PARISH OF CHIPPING BARNET TEAM MAGAZINE December 2023 & January 2024



St John the Baptist, Chipping Barnet

St Mark, Barnet Vale

St Peter, Arkley

St Stephen, Bells Hill

CHIPPING BARNET TEAM MINISTRY

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Team Vicar (St John the Baptist)

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Vacancy

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Reflections

On the 19th of December 2020 on our news channels and in our newspapers, a headline appeared saying, Christmas is cancelled. This was when the Prime Minister announced further lockdown rules during the pandemic for the Christmas holiday. As Christians we know that you cannot cancel the good news of the birth of Jesus, but, even though it was all about a good headline, of course it was a massive blow for millions of people that they could not spend Christmas with their loved ones. Many more people than usual spent Christmas Day without seeing anybody and of course we also missed celebrating the birth of Jesus with our Church Families.

On the day of the announcement, we all had a few hours to go and deliver any presents and I drove over to West London to help deliver Christmas presents to my daughter's partner's family. The roads were packed with everybody doing the same. When we arrived at our destination, we met for the first-time baby Harry who had been born a few months before. We celebrated his birth for a few minutes, from a distance, and the thought went through my mind that in a few days we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, and this put everything into context.

Loneliness is a bad thing for many throughout the year and Christmas Day 2020 highlighted to many what loneliness can be like. But there are many initiatives about to combat loneliness especially at Christmas. The charity I work for, Sense, has a campaign to combat loneliness for the disabled. There are so many ways that

people help, and many do this, without anybody knowing. The saying 'What would Jesus do?' applies in so many cases.



In 2015, along with a group from the Parish, I visited the Holy Land. It was such a memorable trip in so many ways. To be able to touch and see the exact place where Jesus was born, walked, or died for us all was beyond words. I remember spending a while looking at steps that Jesus had walked on and imagining him standing there, walking in Jesus' footsteps along the Via Dolorosa, kneeling to touch the place of Jesus birth and being overcome by the wonder and might of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This Christmas this land that Jesus walked is being ripped apart by war and suffering. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre might just be a small glimmer of hope. Control of the church itself is shared among several Christian denominations and secular entities, an arrangement essentially unchanged for over 160 years. The main denominations sharing property over parts of the church are the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic, and, to a lesser degree, the Coptic, Syriac, and Ethiopian Orthodox churches. If the world can see that it is possible for different denominations at a site that is so central to their beliefs can live in peace, perhaps there is a glimmer of hope for all people of that region. But whatever happens in the coming months, we must continue to pray for peace and understanding.

Geoff Nicholson

Editors' Page

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for the continued receipt of articles that you keep sending for this magazine. Please do keep them coming.

We have had a busy time at all the churches with the Remembrance Services, the Christmas fairs, All Souls' and All Saints' Services.

Please look elsewhere in the magazine for the dates for the various services for all the churches over the Christmas period.

I would like to say, along with Traudi, a huge thank you for your support at the Madagascar coffee morning, held on October 21st. It was a big success



and raised an amazing amount of £645. This money will be used towards the cost of a new roof on a school in Port Berge, Madagascar.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that you get to enjoy some time with your families or friends.

Geoff and Elaine.

I'm Back!!

Firstly, I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all who have supported my return to St John the Baptist as Verger, it has meant so much to me. I have been away 6 long years. So what have I been up to, I hear you ask? Well, I worked for a year at the Roman Amphitheatre on the Gorhambury Estate in St Albans. My line managers were Viscount James Grimston and Lady Rosanagh Innes Ker (Rosie and Jim). Working in the ticket office and also taking groups of school children around the ancient site. The Roman Theatre also do theatrical productions in the summer, which are well worth a visit. Whilst working here I applied to Waitrose as I wanted to have a bit more to do and guess what I soon became so involved I said a fond farewell to Gorhambury. Waitrose is a fun and exciting place to work here in Barnet. I trained to work on the meat and fish counter and soon became known as one of the 'Fish Friday Girls' along with my colleagues Nicola and Ann. I also work on the deli counter, the front desk, running tills, cashing up etc.



I am happy to report that Waitrose has been very understanding of me wanting to return to the church and I now just work Mondays and Wednesdays along with the occasional Saturday. I am delighted to be back and am spending my first few weeks getting re-acquainted with everything and everyone. I hope to start a new toddler group as soon as possible, also light lunches and afternoon tea on Fridays. I will, of course, keep you posted .

Elaine and Geoff have kindly given me a regular spot in the magazine so I can keep you updated and talk about new and exciting events we hope to do in the future.

Any suggestions please come and talk to me or just pop in for a cuppa.

