

THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

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VIRTUAL REALITY



PASSING THE
COLLECTION PLATE



ARRANGING THE FLOWERS



SHARING THE PEACE



PREACHING A SERMON



ARRIVING A BIT LATE



PERFORMING A
LITURGICAL DANCE

CartoonChurch.com

YOU CAN'T DO A BRING & SHARE LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

As you know, we do our best to keep up to speed with the technology for church. Plasma screens for services, Zoom during lockdown and, most recently, live-streaming on YouTube (our channel is called St Barnabas Clapham Common - for obvious reasons) which is great for those who can't make it on a given Sunday. Whatever next, I wonder...could church work in virtual reality? If the cartoon above is anything to go by, I don't think it's worth getting too excited about and I don't anticipate liturgical dance to feature on Oculus Rift any time soon.

Not because the technology isn't powerful enough to do it, of course, but because it can't replicate how church is supposed to be. Of the various metaphors the Bible uses to describe the church, they are collective and corporate not singular and solitary. This is why the pages of the New Testament are littered with the reciprocal pronoun 'one another'. Church is about being together not doing alone. In everyday terms, the essential reality (as this Sunday will remind us) is simply this: you can't do a bring and share lunch on your own. RT

ECO BAG



If you visited us over the Jubilee week-end you may have been handed an ECO BAG as pictured left. What is it? A paper bag to encourage us to do a small litter pick up on your way home.

Why? The idea is to raise awareness of the ECO CHURCH project, encourage us to look after our environment by doing small things and play a part towards the ECO CHURCH accreditation.

Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard, Chris Winnington-Ingram, and Monica McFarland are leading this project at St Barnabas and this is what they say about it:

As part of our ongoing commitment to growth and caring for God's creation, we are embarking on a journey focusing on environmental stewardship within St Barnabas. Our first big step was to join area churches in a certification process through Eco Church. This will give us a starting point from which to measure progress and provide new ideas and resources.

Our initial survey showed strong results in some aspects of the church's life, and we hope to build on this towards a Bronze level certification later this year. Some examples of possible projects include changing light bulbs to LED, hosting a litter pick up, using bee friendly plants, and generally keeping care for the Earth at the forefront of our minds. Keep an eye out for small changes around the church and stay tuned for tips on how to be eco friendly at home. If you are interested in learning more or joining the effort (so far our team is Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard, Chris Winnington-Ingram, and Monica McFarland), please see one of us or talk to Richard.

PRAYERS FOR THE EARTH

In line with our Eco Church project, we thought it would be good to share some prayers for the Earth and will publish some different ones every issue.

Times and Seasons

*We thank you for the rhythm of times and seasons
Make us more aware of our changing environment,
in our parks and gardens, in the countryside and by the sea.
Help us to appreciate all that is special
about the present time of the year
and to live our lives in keeping with the natural order.*

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND



St Barnabas kicked off the Jubilee celebrations with a fabulous evening concert where Sarah delighted us with some organ playing whilst Richard played the trumpet. Check out our Facebook page for a video if you were not fortunate enough to attend. The celebrations continued on Saturday with our Jubilee Funday - with face-painting, crown-making, live music, a royal bingo and a royal quiz, it was a really fun day for the whole community! The Jubilee festivities closed with a Jubilee service, which you can watch on our youtube channel! A big thank you to all those who made this week-end possible including Sarah for the music, Liz who put together the Funday and Tim - master of the Bingo and of the Quiz!

BRING & SHARE LUNCH

On Sunday (12th) we will be having a 'Bring & Share' lunch. As it is our 1st one since 2019, you may be wondering ...

- The Bring & Share lunch is for everyone, whether you have been with us for many years or you are new
- It takes place after the service (allowing for the time to set up tables) and we share the food that has been brought
- It is a chance to get to know one another better and this time around to give Ian a good send-off before he starts his interim ministry at St Peter's, Battersea.



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'ALL CHANGE PLEASE'

Well, this time it's not the driver on the bus but another 'driver' who seems to be saying to Ian..." all change please..." and just like the driver on the bus, cannot be disobeyed, so I must follow orders. To speak more plainly, you might have heard by now that I am off to St Peter's Church, Battersea for the last lap of my curacy, after almost 2 years here at St Barnabas. For those who don't know, a curacy usually lasts from 3-4 years and it is expected that curates move on to become Incumbents or Vicars, after their third year, in my case that would be June 2023.

So here I was, happily getting on with my ministry here under Richard's supervision when I was asked to consider, continuing my curacy at St Peter's but as their Interim Minister as they are currently without a Vicar. As this is a crucial aspect of my formation and training for whatever my next role and ministry would be, I couldn't let the opportunity pass me by. So, I accepted with very mixed feelings knowing that it would mean having to leave here (all change please!).

My last Sunday would be 19th June as I am preaching and presiding at St Christopher's Church, Walworth on Sunday 26th June after which I go on leave for two weeks. This means my first Sunday at St Peter's will be 17th July for 9 months. I expect therefore to be back at St Barnabas in May 2023 before eventually moving on to an Incumbent post, whenever and wherever that is. Right now, I will just concentrate on the 9 months ahead of me.

So, if you can, please come to the bring and share lunch on 12th June after church, which is perhaps the only St Barnabas distinctive that I am yet to experience, having waited patiently for 2 years! I do understand though, that some of you cannot make it as you are away (that is understandable and unavoidable.)

During my time here at St Barnabas, I have observed these distinctives which I think are part of the DNA of this church and I talked about these when I preached on 22nd May, so I won't bore you with another sermon!

- 1. Welcome for families with young children.*
- 2. Regular live and uplifting music.*
- 3. Varied Sunday menu of worship.*
- 4. Social action*
- 5. Daily midday prayers and monthly Taizé.*

Through these five distinctives, our love for Christ, church and community shines through under Richard's leadership which has been invaluable and therefore worthy of praise.

Finally, St Barnabas is such a great training ground for anyone seeking to pursue their vocation (not just ordination) as there are so many opportunities to serve, to learn, to be encouraged and to really feel that you are part of the church. I will miss all of you and though you will see me from time to time, I am confident in the fact that it is Christ who is before all things and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). So may we all know that we are held in the safe, loving and powerful hands of the Lord Jesus who has called us to come to Him and then to go for Him.

Yours in Him.

Ian