

The Buzz From St B's

Online

Summer 2025



St Barnabas Parish Church
Woodfield Road Hadleigh
Here For Everyone!

www.stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk

St Barnabas Parish Church Church Road Hadleigh SS7 2EJ

www.stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk

Parish Office - 01702 558591 (Hall Bookings / Enquiries)

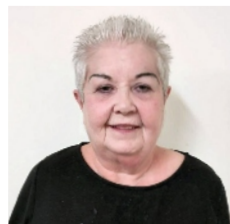
Messages left will be answered

Area Dean & Priest-in-Charge
Revd Pete Hillman
hadleigh.area.dean@gmail.com



Churchwarden Catherine
churchwardenstbs@gmail.com

Churchwarden Sandra
churchwardenstbs@gmail.com



Safeguarding Officer
Marion
marionketley157@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

1st and 3rd Sundays	9.30am Holy Communion
2nd and 4th Sundays	9.30am Morning Service

Mid-Week Service

Wednesdays 10.30am Holy Communion
(alternating with St James the Less Hadleigh)

For more information please visit:
www.stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk



COVER PICTURE ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE

With a group of retired clergy from our area, Marion and I visited the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance base at North Weald Airfield.

Very knowledgeable volunteer helpers explained the history of the charity and all about the helicopters, their crews and equipment, the call-out procedure, and the incidents the air ambulance attends. We were able to go into the hangar and see the latest helicopter. There we met two of the doctors and a paramedic, all members of the Air ambulance team. They explained further what they are called to do, even on-site surgery at the scene of an accident. Amazingly skilled and dedicated people.

Surprisingly, no part of the charity receives official funding, from the NHS, who they support, nor Government; all of the staff, pilots, doctors, and paramedics, are paid by charitable donations. Similarly, all the equipment, the instruments, drugs, and even the blood carried in the helicopter, supplied by the NHS, is paid for by the charity. It was explained that in this way, the air ambulance charity retains independence and is free from bureaucracy.

A fascinating visit; an insight into this wonderful life-saving work, completely dependent on donations, the dedicated crews and the volunteer helpers.



Dear Friends,

As many of you will know my colleague Revd Sue Croucher has been forced to step away from public ministry for a time due to medical treatment and recovery. Our prayers for Sue's recovery continue and we send our best wishes to her and her family.

You may be aware Sue's illness has meant a change to some of the service times over the summer months across the BTH Group. This is purely to enable me to cover as many of the Parishes in our BTH Group as possible. I am painfully aware that this means I have less time to spend getting to know folks in each place as I fly out of the door, robes flying at the end of a service before leaping into my little red sports car to zoom off to the next. So perhaps, in light of this it is worth giving you all a quick pen portrait of me so we can at least get to know each other a bit.

I have lived in Benfleet my whole life, having attended King John School as a child and teen, going onto SEEVIC before starting work in the City. There I worked as a Facilitates Manager for 18 years before leaving to become a Youth Worker for St George's as we built and opened the Legacy XS Youth Centre and Skatepark 20 years ago. My wife Jen and I were married 34 years ago and have two sons who have subsequently both married and given us three grandchildren, two boys and a girl.

We have a busy household which now includes foster children plus my mum who has a part of the house as her flat. We all live in the house that Jen and I bought as our first home when we got married which is in Lambeth Road, near the Tarpots. Living with us are our 19 year old cat McGonagal and black labradors Sirius (14) and Remus (6) - bonus points to those who have spotted the Harry Potter references there!

I was ordained in 2007 and served my curacy at Holy Trinity Rayleigh alongside Mike Lodge (the former Archdeacon of Southend) and Nick

Rowan (current Rochford Area Dean). Simultaneously I led the youth congregation at Legacy XS which flourished for several years. My next role was running St Mark's College, the Diocesan Residential Youth Centre. A beautiful Tudor building in Audley End. This was for 7 years before I stepped down and began looking after St George's as Associate Minister 6 years ago. I was subsequently appointed Priest in charge.