Jackie

Letter from Sam

Dear Friends,

As Christmas draws closer (a frightening thought for all, where did that year go??) I thought I might inform you of two battles, raging in the Rectory.

Do Yorkshire puddings belong with Christmas dinner?

Does trifle have jelly in it?

As a Yorkshireman, I firmly believe that Yorkshire puddings belong everywhere. I could quite happily eat Yorkshire pudding for breakfast, lunch and dinner. My wife, on the other hand, was brought up to believe that Yorkshire pudding could only be enjoyed with roast beef, and that adding it to a turkey-based meal is outrageous indulgence.

Meanwhile, I have firm views on jelly. I believe that any food which doesn't have the decency to know which state it's in should not expect to be eaten. Is jelly a liquid, or a solid? It doesn't know, and neither do I. For years, I've been tormented by which has an ambiguous layer of philosophical uncertainty, driving me to Christmas existential crisis.



However, I'm delighted to say that in this, my wife and her family have provided solace. They, like me, recognise that jelly has no place in a trifle – and so my Christmases have proceeded without me having to question reality.

Ridiculous though these questions are (though fun to debate) they do encapsulate the oddity of Christmas. Suddenly, little things become very important. What time of the year do we drag a tree inside the house? Have we opened a little window and received a chocolate, or has our forgetfulness led to chocolate-based debt? Where are we eating our meal this year- and how do we make sure no-one is offended? Is it too early to buy Christmas sandwiches from the supermarket, or are we ruining Advent?

Having the space and capacity to ask these questions speaks to the privilege that many of us enjoy, in this country. We recently heard from a human rights lawyer Jaqueline Onalo during Racial Justice Sunday at SJB. She taught us that privilege isn't something to be ashamed of but it is something to recognise, and use to help others. The truth is that we are privileged if we can ask these questions. The fact that we need to ask about puddings or trees means that we have the privilege of a home, of knowing that a meal will be available on Christmas day, of knowing that we will be safe to meet with loved ones.

Of course, we shouldn't feel badly about this, but we should remember that there are plenty of people for whom none of this will be true. Across the world this Christmas, there will be people worrying if their home will be blown to pieces, if their families will be killed, if their children will starve or die of preventable disease. In Ukraine, in Israel, Palestine, across so many parts of the world touched by natural disaster, Christmas will come and go without a smile. In our very own Barnet, there will be parents desperately fretting that they can't afford a meal or presents, older people terrified that they won't be able to keep their home warm, people who are lonely or bereaved for whom Christmas is a time of despair, not hope.

How can we recognise and use our privilege to support those for whom Christmas will not be a time of joy?

The wonder of the Christmas message is that God Almighty became a baby, born to a peasant teenager and her carpenter husband. They were political outlaws who escaped persecution, they lived as immigrants and asylum seekers, then scratched a living in a tiny run-down town no-one wanted to live in.

God came to be part of the small bits of our lives, and the big bits; the good bits and the bad. He laughs with us as we rejoice in the warmth of family love, he weeps with us as we lose our children to violence and disease. He is equally present to the family who remembered to get a tree on time, and the family who couldn't afford a tree this year.

Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation, the celebration of 'God with us.' (or, Emmanuelle.) And Emmanuelle calls us to be with each other. To love each other, to support each other, to make the world a better place for each other. He reminds, and demands, that we're called not just to the people who look like or think like us, or who can afford the things we can, but to our neighbours who are so different to us we might question whether we really want anything to do with them at all. (A point which is even more relevant as discussions are underway about making sleeping in tents on the streets illegal, and as people are turned away in their tiny boats as they flee war, or else

are packed into hotels to live in hellish conditions.)

So, this Christmas, let us ask a fundamental question. If I'm privileged enough to know I have a house, family, a meal, a tree, and presents this Christmas, how can I use my privilege to support those who have none of that? How can I help the poor, the injured and the devastated to know that Emmanuelle is with them, how can I be too? Because, as the song goes, there are plenty of people in this country and across the world who won't get to know that it's Christmas, at all.

With love and every blessing this Advent and Christmas,

Fr. Sam

Regular Events in Church					
Friendship Group.	Every Monday 11am - 12.30 noon.				
Songsters A friendly informal singing group.	First Monday of every month 8 - 9.00 pm				
Toddlers Group Play time for pre-school children and an opportunity for mums and dads to have a cuppa and a chat. The restart date is on 11 th January 2024.	Every Thursday 10 - 11.30 am				
	Boys' choir	Every Tuesday 6.15 - 7.30 pm			
Church Choir practices	Mixed choir	Every Thursday 6 - 8pm			
	Men's and Boys' choir	Every Friday 7.30 - 9pm			
Healing Service A time to pray together for healing loved ones.	Every Wednesday 11.30 - 12 midday				

St John the Baptist Church Services Sunday

8 am Eucharist (BCP)

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30 am Family Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday

10.30am Eucharist (Said)

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Churchwardens' Chat

Dear friends.

