit and Natter on the 21st we will also be re-upholstering the chair seats. If you are able to assist we would very grateful. It isn't all that difficult but time consuming.

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.

Churches in Epsom:

Knit and Natter News: Great news for all crafters, Christchurch are starting a monthly Knit and Natter group, so if you can't attend our group or would like another opportunity to relax with like-minded crafters, this could be perfect for you. The group will be meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month in the Upper Hall, Christchurch. The session times are 10.00-1.00 and the group will run on a drop in basis. The dates are as follows: 10th June and 8th July. Please contact Helen Dyke for more information.

Epsom Mental Health and Well-Being Festival 2019:

With less than six months until this year's Epsom Mental Health and Well-Being Festival it's time to put the dates in your diary. October 5th – 12th is when, once again you will find a diverse programme of over 70 events, activities and workshops held at a variety of venues around Epsom – and all free of charge! The theme for this year's Festival is "Joys and Sorrows" and you will find a safe and supportive space to explore the many joys and sorrows that life can bring.

All of these events and activities are open to everyone who wants to come along - you don't need to have specific issues or concerns with your mental health to attend. With such a wide and varied programme and with over 70 events we wouldn't expect you to attend them all but we think you're likely to find something of interest. You can dip in and out and attend any of those events and activities you'd like to be a part of – and remember that they are all free of charge. Even if all you want is a place to sit and be still, you will be most welcome.

The Festival could not run without Volunteers in a variety of roles, so if you have some time to give during the week (and during preparation beforehand) and would like to help, please do get in touch. Please feel free to be a part of our community during the Epsom Mental Health and Well-Being Festival which is organised by a small, local registered charity, Love Me Love My Mind. For further information on the Epsom Health and Well-Being Festival or Love Me Love My Mind you can email, email info@lovemelovemymind.org.uk, telephone 01372 721518 or go to their website:

www.epsommentalhealthweek.org.uk

Readers and Intercessors: The July-September list is in the narthex and is looking very empty!!! Please sign up if you are able to assist. Thank you.

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 Father Michael or Janet Roberts for further information.

Dates for your Diary:

21st September 7.30-10.30pm Barn Dance

22nd September 10.15am Harvest Festival
5-12 October Epsom Mental Health Week
5th December 10am-3pm Start of Christmas Tree Festival
7th December Craft Fair 10am – 2pm
Dinner and Cabaret 7.30pm – 10.30pm

LAST LAUGH

Children of Israel

In Sunday School one morning young Joseph raised his hand and proceeded to ask a question that has perplexed him for some time. “There’s something I can’t figure out. According to the bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?” “Right” said the teacher.

“And the children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?”

“Er, right”

“And the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?”

“Again you’re right.”

“And the Children of Israel fought the Egyptians and the Children of Israel were always doing something important, right?”

“All that is right, too,” agreed the teacher. “So what’s your question, Joseph?”

“Well, what were all the grown-ups doing?”

Some people see a beauty that is underneath the skin and God sees the beauty underneath the sin.

When a grandfather and grandson entered their vacation cabin, they kept the lights off until they were inside to keep from attracting insects. Still, a few fireflies followed them in. Noticing them first, the grandson whispered “It’s no use Grandpa, now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights.”

A child came home from infant school and said to her grandmother, “Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today.” The grandmother more than a little

surprised, tried to keep her cool. “That’s interesting,” she said. “How do you make babies?”

“It’s simple”, replied the girl. “You just change the “y” to “i” and add “es.”

A vicar, known for his lengthy sermons, notices a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards, the vicar asked the man where he had gone. “I went to get a haircut”, was the reply. “But,” said the vicar, “Why didn’t you do that before the service?” “Because,” the gentleman said, “I didn’t need one then.”

Wedding: Parents of a four year old boy, having been invited to a wedding, took the child along with them when they went shopping for a present – a silver teapot – in a very posh shop. The assistant asked if he could help and the father said they needed a wedding present. At the top of his lungs, in a totally shocked voice, the child asked “Are you and Mummy getting married, Daddy?”

School Bloomers:

History: In wartime children who lived in big cities had to be evacuated because it was safer in the country.

Sometimes in the war they take prisoners and keep them as ostriches until the war is over. Some prisoners end up in concentration camps.

Maths: The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls Santa on his sleigh.

I would like to be an accountant but you have to know a lot about moths.

If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.

Parish Contacts:

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Roper (*day off: Friday*)
Tel: 01372 722874
email: gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk

Churchwardens: Sarah Ford
Helen Dyke

Parish Treasurer: PJ Jansen

Safeguarding Rep for

Children & Vulnerable Adults: Deborah Kind
Deanery Synod Rep: Vacancy
Electoral Officer: Anne Baxter
Stewardship Rep: Isobel Johnson
Children's Ministry Leader: Helen Dyke

Church Website: stbarnabasepsom.org.uk

Parish Church Council:

Fr. Michael Roper (<i>Chair</i>)	
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 3rd 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: 3rd Monday at 7.30pm (*except January, February and August*)

Epsom WI: 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm (*except August*).