As I mentioned we are a fostering household and Jen and I began fostering 10 years ago. During this time we have looked after a variety of children. Mainly teenagers from different backgrounds including unaccompanied asylum seeking young people (including a Muslim lad from Syria) as well as British youngsters in care for various different reasons. This work has meant that we have both undertaken ongoing training and I, in particular, am trained to Foundation Degree level in Applied Therapeutic Practice relating to Trauma care.

I have served as a school governor and chair of governors and at this moment in time am a Trustee of a Multi Academy Trust that runs three large secondary schools catering for over 7,000 students. I still chair The Legacy XS Trust which operates the skatepark we built all those years ago and, as you are all aware, I now head up the BTH Group which includes four Parishes and five Churches. This whilst serving as Hadleigh Area Dean.

I am not sure if this little potted history has been of interest but it certainly exhausted me just writing it down! I consider it a privilege to serve God and his people as I have sought to do throughout my life. Whether as a Parish Priest, school governor, foster carer or simply as a husband, parent and grandparent. I can only do the things I do with the enabling of the Holy Spirit and the support of friends and family which, as members of the Parish, includes you! So thank you for your ongoing prayers, support and encouragement. I look forward to getting to know all of you better as the months pass. May God bless you all!

Ever yours

Pete



BTH Group

BENFLEET - THUNDERSLEY - HADLEIGH
CHURCHES BETTER TOGETHER

BTH is a new scheme of working for St Barnabas, and St James the Less, together with St George Thundersley, and St Peter Thundersley with St Michael Daws Heath.

The parishes will remain separate entities, but resources will be pooled and there will be additional paid and unpaid appointments, both clergy and lay people, sharing in the work and mission of the whole group.

For example, the priest responsible for St Barnabas and St James the Less will have a wider ranging ministry within BTH; similarly other leaders will also have team responsibilities.

It is intended that additional team appointments will include youth leaders, family workers, pastoral assistants and administrators, with coordinated events and activities, and single point contact for arranging weddings, baptisms and funerals.

A Team Leader, Revd Peter Hillman, has been appointed and implementing the scheme has begun. It will take time to put all the changes envisaged into place. In the meantime, the normal pattern of services, pastoral arrangements and events will continue at St Barnabas and at St James the Less.

Community life in our society is markedly different than in previous times. The church must adapt accordingly. The new way of working outlined above is designed to meet new challenges now and in future years, and be of great benefit to the local communities and the congregations involved.



MESSY CHURCH DATES

Monday 14th July
**SPECIAL 'BIG SPLASH'
EVENT!**

Monday 8th September
Monday 13th October



**CRAFT
STORY & SONG
COOKED MEAL**

**INTEREST & FUN
IN
THE MESSY CHURCH
GARDEN**



NAVIGATING LIFE



In May 2025, with Marion, I attended a very enjoyable weekend reunion of OCAAA, an Association of ex Royal Navy Apprentices, all very much in their later years, and to which I belong.

The weekend, I was the organiser, included a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield, where we re-dedicated the Memorial Stone, Bench, and Tree of the Association. There were convivial get-togethers and a celebration dinner at the hotel where we stayed. Our AGM ended the weekend.

Why am I telling you all this? Because of an email I received after the event from a member who had not previously been to one of our reunions; he said this: *"Mike, thank you for a very enjoyable weekend and for welcoming me to the fold. Just when I was beginning to think the world has gone mad it was refreshing to find that the old qualities of comradeship, conversation and a sense of humour are still going strong."*

Like my ex-apprentice colleague, we too may sometimes think that the world has gone mad! Navigating the pathway of life and living has become increasingly difficult. Who do I trust? What do I trust?

Dreadful wars, seemingly unstoppable, inflicting indescribable suffering on innocent people, confront us daily on our TV screens. Such cruelty and the seeming indifference to it by dictatorial, unmovable leaders and their supporters, are a disgrace to the human race. We watch in horror, with no power to do anything, except pray for peace.

We may trust close friends and relatives, but what about the false promises by politicians of all persuasions: things that were boldly stated as not going to happen, that are actually introduced and conversely, actions promised, abandoned or kicked down the road until they are out of sight? Then there are the huge decisions made and policies foisted upon us that are onerous or inexplicable, or fly in the face of public opinion! Democracy? Just a word.