Hello everyone, hope all is well with you, and your Christmas preparations are coming along well.

On September 17th our new Director of Music and Musical Mission Gary Cheung was introduced to our congregation for the first time. It was a great occasion. After the service we all welcomed him with Prosecco and cake. We are all looking forward to his mission, and the forming of a mixed voice choir. The choir is open to everyone male and female from age six and upwards and we hope that we will have children from the schools in the Barnet area.

The Trevor Bainbridge plaque has now been installed in the church.

October 1st, we held our Harvest Service. We then had our bring and share lunch which was very well attended and was a great social occasion. Thank you to Averill and her team for all the preparation, which made it a great success.

We also thank all the flower arrangers for the beautiful flowers in church





taking place twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

October was Black History Month. On Sunday the 29th October our 9-30am Eucharist was Racial Justice Sunday. Cyril Awere held a conversation with Jackie Onalo, it was very interesting and lasted about half an hour.

On Tuesday 24th October we welcomed Jackie Peacock as our new verger for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

We should also thank Steve Cording for his work keeping the pathways around the church clean and tidy and weed free.

Bruce Stringer Stewart Cracknell Assistant

Assistant Churchwarden Vivien Stringer







History Society & Barnet Museum LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024

- Talks are held at St John the Baptist Church (Wood Street, EN5 4BW) and each will be about 45 minutes long
- Talks are £2 or free to members of Barnet Museum and Local History Society

Monday 8 th January	3pm	Jenny Remfry Barnet Parish Church its History and Architecture		
Monday 12 th February	3pm	Rhianna Watkinson Historic Hendon		
Monday 11 th March	3pm	Paul Baker Terrific Totteridge		
Monday 8th April	3pm	Nick Dobson Swinging London an Illustrated Timeline of London in the 1960s		
Monday 13 th May	7.30p m	Chris Levitt The De Havilland Story and Museum		
Monday 10 th June	7.30p m	Bill Bass The HADAS Hopscotch dig in Barnet High Street		
Monday 8th July	7.30p m	Kat Alston Medieval Woman - What they Wore		
Monday 9th September 3p.		John Lynch Another Walk in the Park - more of London's Green Treasures		
Monday 14 th October		Dennis Bird The Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, What's it got to do with Barnet?		
November (date tba)	3pm	Gillian Gear Memorial Lecture		



Music Notes



Many congratulations to all the boys and gentlemen of the choir for their beautiful singing of the Fauré Requiem on All Souls' Day. A particular highlight was Julien Hadwen's moving performance of the Pie Jesu solo at the start of the communion. Thanks as ever to Mike West for his fine solos and to Gary Cheung for his supportive accompaniment throughout.

It was a pleasure recently to make some promotions amongst the trebles in acknowledgement of their pleasing progress. Thus, Oscar Prout and Hugo Whatton received their dark blue ribbons and medallions as Seniors and Alexander Gunner, Alex Stephenson and Felix Whatton their light blue ribbons, medallions and surplices as Juniors. They all have our best wishes. Every single one of them continues to benefit from the inspiring and exemplary lead given by David Hay.

All of us were very touched by Ian Johnston's enthusiastic and encouraging promotion of choral evensong in the last magazine. Thank you very much! It is worth adding that Jonathan Gregory's organ accompaniments are much appreciated by singers and listeners alike. Incidentally, one of the choir feels drawn to come all the way from Luton and regulars in the congregation travel from as far away as Enfield and Little Stanmore, for example.

As will be made clear elsewhere, the only evening service in Advent will be on December 10th, our Advent celebration with carols, hymns and readings. On the following Sunday, by tradition we support the St Peter's, Arkley carol service, or you may wish to attend the one at St Mary's, Monken Hadley, also on the 17th at 6.30 pm. Our own here at 'StJB' will take place on Christmas Eve as usual, Sunday 24th December at 7.30 pm.

Please look out for details of the Choir Request-a-Carol Coffee Morning, planned for Saturday, 16th December in the church. See you there!

