

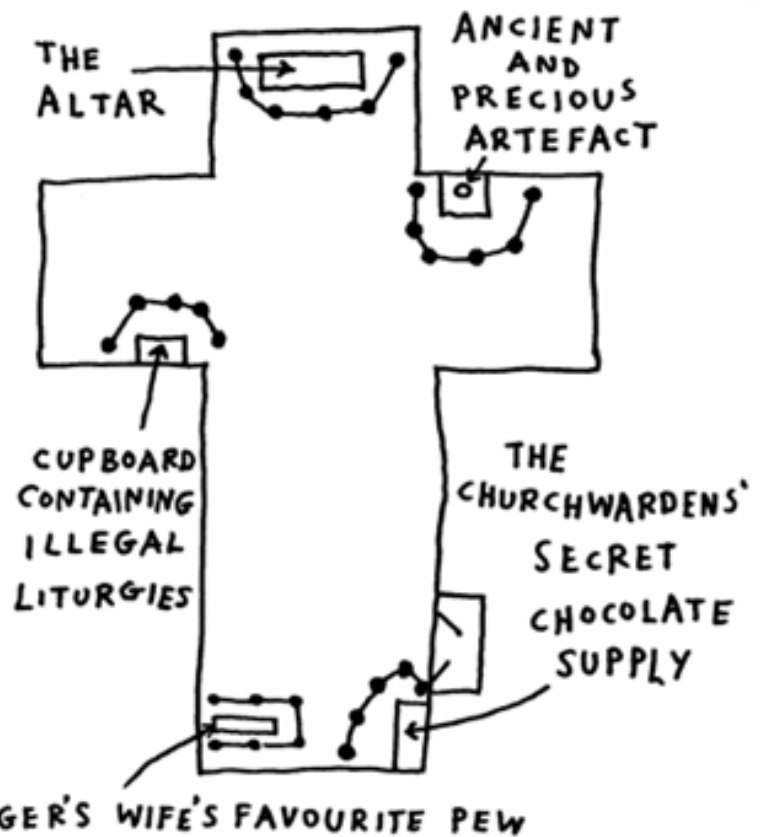
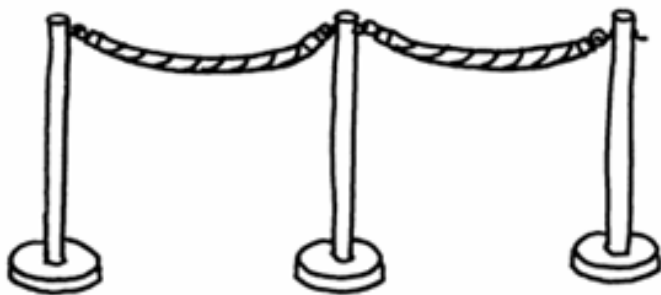
# THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

20 MAY 2021 ISSUE #34

## RESTRICTED AREAS

VISITORS TO A CHURCH ARE GENERALLY ALLOWED TO WANDER AROUND AS THEY PLEASE. HOWEVER, ONE OR TWO AREAS MAY BE ROPED-OFF



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## CHURCH FOR ALL WITH UNRESTRICTED ACCESS

To say all are welcome and at the same time, say (or put up signs) that all are restricted, seems to be giving a double message, especially when the restricted areas, squash the unrestricted areas into a tiny space.

Living with restrictions is uncomfortable to say the least and requires adjustments on so many levels. It is not surprising therefore that when restrictions are lifted, we remind ourselves of what we've missed and perhaps wonder how we coped for so long.

In our midday prayers in Church this week, we were reminded of Jesus' welcome and his attitude to unrestricted access.

*"Jesus said, let the little children come to me and do not stop them for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. (Matthew 19: 14-15).*

It seems to me that welcome and access are possibly two sides of the same coin and that in Jesus we have unrestricted access as children or as children of God [ILM].

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, 23rd May, is **Pentecost Sunday** which will be marked with 2 services in church:

9.30am BCP Communion Service  
11am All Age Morning Worship

The following Sundays will be as follows:

30th May: Morning Worship, 11.00am  
6th June: Family Service on zoom, 9.30am  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am

**Daily Prayer** continues Monday to Thursday, between 12.00pm and 1.00pm.

## THY KINGDOM COME

**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray, between Ascension and Pentecost, for God's Kingdom to come into their everyday lives.

As part of this movement, this week's Daily Prayers have been focused on the persecuted Church:

*"North Korea - For the persecuted church, fires are crucial. They make great hiding places. Imagine you had to hide your Bible to keep it out of sight should your house be searched. Digging a pit in the ground, placing your Bible in a plastic bag, and burying it, then lighting a fire over it will keep it safe."*



This is an extract from the attached Hidden Church booklet which takes you through various countries and testimonies to give us snapshot of what it is like not to be able to practise our faith openly. Behind the stories, there is also a message of hope, as despite the adversities we read about those who faith strives even in secret.

## PRAYERS

Lord we pray for those who live their faith in secret, in fear of retaliation. We pray for your protection over them, may they draw strength in knowing the depth of Christ's love for them and may you help us to pray for them and know how best to help them.

As the conflict in Gaza continues to cost the lives of many civilians, we pray that a ceasefire is rapidly agreed. Grant the leaders wisdom and compassion, that they may find a path that will enable a rapid de escalation of violence and set them on a long lasting peace process. May you help the international community to play the role that will help the process.

## WELCOMING MUMS ...



We are delighted to see our much loved Barney's parent and baby group being able to meet once again and welcoming new mums every week.

After a year where many mums gave birth in lockdown, unable to meet with family, friends and attend groups, the resuming of playgroups has been met with much joy and relief. After starting with a group of 4 mums, we are delighted to be welcoming new mums, some new to the area, some who had never been able to take their little one to a group before and some who have very recently given birth.

Barney's is growing and it is wonderful that St Barnabas is able to open its doors and venue to enable us to host what is such an important part of a baby, toddler and parents' life.

## WELCOMING KEANU

We are absolutely delighted to share this news coming from across the Channel. Catherine, who moved to France a couple of years ago, gave birth to Keanu Skye Hall Wagner on the 30th April in Nice!

Philip and Catherine are both delighted. As you can see on the picture, Catherine and Keanu are doing well. Congratulations, we hope to meet Keanu soon.



## WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS!

If you have attended church recently, you will have noticed that many banns are being read again, a true sign that couples, many of whom saw their wedding cancelled last year, are getting married.

Similarly, we are delighted that we will be celebrating baptisms again in the coming month, with many baptisms booked already. Please speak to Richard or Ian if you would like to discuss baptism.



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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](http://www.stbcc.co.uk)  
Facebook: @stbarnabassw4  
Twitter: @stbarnabasSW4