

The Buzz From St B's

Spring 2025

Online



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

catherine.negus@btinternet.com

Churchwarden Sandra

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Safeguarding Officer Marion

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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



This colourful cross was presented by Guy Negus. It hangs in the St Barnabas Woodfield Hall. The lovely artwork on the cross is a graphic illustration of the Christian belief that the cross is not about death, it is about life.

Services and vigils on Good Friday, solemnly mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus as he suffered the worst that mankind can inflict. But, Easter Sunday celebrates his risen life.

In the church itself, behind the altar, hangs another cross, a very large cross of plain, undecorated wood. There is no figure of Christ on the cross. The symbolism is the same as that of the decorated cross in the hall - He is not dead, he is risen! - the Christian cry in churches all over the world at Easter.

Day and night a light shines from behind the wooden cross, reminding everyone that, in the words of the disciple John: *'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.'*

On Easter Day, the resurrection of Jesus transformed the darkness of Good Friday, God Friday: darkness was turned to light, sin to forgiveness, hate to love, and death to eternal life.

The Good News of Easter is that all darkness in our lives can become light in the light of the resurrection. The promise of God in Jesus Christ is no less than new life now and life for ever.

What do we have to do? Nothing! except believe. *'to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.'* (John 1:12)



Dear Friends,

For those who I've not yet had the pleasure to meet I should introduce myself as the Team Leader of the new BTH Team (Benfleet, Thundersley and Hadleigh). My name is Pete Hillman and I've been based at St George's Thundersley for the last 5 years. I have been asked to head up and form the new Team Ministry that we are working towards creating.

The team will combine St George's Thundersley, St James the Less and St Barnabas, and St Peter's and St Michael's Daws Heath Parishes in one team, with a clergy team supporting; reaping the benefits of teamwork with the celebration of diversity. It's actually not a new idea but one that's been in the pipeline for many years. With Revd Ruth's retirement it's now time to take the next steps towards making this a reality.

All this will inevitably bring some change. As we move into Springtime the natural world around us is a reminder of the need for such change. Spring brings new life, new hope, new possibilities. It must surely be our hope and prayer that St B's will experience a Springtime of its own. With new life springing up in the shape of newcomers, both young and older, comes the need for us to embrace all these new things that God has in store. The need is to celebrate them and commit to working to nurture that new life.

I very much look forward to working with everyone at St Barnabas seeking ways to strengthen all the Parishes in our newly forming team through encouraging our mutual support and encouragement.

Ever yours in Jesus,
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.



LOVE

Following previous articles in The Buzz on 'Wisdom', 'Truth' and 'Forgiveness', to complete the quartet, some thoughts on the often perplexing subject of Love:

'Love is the morning and the evening star' is the opening gambit of Elmer Gantry, frequently repeated in the film of the same name. Burt Lancaster plays Gantry, an itinerant, smooth talking, charismatic preacher with persuasive gifts, able to captivate a crowd or charm an individual. However, Gantry is a fraud and is eventually unmasked. Love cannot be encapsulated in a clever catchphrase. The Greeks found it so complex that they divided love into eight categories, each having a different name: The three best known are *Philia (affectionate love)*, *Eros (sexual attraction)*, and *Agape (selfless love)*.

English language has to manage with just one word: 'love'; it not surprising then that we have problems with understanding and defining love. 'Love' means different things to different people in different situations and is very easily misconstrued. And yet, to be loved, and to love others, is the most fundamental human need. From cradle to grave we crave love. Countless novels, plays and films, are built around love that attracts and binds people together, and, when it fades or fails, the resulting fallout. It is this love, this attraction, this chemistry, this bonding between one person and another, that is uppermost in human psyche.

The best known Bible passage on love is St Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13. The Apostle, his own life transformed by the unconditional love of God he received in his encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, writes of love at its idyllic best. In Paul's words:

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” If only!

To make matters worse, at the start of the chapter, Paul says that however angelic sounding our voice may be, without love we are *‘a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.’* No matter how clever or knowledgeable we are, however strong our faith, however generous we may be, without love we are *‘nothing.’* Silver tongued? Devout? Clever? Philanthropic? Unless love is in the mix, forget it.

But, Paul is not about giving us a head-hanging guilt trip. He was well aware of his own shortcomings, and in the last part of 1 Corinthians 13, he acknowledges that we are all imperfect beings; whatever attributes or abilities we may possess, our love can never be perfect - breath a sigh of relief!

The apostle understood that we all have a built-in capacity to love. and that sometimes we will struggle, sometimes our love will be tarnished, fall short of the ideals he sets out. Hopefully, as we mature with age, make the transformation from a child to an adult, however long that may take, things will improve. We will never be perfect in love, but we can go on working at it, become the best we are able. Paul’s parting shot is simple, yet profound:

“So, faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Thanks be to God.

Mike

If you would like a copy of the previous articles on ‘Wisdom’ ‘Truth’ and ‘Forgiveness’ email info@stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk

NATIVITY FESTIVAL 2024 saw even more Nativity Scenes brought from home to be displayed in the church in the run up to Christmas.

THANK YOU everyone who shared their personal Nativities. A small selection below. One favourite was the Camel from Dubai, a holiday souvenir - the source of many smiles.

LET'S DO IT ALL AGAIN THIS YEAR!





If you have a Nativity Scene that you would like others to see, look out for notices this December and bring it along.



The small cone shaped Nativity was displayed on top of the piano. Peace is our prayer for us all



Jesus in a box. Why not come to St Barnabas on a Sunday and find Jesus outside the box





SAFEGUARDING

The resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury last year, shone the spotlight on the subject of abuse in the Church of England, not for the first time.