And now a little reminiscence... Forty Years On, but one needs to go back a further decade. When my appointment to Barnet became known in the summer of 1975, at least one good soul in my previous parish of Sutton Coldfield spoke of having watched Songs of Praise from Barnet, even though that broadcast had been over three years earlier (9th January 1972, to be precise). Fast forward to 1983 and the cameras returned. This was most unusual, but another church had pulled out, leaving just three weeks' notice! Following an initial practice for everybody, the television rehearsal and recording took place on the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week. In the choir we had 19 boys and ten gentlemen (those were the days!) and there was a significant contribution by the wind band of QE Boys' School. Alan Parish played the organ superbly (as in 1972) and Yours Truly was placed in the pulpit on a make-shift podium to wave the baton, which promptly snapped when it collided with the canopy!! If I recall correctly, the only item requiring more than one 'take' was the Blessing given by the

rector, Revd Adrian Esdaile. Of course the church was full, and this was the time when the pews filled the whole building, when the current entrance was the choir vestry and before the kitchen and toilets were installed.

We had to wait until the autumn to watch the broadcast, Sunday evening 9th October, with evensong conveniently cancelled of course. The Songs of Praise viewing figures were far, far higher forty years ago and when I arrived at school I found I had seemingly become famous overnight, being treated to spontaneous applause in virtually every lesson throughout the week. In the meanwhile, our church had already been invited to take part in another broadcast, namely the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion on Radio 4. A moment to treasure was the choir's singing of A Spotless Rose by Herbert Howells. 1983 was certainly a year to remember, forty years on!

Terence Atkins



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Christmas Concert



Saturday 16th December 7.30 pm

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St Mark, Barnet Vale Churchwardens' Chat







Dear Friends,

Numbers have picked up during September/ October and we have seen quite a few new faces in recent weeks.

Richard Osborne came on 14th September to

carry out the annual inspection on behalf of the Archdeacon. He seemed happy with what he saw and with our future plans as laid out in the Mission Action Plan. We were able to discuss the financial issues we currently face with energy costs and the fact that all but essential work is currently on hold until finances improve.

He seemed satisfied that we were complying with all relevant rules and legislation.

Our Band Concert with Barnet Band was on 23rd September. This was well attended and raised £578. We increased the ticket price to £10 which



made it much easier to administer and gave significantly more profit than the previous concerts. Thanks to Anna for organizing and to Peter, Tristan, and Rose for arranging the drinks.

Fr Iain Lane was our celebrant again on 1st October while Fr Tristan was away and delivered the perfect sermon for St Michael



and All Angels, answering the question "Do Angels have wings?"

Our Harvest Celebration was on 8th October. The

morning service was a Boys' Brigade parade and enrolment service during which they made their annual pledges. Harvest gifts were brought to the front and donations towards the Bishop's appeal. In the afternoon we had the Harvest lunch with delicious food, a quiz from Tony and hilarious entertainment written by Tristan - a 'mash up' of two classic radio 4 comedies. I'm sorry, I haven't a clue and just a minute. Thanks go to the 15 people who turned up the day before to clean and decorate the church and to everyone who contributed food for the lunch and helped serve.

The Children's Society box opening was on 14th October with delicious cakes, a raffle and a fascinating talk from Liz and Les Glindon on their trip on a research boat in Antarctica. Thanks to Corinna for organizing, Liz for the talk and those who supplied and served cakes.



We marked All Souls Day on 2nd November with a Requiem Mass.

Finally, we are very sad to be losing Anna Wood as she has now moved to Essex. As well as being on the DCC and PCC, Anna has organized our fundraising and the band concerts for the past 10 years and also represented St Mark's on the Deanery Synod. She has contributed to our worship as a lector, intercessor, flower arranger and through the coffee rota. We thank Anna for the immense contribution she has made to life at St Mark's and wish her and Graham all the best for the future.

By the time you read this article we would have had the Christmas Bazaar on 25th November. Then it is Advent leading up to Christmas, details of which can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

God bless.

Caroline and John

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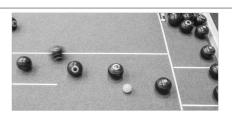
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by Monday 8th January.

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St Stephen's Churchwardens' Chat



Dear friends,

Here we are only a few weeks to Christmas.



Mothers & Others is doing so well that we are reducing it to 20 adults and 22 children. With a waiting list if need be.

Friendship group is a bit small at the moment as Gary& Stella have now found work, and Adam has moved to Dorset. We wish them all well.

The Quinquennial has been done now, we are waiting for a report. Our hall has been renovated and is looking very smart, ready for our Christmas Fair on December 2nd. Do please come and join us.





Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve, 3.30pm. Crib service, in the evening at 8pm Carol service.

Christmas Day, 10.30am.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.

Sue & Roger.



All services start at 11.15am

Letter from Tristan

Dear Friends.

