

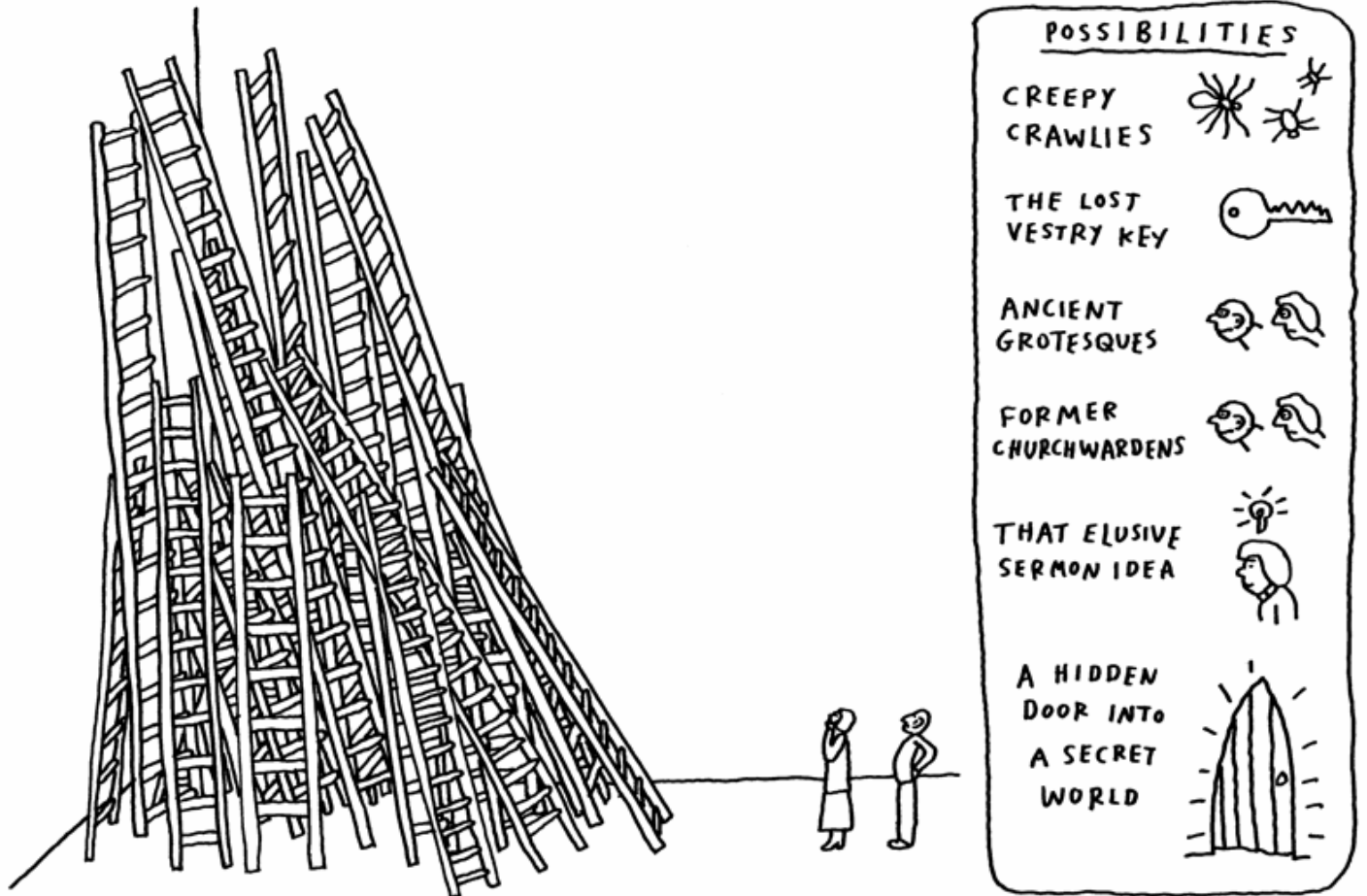
THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

25 MARCH 2021 ISSUE #31

THE LADDERS IN THE NORTH TRANSEPT

WHAT IS BEHIND THEM?



CartoonChurch.com

LONG CHURCH LADDERS AND STAIRWAYS TO HEAVEN

So whilst the subtitle of the cartoon asks a good question, and makes some sensible suggestions as to possible answers, too, the unspoken question here, and arguably the more important one at that, is where *does* a church keep its ladders at all? If they have to be able to reach to the height of the spot lights above the gothic arches, well, that's a lot of ladder that needs to be stored somewhere.

And now that some of you are genuinely wondering where the ladder storage is in St Barnabas, I'll tell you: they (yes, there is more than one) hang on the wall in the east passage that runs the width of the chancel behind the stone carving of The Last Supper. There, so now you know.

Believe it or not, there is an important reference to a very long ladder in the bible, too: Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28.12). One night, as he is dreaming, Jacob sees this ladder stretching from earth to heaven, with angels going up and down on it and God standing over it. Evidently not just there for when the lightbulbs need changing, this ladder is a stairway to heaven and the God who dwells there.

When Jesus later refers to this story (John 1.51), he replaces the ladder with a reference to the Son of Man - he suggests that our access to God comes through him. And as Good Friday will soon remind us again, our first step towards God isn't at the bottom of a ladder but at the foot of his cross [RT].

HOLY WEEK

We might not be back to a pre pandemic pattern of services, but as you will see as you continue reading, Easter 2021 brings more services than we have ever done in the past, hoping to be a church for all, including you!

PALM SUNDAY, SUNDAY 28 MARCH

9.30am In Person BCP Communion
11.00am Zoom All Age Morning Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY, THURSDAY 01 APRIL

2.30pm In Person BCP Communion
8.00pm Zoom Vigil: As Night Falls

GOOD FRIDAY, FRIDAY 02 APRIL

2.00pm In Person An Hour at the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY, SUNDAY 04 APRIL

6.00am In Person, Sunrise Communion
10.00am Zoom All Age Morning Worship
11.00am In Person, Easter Communion

In April, we will return to in person services at 11am, save for the last Sunday of the month when the in person BCP Communion Service will be at 9.30am, followed by a Zoom All Age Morning Worship at 11am. The Film Bible Study and The Grid will return in May.

And as we mention time of services, **don't miss the clocks moving forward** on Sunday 28th of March at 1am.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Our Electoral Roll (= the official list of church members) will be revised between the 12th and the 24th April. Please speak to a warden if you are not on it and would like to be. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod will be on APCM Sunday on 9 May. (You must be on the Electoral Roll and be proposed and seconded by others on the Electoral Roll. Forms will be available in church from next week or email us at admin@stbcc.co.uk if you would like us to email you one.

PRAYERS

Lord, as we reflect on the many repercussions of the pandemic, we thank you for the hope brought by the vaccinations. We pray that nations across the world will have access to the vaccines needed to protect their populations and that leaders will act with wisdom and compassion and take a global approach.

We pray for the family and friends of Layo Caulcrick, daughter of Mrs Oni, whose funeral is on Friday 9 April.

As we approach Easter, we thank you for the promise of Easter, may it fill us with hope, peace and happiness.

NEWS FROM SUSAN

Dear St Barnabas friends,

I can't believe how quickly time has gone, but I am fast coming to the end of my two years of training at Ridley Hall in Cambridge.

I am delighted to say that, after my ordination in June, Bishop Christopher has invited me to serve as curate in Herne Hill Parish, not far from my house. It is a wonderful training opportunity for me and we will be staying in our house which has delighted Anna & Alexander. My only regret is that it means we will have to leave the wonderful St Barnabas community. But thankfully not quite yet!

Susan

WHO ARE JIM & ANNA?

With zoom services, you may notice people that you had never met before, and you may have grown accustomed to them without meeting them in-person. So, in case you are wondering ... who are Jim & Anna?

Jim and I have been coming along to St Barnabas since September 2020. I live in South London and Jim is currently based in Norfolk. I've been based at Holy Trinity Clapham for quite some time and I came to St Barnabas on a placement suggested by Southwark Diocese - because I'm considering whether to train to be a vicar. As part of the process the Diocese asked that I get a wider experience of the Anglican church. As well as coming on Sunday's, I've been observing some meetings like the PCC, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod.

Much of my placement has been during the pandemic so not quite what I expected, but even so I've enjoyed the smaller congregation, the chats after the Sunday service on zoom, and also people's openness to me when I pop up as a stranger at meetings! Thank you for making me feel welcome at St Barnabas.

Anna

A DAY OF REFLECTION

We marked the National Day of Reflection with candles, quiet prayers, a short service outside and a minute of silence after Tony had rung the bell for the occasion. Jane Manfredi's



version of a Pandemic Stations of the Cross is on our Facebook page for those who would like to watch it, it is worth it. You will also notice the yellow ribbons tied to the railing to remember those who have died. Both people who came to church and people who passed-by were invited to tie a ribbon.



EMAIL

vicar@stbcc.co.uk
admin@stbcc.co.uk

PHONE

VICARAGE: 020 7223 5953
OFFICE: 020 7223 6750

ONLINE

Website: www.stbcc.co.uk
Facebook: [@stbarnabassw4](https://www.facebook.com/stbarnabassw4)
Twitter: [@stbarnabasSW4](https://twitter.com/stbarnabasSW4)