There have been a number of cases of abuse in the church, historic and ongoing, involving bishops, priests, lay ministers, and other church members. No matter what the context or nature, abuse matters, and requires urgent investigation. The church must be, and must be seen to be, a safe place for everyone, always.

Press, television and social media, rightly, though not always accurately, afford maximum publicity to church abuse, to the detriment of the church, its mission and its role in society. Public perception is such that very many people no longer trust the church and understandably vote with their feet.

There is another side to the discussion that should be more widely publicised: faithful clergy, lay ministers and church members across the land, diligently minister to, and care for, their parishes, their church members, and the community around. Much good work, often unseen and unknown to most people, continues daily by those who believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains Good News for everyone.

They do this within a framework of safeguarding. Little is aired in the media about the fact that the Church of England has built a comprehensive and effective system of safeguarding in the past few years. All clergy, even in retirement if they still assist in any way, all lay ministers, and all those in positions of leadership, have to successfully complete regular safeguarding courses. Those with most responsibility undertake the highest level of training in safeguarding. Clergy or lay people who, for whatever reason, fail to complete safeguarding training, are not allowed to continue in their role within the church.

Every parish church must have a designated and known Safeguarding Officer. There is National Safeguarding Team. At Diocesan level, experts

in safeguarding, some from outside the church, are in place to assist and advise, and to institute appropriate action when complaints, reports, or questions on safeguarding matters arise. Serious incidents are publicised in the media because existing safeguarding arrangements work, not simply because safeguarding is lacking. The clarion call of some outside the church, unaware of or critical of what is already happening, is often 'more must be done!' and of course, there must be constant scrutiny, and improvement where necessary.

To this end, on 11th February 2025 The General Synod of the Church of England (Church Government) voted on a motion that safeguarding in the church should be the complete responsibility of an outside body. Synod voted in favour of an amendment that the church move towards this end, not wanting to promise something that could not be immediately implemented. The role of safeguarding will ultimately be undertaken wholly by an independent body, outside of the church.

Interestingly, Lesley-Anne Ryder, external co-chair (no connection with the church) of the group presenting the paper on safeguarding to Synod, after an extensive interview process, commented:

"Having come to this from outside, I wondered whether I might find that everything is completely awful. That is indeed the impression one might reasonably gather from the various narratives and reports we hear. I was delighted to be pleasantly surprised. I didn't know there was so much good practice. You are right to face your failings and to change. You can also be encouraged that you are doing some things very well. This was a very clear theme of the insights our engagement process gathered: don't lose what is good."

Parish churches throughout the UK are safe and welcoming, offering not only worship services, but a huge range of activities and pastoral care for people of all ages and for families.

At St Barnabas, safeguarding is taken very seriously. We really do make everyone welcome, and we listen to what people who come have to say!

EASTER AT ST BARNABAS

GOOD FRIDAY 18th April

2.00pm – 3.00pm An Hour at The Cross

SATURDAY 19th April



10.30am - 1200

Messy Church Making Easter
Gardens & Easter Egg Hunt
Hot Cross Buns and Drinks too!



EASTER SUNDAY 20th April

09.30am Holy Communion

AN INVITATION

Families are warmly invited
to the service on Easter Sunday
The Service will be on screen, easy to follow
and Enjoyable!

Easter Gardens will be on display

IN THE BEGINNING



It came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com took unto himself a wife called Dorothy. Now Dot Com, as she was known, sayeth unto Abraham: "why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

Abraham, looking at his wife as though she were several saddlebags short of a camel, sayeth: "how come dearest?" And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns and in between to send messages saying what goods you have for sale and what others are prepared to pay for them." So the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all his goods without ever leaving his tent.

Soon the land rang with the sound of drums and frantic trading, but nobody noticed that the real riches were going to one drum dealer who cornered the market and ensured that no drum would work without his drumsticks. And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

So Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel (eBay as it came to be known) and said: "we need a name that reflects what we are, like "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators" and because it all started thanks to his wife's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Meanwhile, Abraham's cousin Joshua, being a young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK), muscled in on the family business and set up a drum-driven product location service that became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything, or GOOGLE.

And that, children, is how the Internet started.

What's On at St Barnabas in 2025 PLENTY!

ALL YEAR ROUND EVENTS

KETTLE'S ON

Every Tuesday Morning 10.30 - 12.00

MESSY CHURCH

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

MOTHER'S UNION

Every 3rd Tuesday 2,30pm (*not August & December*)

IN ADDITION

APRIL

Saturday 19th Messy Church Easter Egg Hunt &
Easter Gardens (*see page 7*)

MAY

Saturday 10th Table Sale

Saturday 17th Quiz

JUNE - ST BARNABAS' WEEKEND

Saturday 7th Strawberry Tea

Sunday 8th Naming of The Lowes Hall

Presentation of Stoles

Wednesday 11th Midweek Service on St Barnabas' Day

JULY

Afternoon Tea in aid of The Children's Society

(Date to be confirmed)

AUGUST

Saturday 30th Parish Picnic

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 14th Pet Service

Saturday 20th Shared Harvest Lunch
with St James the Less

NOVEMBER

30th onwards Nativity Festival

DECEMBER

Sunday 14th

Afternoon Christmas Concert with The Allegro Choir

To enquire about any of the events:

Call the Parish Office and leave a message

01702 558591

or

Email **info@stbarnabas-hadleigh.org.uk**

or

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*
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