Another year draws to a close, and just when the world seemed to be settling down post covid and adjusting to the effects of the war in Ukraine, the terrible events in Israel and Gaza have erupted. leaving us feeling helpless in the sight of yet more pain, suffering and destruction. Not for the first time in my ministry I have been asked by a number of people if 'this is it,' are 'the end times here?' Of course. I cannot answer one way or another, only God knows when that dreadful hour will come, but I can say that this question has been asked generation by generation, and the world has kept on spinning, so while it could be that time, it is likely that this is once again an all too familiar reminder of humanities fallen state, and our inability to live in peace. As those who look on, we can but pray for this situation and all afflicted by it, and ask that against the odds, humanity will at last learn to embrace the gift of peace. And, because we do not know when that hour comes, pray constantly, live with enjoyment of the gifts of life, hope and salvation, and live each day as if it could be the day of judgement.



We now enter the season of Advent, when by tradition we contemplate, appropriately, the Four Last things, death, judgment, heaven and hell. before celebrating the joy of our Lord's nativity. There will be many opportunities for rejoice in God's

love for us, and the promise of peace he offers to the world, from carols in the Mitre, as well as church, to Crib services and Midnight Mass. Do make sure that alongside the joy of family time, food and



gift giving that in sincerity and thanks you



worship Almighty God, the light of the world. October and November have seen Harvest Thanksgiving, with the offering of gifts at both churches. St Mark's Harvest Lunch included a jolly bit of entertainment, 'I'm sorry I haven't a minute,' with some brave and jolly contestants.

A big thank you to those at St Peter's, keeping things going through the interregnum, with its ups and downs, and even some significant leaks inside the church.

As always, the Sunday after Christmas (this year 31st December, New Year's Eve), we will have one joint team service at St Stephen's, at 10.30am. I am delighted that the new Bishop of Hertford, Jane, will be joining us to Celebrate and Preach. Do come along and join her and the rest of the Team in that celebration.

Yours in Christ. Tristan.

A few dates:

St Stephen's
CHRISTMAS EVE
3.30pm Crib Service
8pm Carol Service
CHRISTMAS DAY
10.30am Festal Eucharist

St Mark's
CHRISTMAS EVE
5pm Crib Service
11.15pm Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY
9.45am Festal Eucharist

Sunday 31st December

St Stephen's

Patronal Festival



10.30am

Team Festal Eucharist.

Celebrant & Preacher

Jane, Bishop of Hertford

Services at St Mark's

1st of the month—9.15am Parish Eucharist in Traditional Language
no Sunday School

Rest of the month — 9.15am Parish Eucharist with Sunday School

Mid-week Eucharist — 11.00am Thursday

ST MARK'S FUNDRAISING PRESENTS:

A Festive Christmas Concert





Borehamwood Brass





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Christmas services and

St Mark's, Barnet Vale

www.stmarksbarnet.weebly.com

Friday 15th December

8pm A Festive Christmas Concert with

Borehamwood Brass

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Family Crib Service

11.15 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.45am Festal Eucharist

St Stephen's, Bells Hill

www.ststephenbarnet.org.uk

Saturday 2nd December

11.30am -

Christmas Fair

2pm

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Crib Service

8pm Carols by candlelight

Christmas Day

10.30am Festal Eucharist

Sunday 31st December 2023

Celebrant & Preacher: the Bishop of Hertford.
All congregations from the four churches will join St Stephen's for their Patronal at 10:30am



St Peter's, www.stpetersa

Sunday 3rd Do

10.30am Advent Sund

Sunday 17th D

6.30pm Nine Lesson

followed by Christmas

4.30pm Welcome to

11.30pm Midnight Ma

Christmas

No servi

Churches Together for Chipping Barnet

Sunday 3rd December

1-5pm Barnet Christmas Fayre choirs and singers performing in St John the I

Wednesday 20th December

7.30pm Carol singing in The Mitre Pub, 58 Barnet High Street

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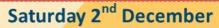
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Baptist Church

St John the Baptist

www.barnetparishchurch.org.uk



5.30pm Habs Girls' School Evensong Service CHURCH

Sunday 3rd December

5pm Community Carol Service

Saturday 9th December

6pm Sonorité Saxophone Quartet

Festive Family Concert

Sunday 10th December

11.30am Christingle Service

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Saturday 16th December

7.30pm Da Capo Band Christmas Concert

Saturday 23rd December

2.30pm Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Crib Service

7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Christmas Day Family Service

The church will be open for private prayer at selected times between the 27th and 30th December.

Please check the church website for details.



www.facebook.com/chippingbarnetparish

Parish Office tel. 020 8447 0350

parishoffice@chippingbarnetparish.co.uk

Women and Girls in choir



"I've always loved singing and being a member of the Minster choir. Being part of this movement of change towards more parity between boys and girls is something I'll be proud of for a long time, and to be appointed as head chorister is a tremendous honour. I hope to inspire younger singers, especially girls,", said 15 year old Ellie-Jean. (See 1.)

In 2021, Southwell Minster made history by appointing its first female head chorister in its 1000-year history. The movement of accepting girls as choristers in English Cathedrals, in fact, started in 1991 at Salisbury Cathedral, where the "top line" duties, singing with the men of the choir, are divided equally between boys and girls today.

The origin of men singing in churches could be traced back to the 8th century when Gregorian chants were first sung by monks. Men and boy choirs today is a tradition that has become a musical heritage in

many cathedrals and is still much loved and treasured by many. Salisbury Cathedral did certainly set a precedent for many to follow since 1991. It's introduction of girl choristers has ignited much debate for and against the movement. For many, the pure timbre of choirboys is the golden chalice whilst scientists have claimed that they are indistinguishable from choirgirls. Academic research has also been done to investigate the pros and cons of girls singing in cathedrals. When Dr A. Mackey began research for her thesis "New voice: the patterns and provisions for girls in the English Cathedral Choirs" (See 2.), she thought that she would emerge as a feminist, claiming "See, it's only because these here are women-haters." Yet, her research left her with a less clear-cut picture.

What about women then? Well, on a broader horizon, many Catholic and

Anglican church congregations today sing music that derived from the chant era in the setting of Merbecke and Missa de Angelis. Should we not extend the debate of girls and women in choirs to the congregation? Or was it where it started? St. Paul's Cathedral might have the answer since their admittance of a female alto chorister in 2017 and the introduction of girl choristers in 2022.

I myself have encountered women sharing stories from their adolescent that they were never allowed to sing in the church choir, and some didn't even know it was possible outside of the church where they grew up. One such lady did point out psalm 150 to me:

"O praise God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord."

MUEWS, music news, a column that brings music related news and topics, looking ahead from now with retrospect.

Related articles:

- 1.) https://
 www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/
 latest-news/making-history-again/
 #:~:text=Salisbury%20Cathedral%
 20was%20the%
 20first,foundation%20to%
 20support%20girl%20singers.
- 2.) https://research.bangor.ac.uk/portal/files/20576801/null
- 3.) https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10122161/1/ Stewart thesis.pdf
- 4.) https://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/first-female-choristers-welcomed-members-choir-st-johns

Gary Cheung, Director of Music, and Musical Outreach.

Where are they now? Adrian and Jean Esdaile

Here, in Epsom where we have been since we moved from the Rectory in Manor Road in October 2001.

We live in a little house in a road in a cul de sac which doesn't go anywhere, but we are close to the centre of Epsom. We are within walking distance of the shops, the trains, the buses, the Church, the pub and the hospital. We chose the house because of this access and because it is on the flat.

That is now becoming more important as we get older. It is not now possible to hurry for a train or walk up to the Downs and range over the open spaces of Box Hill and Headley Heath. The legs won't make it in spite a new hip and a new knee! However, we can drive up there and enjoy the view!

We have a small garden and, although, we have neighbours very close by, you can sit in the garden and imagine that you are miles from anywhere. We have shrubs and a generous fig tree which gives us a good crop of ripe figs every year.

We have now been here longer than we have been anywhere!

Adrian still takes Communion Services, especially at the little daughter Church of St Stephen on the Downs, Langley Vale, and helps at Epsom College as the Associate Chaplain. Preaching to 750 teenagers early on a Saturday morning is never an easy assignment and a real challenge! The Chaplain at the College is a very good friend and we work very well together - maybe not unlike the way that Martin Caldwell and I worked together when we shared the Church with the Methodist congregation.

In many ways St Martin-of-Tours, Epsom, is very much like St John the Baptist, Barnet – in size, in its musical tradition, its income and much more – even though it looks very different.

Our two sons and their families are not far away. Christopher is in Potters Bar and is an **International Human Rights** Lawyer working for a charity called 'Redress' which seeks to help those who have suffered torture and discrimination throughout the world. Steve is close to us in Great Bookham. He works on his own but has been involved recently (with others, of course) in the design, manufacture and marketing of an outside barbeque kitchen with its associated garden furniture

The Race Course is up on the downs and the summer meeting with the Oaks and the Derby as the highlight is a draw for many thousands of spectators. The Queen used to come every year

and her car would drive past the end of our road – whether the King will come remains to be seen. We used to go up sometimes and it is quite an experience to stand inside the track and watch and listen to the great shout 'They're off!' I once put £5 on a horse at 8-1 to win – and it did. The £40 came in very useful! The then current curate at St John the Baptist was with us, we had a quick staff meeting, and she put £5 on the same horse. It was a very good day!