Media channels urge that we embrace so-called, and little understood by anyone, AI – Artificial Intelligence. AI makes it possible to discourse on any subject known to mankind without knowing anything about it, super google! Voices and pictures are replicated and made to sound and look like the real thing, when in fact they are not.

Fake news is disseminated through multiple social media platforms, doing the rounds until falsehood is believed by millions of people to be true. Many internet savvy practitioners are known as 'Influencers'. The name itself is enough for me to metaphorically switch off.

Gender, male and female, as in the order of creation, understood by most people, has now become for the present generation a confused and confusing mess of choose for yourself, binary, non-binary, queer, and multiple other identities; too many to mention. Like wading through porridge!

If all this is not enough, recent cyber attacks on big name retailers have severely disrupted their operations, with huge financial loss and millions of disappointed customers; not to mention the leaking of their data to these unscrupulous hackers! I feel worn out compiling this catalogue of woes

What then do we do if we are not to hibernate or give up on life? Is there a solution?

Well, yes and no. The 'no' is the fact is that we have to adapt to the changing scenes of life and live with them, hopefully avoiding the scammers (another of life's pitfalls), there is no option.

The 'yes' is that adding Christian faith to the mix is hugely beneficial. Putting our trust in the one who stands for truth, for straight thinking, speaking and doing and who proclaims a Gospel of neighbourly love and peace, makes the greatest sense to me. Over many years I have seen and experienced the value of faith, however tenuous or fragile – great oaks from little acorns grow.

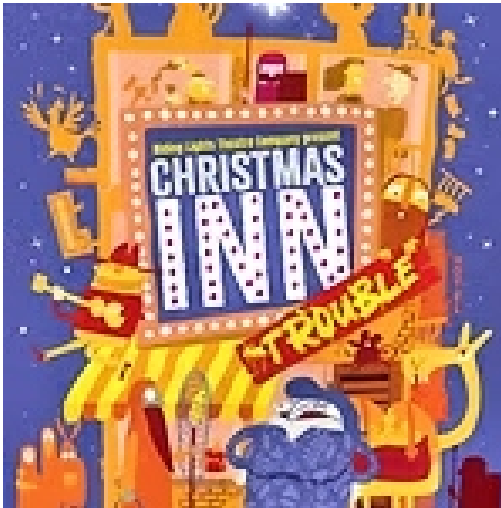
No, I am not suggesting that the pathway of faith is free from bumps along the way, or that Christians are protected from all the changes and chances of life. I am saying that in Christ, we can find a place where the buck stops, where there is an alternative, where God is with us in all of life.

Belonging to a worshipping church community is a source of friendship, love in action, trust; or at least it should be, and it is if Christian believers make it so, putting into practice the elements of faith made known in the life, the teaching, the example, and yes, the death of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The Letter to The Hebrews describes faith as '*the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen.*' Not the easiest of steps in our uncertain world, but once embraced, a life navigational aid like no other.

As my Navy friend said: "*comradeship, conversation and a sense of humour*" are also a great help in facing the 'mad' world we inhabit. I find these in abundance at St Barnabas, and Jesus is there!

Mike



ADVANCE NOTICE
SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY
6th DECEMBER 2025
4.00pm

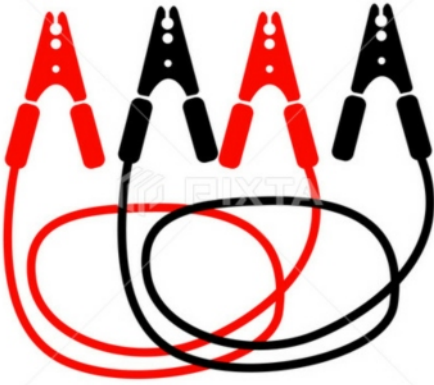
RIDING LIGHTS
THEATRE COMPANY
at
ST BARNABAS

Riding Lights Theatre Company is one of the UK's most productive and long-established independent theatre companies. Founded in York in 1977 and based at the Friargate Theatre in York, Riding Lights tours far and wide.

