

THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

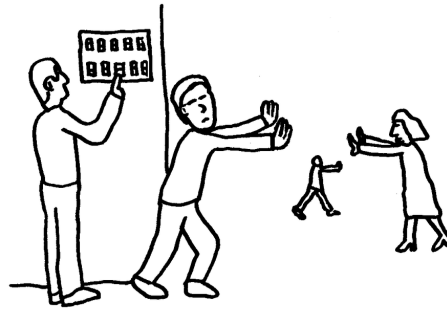
22 APRIL 2021 ISSUE #32

LEAVING CHURCH

SOMETIMES IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LEAVE AFTER A SERVICE BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME. THESE ARE SOME OF THE TACTICS THAT THE CHURCHWARDENS ADOPT:



JANGLING KEYS



TURNING OUT THE LIGHTS



APPROACHING PEOPLE WITH A ROTA



ORGANISING A WORK PARTY



THE COMMENCEMENT OF A GROUP HUG



SOME ODD OR UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOUR

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LEAVING THE CHURCH, LOITERING WITH GOD

I know it may have been a long time since you hosted a party or invited a small group over, but I wonder whether you have had to use one of the above tactics (or similar) to get people to leave? This tactic may seem harsh or unfriendly but sometimes 'needs must.'

Not too long ago I had to adopt the tactic of turning down the background music that we use during private prayers in Church when it was clear that those who turned up, showed no sign of leaving after the hour was up. It was

wonderful, though, to see that folks were so keen to "loiter in God's presence...", a phrase used by a previous Archdeacon reflecting on Anna.

'And then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying.' (Luke 2:37).

Thankfully God's presence is not confined to a building so leaving after a service or meeting, hardly means separation from God's abiding presence, where we can always loiter without leaving. [ILM]

SUNDAY WORSHIP

With rules on restrictions evolving at a fast pace you might be wondering what will happen with services over the coming weeks. We are continuing to move back to in-person services whilst keeping some a few online for now - watch this space for any further info and updates.

SUNDAY 25 APRIL

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

SUNDAY 02 MAY

- 9.30am Zoom Family Service
- 11.00am In person Holy Communion

SUNDAY 09 MAY

- 11.00am In Person Morning Worship
followed by APCM
with Bible Cinema for Rec-Yrs 6

SUNDAY 16 MAY

- 11.00am In Person Holy Communion
with Film Bible Study for Yrs 11 & 12

SUNDAY 23 MAY

- 09.30am In Person BCP Communion
- 11.00am Zoom All Age Worship

Sunday groups for **Children & Young People** return this month, in church for Bible Cinema (9 May) and the Grid (30 May) and on Zoom for Film Bible Study (16 May)

Daily Prayers continues Monday to Thursday between 12pm and 1pm and the Taize Communion service will be in church on Wednesday 12th May at 8pm.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting, or **APCM**, will be held on Sunday 09 May at 11.45am after Morning Worship. Please join us if you can as we appoint the new PCC and pray for those who will steer our church into the forthcoming challenges – spiritual, pastoral, missional & financial.

PRAYERS

Lord we thank you for the easing of restrictions but we pray for countries across the world affected by a growing number of infections and a lack of vaccinations. May leaders across the world take a global approach and help poorer nations to fight this pandemic.

We pray for communities plagued by racism, help us to celebrate and welcome differences and give us the grace to see each of us as a child of God.

And we continue to pray for the family and friends of Layo Caulcrick, daughter of Mrs Oni, in their time of bereavement.

FLING WIDE THE DOOR

We are delighted that with the easing of restrictions many of the groups that normally use our venues, are back for the summer term. Ballet and tap with the Ashley Dance Academy, music with Tin Pan Annie and Tiny Tunes, karate with Funakoshi Karate, singing & signing with Sing & Sign and Swedish teaching with Smultontrallet are some of the activities that children will be able to do! St Barnabas is at the heart of our community and it is great to see so many different groups enjoying their activities within our church.

Alcoholic Anonymous are also back. Even with restricted numbers, leaders and members have been delighted to be able to return to in-person meetings in the Claris Hall after what has been a very difficult time for any living with addiction.

Our much loved **Barney's** baby and toddler group is also meeting once again! The group met outdoors for a 1st time at the end of March and was back this week for an indoor meeting. It has been lovely to meet with mums and meet their little ones, some of them who were born during lockdown. Barney's has provided them with a safe space to share conversations. The group is operating with limited numbers, so let us know if you would like to join.

Coffee anyone? Last but not least, we are getting ready for this: a coffee trailer in the car park, as shown opposite! Fear not, we will not be playing barrista, the plot will be hired out to a professional and we hope it will be a popular way to increase a community presence.



WHO WILL YOU VOTE FOR?

Housing. Youth Safety. Refugees. The Living Wage. Climate Change. For **Citizens UK**, these are the priority issues of their *London Manifesto* and they will be asking Sadiq Khan and Sean Bailey to pledge to acting on them at the **Mayoral Assembly** on Weds 28 April, 6-7:30pm. This is a ticketed and online event. Contact Richard if you would like to attend.

A WORD OF THANKS

This was the lovely email received from Glassdoor following the end of the season:

Thank you once again for your incredible support for the Glass Door dinner service this season. The service drew to a close on Sunday and we're pleased to have provided over 10,300 meals to at least 343 people since November, and to have connected 40 people with our caseworkers who had not previously engaged with our casework service. [...] Thank you.



ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON
CHURCH FOR ALL - INCLUDING YOU

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
Twitter: @stbarnabasSW4