Jean's health has been rather up and down – 'like Tower Bridge' she calls it – but with some support we manage pretty well. I usually do the cooking so any simple recipes will always be welcome.

Anyone is welcome to call in at any time and we always welcome news of the Parish where our ministry together was so happy and satisfying.

High Barnet Good Neighbour Scheme

Local charity that offers transport, help, support and lots more.

Volunteer Drivers Needed Befrienders Needed (mileage paid 45p)

Contact Diane at the GNS office in Church House.

020 8441 5678

highbarnet@goodneighbourscheme.org

www.goodneighbourscheme.org.uk

Registered charity 288318

Pattern of services at St Peter's during the present interregnum

1st Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.30am **1**st **Sunday** Family Service

2nd & **4**th **Sundays** Parish Eucharist

3rd Sunday Family Eucharist **5**th **Sunday** Matins

Services, including seasonal variations,

are listed in full in our magazine,

Arkley Church & Community News (available free at St Peter's),

and on our website:

www.stpetersarkley.com/

services

ST PETER'S CHURCH HALL

is available for hire—ideal for sit-down luncheons or dinners, for buffets and for smaller parties, and for meetings, exercise and training groups.

There is a kitchen and parking at the rear for over 20 cars

To book the Hall, please contact Iris Auburn 020 8449 0980

St. Peter, Arkley Churchwarden Chat

Our Remembrance Sunday service was at 10:50am on November 12th. As in previous years we laid wreaths at the Arkley Village War Memorial in conjunction with The Arkley Club. We are very grateful to Cindy who took this important service for us. Gerry and John joined us for the recitation and reading of the Arkley memorial lives lost. Monica read the poem In Flanders Fields. Our thoughts will of course also be with all those affected by the ongoing war in the Middle East.

We recently had our All-Souls evening service, which Tristan kindly took for us. It was a wonderful and well attended service remembering and praying for those we have lost.

We had our delightful annual Harvest Festival and pet blessing recently, taken by Rev Cindy Kent, the stars of the show were our four-legged buddies, Amber, Leya, Lexie and Victoria! Photos of Wendy's cats were on the board for a blessing too, and we even had a cuddly toy hippo!





Amelia read a prayer for us too. This was followed by a delicious Ploughman's Lunch in the church hall. Thanks to everyone that came along and for all donations which were taken to Homeless Action in Barnet, a wonderful local charity. We also had a jumble sale which raised some much-needed funds.



Thanks also to Sam, Brian, Linda, Geoff and Laurie for covering services for us, Brian took his first service on October 29th, it was a lovely and thoughtful service, and he received a warm welcome from all at St Peter's. As ever, thanks to Iris, Maureen, and Gill for all they do.

Best wishes, Sharon.

Boyes Sutton & Perry

Land & Property
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20 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 4BJ Telephone 020 8449 9155 Fax 020 8441 3584

www.bsplaw.co.uk



ARE YOU FEMALE, OVER 50 AND LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE?

Unfurnished accommodation for ladies over 50, in housing need and capable of independent living.

Applicants should be residing in the Borough of Barnet. Priority is given to those in Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and Friern Barnet.

The low cost accommodation comprises living-room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom or bed sits which are lower in cost.

Application forms. Please call 020 8440 4374 or visit our web site.



www.jesushospitalcharity.org.uk

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When visiting our Wood Street offices please ask for a PARKING VOUCHER

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SUSAN DENNY MD, Florist & Caterer (36 yrs service)

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Do you worry about having to look after a loved one?

Looking after or worrying that you will shortly have to look after a loved one can be stressful.

Local care provider José Rodriguez knows this having managed his mother's care for 10 years before she passed away. In fact, this experience was what caused him to change direction, after a successful career in the media, and do something that is "more than just a job."

José, who has lived in the area for over 20 years, now runs the local Visiting Angels in Barnet. Visiting Angels is a specialised in-home care provider dedicated to delivering the highest quality care for clients, something that perfectly matches José's personal values and ethos.

"I'm one of the many people today who's had a very mixed experience with the quality of care delivery," explained José. "Having seen first-hand the immense pressure families are under and through facing it myself, I felt compelled to launch Visiting Angels and to become a provider that everyone can turn to for help or advice, whether they're a client or not. I'm so driven to bring about real, positive change. Committed to extending a helping hand to those struggling with making tough decisions when managing care for their loved ones, José encourages families and clients to reach out and receive some free advice or support from him and his team. In addition to this José will be hosting a



number of talks discussing navigating the maze of ageing. This will include covering the main concerns and issues about care whilst offering plenty of tips to support a loved one and the family whilst promoting maintaining independence. On Saturday 20th January 2024, Jose will be holding a coffee morning at St John the Baptist church from 10am to 12 noon where he will be identifying the signs of whether a loved one needs care, what to do about it, and how to plan it whilst avoiding the pitfalls. José will also be running a column in the parish magazine, answering any questions that you may have about care. Should you have any questions then write in to jrodriguez@visiting-angels.co.uk

Should anyone be interested in José speaking at any other venues in the local community that you may think of benefit then please get in touch with him directly.