We are fortunate indeed that Riding Lights is coming to us to perform 'CHRISTMAS INN TROUBLE.' More details to follow

JUMP START YOUR DAY!

Musings from Kathy C



If we have a car, sometimes the battery can be flat for various reasons, and so our car cannot function. We can find or may know people who can bring it to life again. A Jump start, or a few hours charging, may be the answer, or we might need a new battery to get us going.

My line of thought led me on to think of times in life when our 'battery' goes flat and we don't know which way to turn. This is when my faith comes to the rescue. I ask God to help me in numerous situations.

It may seem simple, but the amazing thing is that he does - whether my difficulty is trivial or large. I don't understand how this happens. I do know I am blessed because somehow it does. Just as a re-charged battery enables a car to function properly again, my jump start enables me to get on with life.

I realise this may seem puzzling as I try to explain it. All I can say is that I know I'm not alone and can turn to God in prayer, with whatever words I use, at any time, day or night. I know my prayers are answered because my personal 'battery' is no longer flat, but fully charged.

When you feel 'flat', a Godly re-charge may just be the answer!



Celebrating in Style

St Barnabas' Day is the 11th of June and there is a service at 10.30 on the day. This year we celebrated with Afternoon Tea together on Saturday 7th and confirmed that, yes, it is always good to have cake!

On Sunday 8th we took time to remember and honour our very good friend Ann Lowes a member of St B's for over 50 years. Ann combined her strong Christian faith with a full and active life, teaching P.E in London schools, organising Christian holidays for young people and generally supporting her local church.

Ann left a generous legacy to St Barnabas enabling us to have new windows fitted in the renamed Lowes Hall. It is now looks more modern and eco efficient. We remember Ann with love and gratitude.

We also remembered former vicar, Revd Geoffrey Kemp, and were pleased to be given his 4 clerical stoles for the different church seasons, presented by his daughter Elizabeth Marshall who reminded us they were beautifully embroidered by her mother Joyce who actually won an award for her wonderful handiwork!



Revd Pete with
Elizabeth Marshall

The Lowes Hall
and members of
Ann's Family



What's On at St Barnabas in 2025? PLENTY!

ALL YEAR ROUND

SUNDAY SERVICE

Every Sunday at 09.30am

KETTLE'S ON

Every Tuesday Morning 10.30 - 12.00

MESSY CHURCH

Every 2nd Monday 4.00pm - 6.00pm (*except August*)

MOTHERS' UNION

Every 3rd Tuesday 2.30pm (*not August & December*)

IN ADDITION

AUGUST

Saturday 2nd All Saints Church Southend
6.00pm for 7.00pm **Quiz Night**
in aid of The Children's Society
Fish & Chip Supper included
Tickets £12 from Caroline Ambrose

Saturday 30th Parish Picnic

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14th Pet Service at 09.30am

Saturday 20th Shared Harvest Lunch
with St James the Less Hadleigh

OCTOBER

Friday 3rd Afternoon Tea
2.00pm in aid of The Children's Society
with Guest Speaker
Tickets £12 from Caroline Ambrose

NOVEMBER

30th onwards Nativity Festival

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th 4.00pm CHRISTMAS INN TROUBLE
Performance by
RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY
Sunday 14th Afternoon Christmas Concert with The
Allegro Choir (*time to be notified*)

Check the website

www.stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk

To enquire about services and events:
Call the Parish Office and leave a message

01702 558591

or

Email info@stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk
pop in and see us at 09.30am any Sunday

Need a Hall for your organisation to use or for a special function? St Barnabas Church has 2 large halls and a smaller lounge for hire.

Please contact the Parish Office:
01702 558591

If there is no answer, leave contact details and we will get back to you.



'KETTLE'S ON'
Cuppa
Refreshment & Chat
at St Barnabas
EVERY TUESDAY
10.30 - 12.00

We don't make it with holy water but our tea is divine!
Come and taste for yourself



We are sorry that The Buzz is no longer published in printed form - distribution became impossible. *Mike*
info@stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk