

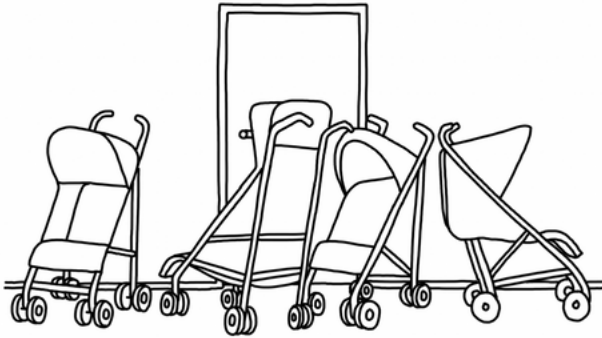
THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

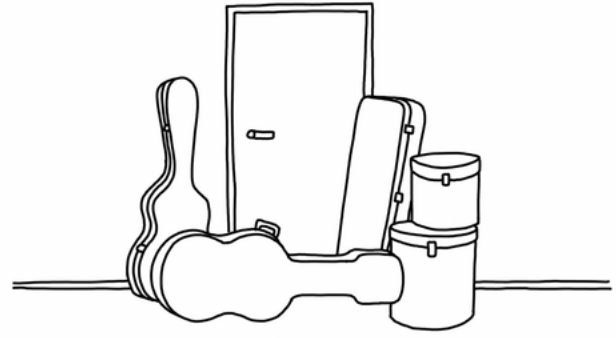
16 FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE #52

THE MEETING ROOM

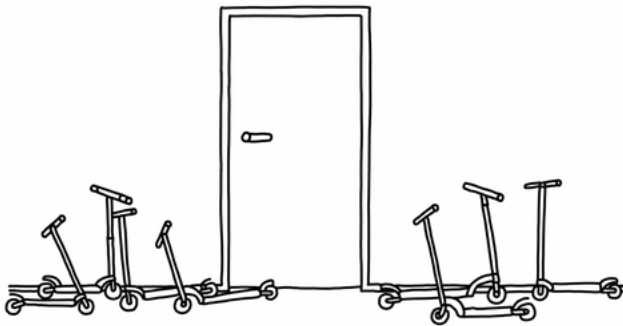
WHO IS IN THERE?



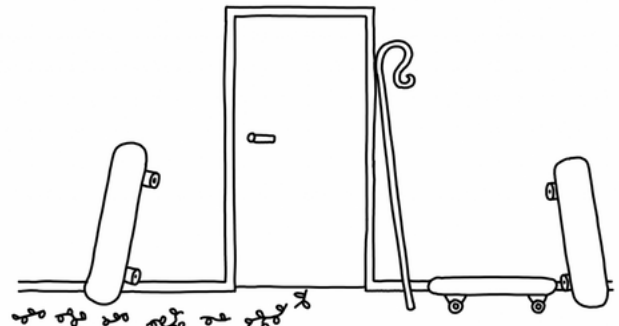
THE TODDLER GROUP



THE MUSIC TEAM



THE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB



THE BISHOP, MEDIATING BETWEEN THE
FLOWER ARRANGERS AND THE YOUTH GROUP

CartoonChurch.com

AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU

As you'd expect, I love Sundays. OK - I know what you're thinking; and yes, it is kind of my job, isn't it? (...although for the sake of accuracy/pedantry, I would point out that I am actually not an employee, and hence receive a stipend and not a salary - but I digress...).

As I was saying, I love Sundays. I love it when we gather together - different backgrounds and generations - for our collective act of worship (details of which are always posted on the home page of the church website: stbcc.co.uk). But I equally love all the other days of the week, too (although if I had to pick a least favourite it would be Thursday, for sure). And the reason for that is this: that Monday through Saturday, there is always so much going on in the church, every day of the week (see aforementioned website again!).

Just last week, tho', someone popped into church with a question for me. 'I always see lots of people with buggies here. Is this a nursery?' Like the subtitle to the cartoon, part of the question he was asking is Who is in there? And on one level, for sure, the more different ways we can answer that, the better.

However, I suppose the other part of his questions was, 'Who actually are you?' If he's not around on a Sunday, he'll not easily find out. So maybe, for his sake, and for others like him too, we have to be better at saying who we are. That's why, as part of our 125th year, we will put up three new St Barnabas signs around the outside. Not an end in itself of course - but a reminder that, whoever else might be using the space, God always is in the building, too.

GARDENING

Spring has (nearly!) sprung and as we look fondly towards the warmer weather we need your help to turn St Barnabas piece of God's creation into a beautiful eco friendly garden. Our next gardening days will be on 23rd Feb and 23rd Mar, so if you can volunteer, let us know - we need many hands for shaping shrubs, whisking out weeds etc - there will be something for everyone!

