

THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

19 JANUARY 2023 ISSUE #51

PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS



BUILT THE
TOWER



INSTALLED
GAS LIGHTING



MAGNIFICENT
BEARD



FOUNDED THE
SCHOOL



DID WONDERS
FOR THE ROSES



NAME ON
A PLAQUE



LARGELY
ABSENT



INTRODUCED
INNOVATIONS



ABOLISHED
INNOVATIONS



LEFT UNDER
A CLOUD



WROTE
A BOOK



BUILT CHURCH
ON NEW ESTATE



DAY OFF:
FRIDAY



UPSET THE
FLOWER ARRANGERS



PUB OUTREACH
MINISTRY



BEFRIENDED
THE METHODISTS



STARTED THE
FOOD BANK



KEPT THE
PLACE GOING

CartoonChurch.com

PREVIOUS INCUMBENTS, EVER PRESENT GOD

With the possible exception of some of our older members who, over the years, will have seen four or five vicars of St Barnabas come and go, I don't suppose you're as likely as I am to have spent much time thinking about the previous incumbents of the parish and how they might be remembered. And to be honest, it's not like I spend that much time thinking about it really... apart from when I sometimes do just because I am now what they were before.

Since its consecration by the Bishop of Rochester 1898 (in the days before Southwark Diocese existed) there have been eight incumbents of St Barnabas prior to me which (if you do the maths) inexorably makes me the ninth.

Or, sticking with the numbers but putting it differently, 2023 is the 125th year since our consecration as the parish of Clapham Common. And (heads up), starting this Sunday, 125 is a number that you are going to hear a lot this year as we look to celebrate this anniversary in a whole variety of ways - watch this space.

It goes without saying that it is only because of all those who have shaped the worship and mission of St Barnabas since the end of the 19th century, that we have reached this point in time. But more important than that is this: that whichever vicar is leading, and whatever they will be remembered for, it is God who has been our dwelling place from generation to generation (Psalm 90.1)

CANDLEMAS



Join us on Sun 29 Jan for our All Age Candlemas service at 11am. Come with your baptism candles, or any candle that you might use when you pray, and have them blessed. Then stay on for refreshments too ... when we hear there might be pancakes!
Preceded by 09.30 BCP Holy Communion

GLASS DOOR NIGHTSHELTER



Volunteers preparing dinner and ready to welcome guests

After a 2 year hiatus due to Covid, the Nightshelter fully reopened in December 2023. Here is an account from Monica, the nightshelter co-ordinator.

Our volunteers have been busy on Thursday evenings supporting our local homeless population by cooking and serving a meal as well as offering conversation and a warm place to sleep. There are six other locations in our area, each open a different night of the week during the Winter. At St Barnabas, we have three cooks, who with help from kitchen volunteers, take turns making delicious vegetable soup and fish pie each week. Puddings are provided by volunteers from our congregation and are always appreciated as home cooked sweets are uncommon for our guests. The volunteer crew is made up of about 35 different people each working three or four shifts during the season - some are from the church but many are just community friends who are interested in supporting our efforts. There are usually between 15-25 guests each night and the men sleep in Claris Hall with women in the Windrush room. Our volunteers find the experience very rewarding and many have been with us since we started back in 2016. We are very proud of the work we do at the Night Shelter and are grateful to everyone who has volunteered or donated in any way. It is a small, but significant attempt to offer comfort to those in need of it.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

After last month success, Richard is running another **Band Practice** for secondary-school aged young people. Whether you would like to sing, play or operate the sound desk at the next family service, or you just want to come and watch or chat - you are invited! and there will be snacks! There might also be a visit to the local foodbank. Watch out for more info. Friday 3rd -5.30pm-6.45pm, via Door 3.

WORKING WITH PRISONS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY LIFE

Through my work with national charity Care for the Family, this autumn I had the privilege of running a parenting course in Wandsworth Prison with their Anglican chaplain, Wendy Stephens. Research tells us that family relationships are the 'golden thread'



which help reduce reoffending and break the cycle of intergenerational crime, so when I was offered the chance to run a course with some of the dads, I felt it was an opportunity not to be missed. I have been running parenting courses for almost ten years, but never in a prison, and it was challenging! Our dads had low attention spans and found it difficult to concentrate. There were strong personalities to manage and complex family situations. But overall it was an amazing experience, and there were some fantastic moments when something significant seemed to be taking place. My highlight was watching the dads with their families at the extended family visit after the course, seeing them put into practice some of the principles we had worked on. Following the course, I have decided to continue volunteering at the prison, supporting chaplaincy with their work, hoping to bring a bit of light and hope to a dark place.

Kate Duroux

To find out more about Care for the Family, speak to Kate or check out the website: cff.org.uk.

SENIORS

We have this week resumed our Thursday lunches and welcomed some new people for the first time. It is lovely to gather and chat over some soup and bread, so if you know someone in your community who might enjoy it, please let them know. We alternate offering lunch one week, and an activity with tea and coffee the following one.

Lunch at 1pm: Jan 19th (after Taize at 12.15pm), Feb 2nd and Feb 16th (after Taize at 12.15pm)

Afternoon Tea & Coffee at 1pm: Jan 26th, Feb 9th

We are also really pleased to be able to offer a new activity class, **Keep on Moving**, aimed at the 70+ age bracket which focuses on flexibility and balance, every Tuesday, 2-3pm.

The class is partly subsidised by Wandsworth Council and costs £4 (1st session is free). Once again, if you know anyone who might be interested, do let them know.



ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON
CHURCH FOR ALL - INCLUDING YOU

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