We'll soon be starting our planting for the year with lavender to attract pollinators and a focus on native plants. You are also welcome to bring any spare plants you may have at home. If you cannot make our first session, there will be many more chances for green fingers!

Andrew Wheatley-Hubbard

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Seeing as it is our 125th anniversary of St Barnabas we wanted to celebrate with an ambitious plan that would improve the facilities, support our eco-church project and hopefully uplift our spirits. We have 3 large projects that will require a large investment, financed from not only your generous giving but also grants and other charitable donations as well as some of our long-term savings.

The first project that many of you will be happy about is an upgrade to the toilets. These have served us well for the past 35 years, but with tiles falling off and many more daily users (night shelter guests, AA, Barneys, Icommunity groups) they are in dire need of a refresh.

We are very lucky to have a church that is a beautiful building. However, when the skies are grey outside it can feel like a cold and uninviting space. The church currently has mainly halogen lighting that blow on regular occurrence, meaning our Vicar has to go up a long ladder to change them. He does have God on his side but we thought it safer and more environmentally friendly to provide new wiring and a new lighting design: one that will highlight the many architectural features of this wonderful building, help us to have different lighting configurations for different services as well as enabling us to use the church for more community events, such as evening concerts.

The third and final project is to look into installing solar panels on the roof. These would be hidden from the ground and from the Common but would provide us with a sustainable energy footprint as well as reducing costs long-term given that most of our energy use is electric.

We will share more in due course, but we hope that you will support these projects that will benefit not only St Barnabas but also the wider community for decades to come.

Mike Burton

MYRTLE PAYNTER



Myrtle was a much loved member of our church and a much loved volunteer of Barney's. This is a moving tribute from Joanna Burdett, Barney's Coordinator.

When Barney's first opened its doors back in January 2012, our prayer was that it would be a haven for young families, where they would feel welcomed and loved during those precious (and often tumultuous) first few years. Myrtle was with us as a volunteer from the very beginning and was an essential part of making this prayer a reality.

The myrtle tree is an evergreen plant with fragrant blossoms, mentioned in the bible and full of meaning. It has long been used as a symbol of community and peace, spreading its fragrance throughout the world. Myrtle's name suited her perfectly. This is exactly what she did each week, as she gave up her time to serve our families. Her gentle presence and beautiful smile put everyone at ease. Babies were comfortable in her arms and parents found warmth and wisdom in her words. Toddlers would flock to the pretend kitchen to share a tea party with her and Merlena, just as the adults would join them on a tiny chair to share news of their week.

Myrtle was a woman of routine. Each week, once everything was tidied away and the floor swept (always practical) she would sit in a chair and eat her banana, waiting patiently for daily prayers to begin. When the time came, Myrtle would pray faithfully for the Barney's families; those who had showed up that week, those who hadn't managed to make it and those who were yet to walk through the door. Although the pandemic sadly put an end to Myrtle's weekly volunteering in Barney's, the prayers didn't stop and she continued to regularly ask for updates on the group and the individual families she had come to know.

Always humble, I think Myrtle would probably be surprised to hear about the number of times I've bumped into families, long grown out of toddler groups, who remember her and how she loved and welcomed them and their little ones. Yes, Myrtle understood the importance of prayer and of service, but she also understood the importance of nurturing the next generation. And this is something for which I (and my children) will be forever grateful.

Joanna Burdett

The funeral of Myrtle Paynter will be at St Barnabas, Friday 17 February at 12pm. We are also planning to plant a Myrtle tree in memory of Myrtle, in the grounds of St Barnabas, at the end of the gardening session on 23rd February around 11.30am.



ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON
CHURCH FOR ALL - INCLUDING YOU

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+ LENT AT ST BARNABAS+

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday 22 February
Ash Wednesday Communion Service
12.15pm
St Barnabas Clapham Common

LENT COURSE

TUESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT 7.30PM

28 FEB / 07 MAR / 14 MAR / 21 MAR

Windrush Room St Barnabas Clapham Common

BORDERS & **B**ELONGING

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

AMID THE POORLY TOLD, BLUNT STORIES IN OUR WORLD TODAY THAT DIVIDE,
POLARIZE AND REINFORCE STEREOTYPES, THESE STUDIES INVITE US
TO EXPLORE A TIMELESS HUMAN DRAMA THAT REVEALS
HOW WE MIGHT RESPOND MORE CREATIVELY TO
PRESSING CURRENT ISSUES ABOUT
BORDERS & **B**ELONGING

The discussions will be based on the book
Borders & Belonging, The Book of Ruth, a Story for our Times
by Padraig O Tuama and Glenn Jordan
which you can buy from Richard (£10).