"We aim to lift pressure from distressed and overworked families who often make rushed decisions when the responsibility of care falls on them. We're a care provider for those in need of our services, and that includes the families of clients who need expert help in looking after their loved ones."

If you are someone who is concerned about having to make difficult choices on providing care for a loved one, then José and his team invite you to give Visiting Angels a call on 0203 924 1970 or email him directly at jrodriguez@visiting-angels.co.uk



4th Barnet Boys Brigade

Meets at

St Mark's Church, Barnet Vale

(on the Corner of Potters & Woodville Roads)

Every **Wednesday** in term time.

Anchors & Juniors (ages 4-11) at 5.30pm

Company & Seniors (ages 11-18) at 7.30pm





SJB BARNET CHURCH

Supporting Barnet to walk in God's footsteps.

HELP SJB to save the ORGAN!

Please donate

so we can continue

to serve our

community with it!



Please scan QR Code to donate:



SJB BARNET CHURCH

Supporting Barnet to walk in God's footsteps.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

A service for those who find this time of year difficult.

A service of scripture, silence and poetry, hymns and beautiful music. Especially for those who feel loss and pain and bewilderment.

Service will be followed by mince pies, tea and coffee.

Information: Linda Sanders 01707 653 963

2.30pm Saturday
23rd December
Ravenscroft
Chapel







Founded in 1558

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED

Housing

If you are looking for safe, supported housing in a well maintained and friendly community, you are 60+, have limited assets and a link to the Barnet area call us now on 020 8441 3222 for more information or email info@eleanorpalmertrust.org.uk

Nursing & Residential Care Home

Residents are treated as individuals with compassionate care given in a comfortable and homely environment. Self-funding or Council supported residents with varying needs from mobility issues to dementia are welcome.

For enquiries please call 020 8364 8003 or

email: manager@cantelowes.org.uk



Providing grants to individuals in financial hardship and to non-profit organisations located within the specified areas of benefit (EN5, EN4 and a small part of N11 and N14). Each application is considered on its own merits by the Board of Trustees

•White goods •Baby equipment

•Bedding •Household items

•furnishings •Disabled equipment

School uniform

And many other items......

Grant and Housing Application Forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.eleanorpalmertrust.org.uk

UK-Japan Music Society with St John the Baptist, Barnet Church, St Mary's, Monken Hadley and St Mark's, Barnet Vale, present

J.S.Bach St John Passion



J.S. バッハ

「ヨハネ受難曲」

5:30 pm Sunday 24th March 2024 St John the Baptist Church, High Barnet

Performed by Augmented UK-Japan Choir, Choirs of St John the Baptist Church, St Mary's, Monken Hadley, St Mark's, Barnet Vale with *International Soloists*

> With Professional Orchestra Jonathan Gregory Conductor

Tickets: £30 (with a glass of Prosecco), £20, £10 and £5

Available from https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/uk-japan-music-society/t-

pqkxnmy: From Sunday 26th November Paper tickets also available in the above churches, and from the Choirs.

Please write to ukjapanmusic@gmail.com for groups of 10 or more for discounts.

All enquiries, please write to ukjapanmusic@gmail.com or tel: +44 (0) 7986 196332

https://ukjapanmusicsociety.org.uk



Ticketsource's QR Code



Torch-Support & social group for the blind and partially sighted is looking for people to help on the third Saturday in the month. Help is also needed with the group—refreshments, general help, transporting members from North London to Underhill Baptist.

A rota can be arranged. Please call Elsie on 020 8449 7086.



Twas the Night Before Christmas A FESTIVE FAMILY CONCERT FOR ALL



SATURDAY 9th DEC at 6pm

St John the Baptist Church, Barnet

£13 General Admission £6 18-25s Under 18s FREE



SONORITÉ MUSIC

Barnet Church is open for **SCHOOL VISITS**, which can be a great learning experience and day out.





We want your visit to the Church to leave a lasting impression on pupils.

There is an exciting Church Trail that lets them explore the Church's secrets.

Please, contact the Parish office to organise a visit: 020 8447 0350



Valentine Poole Charity

The charity is seeking suitable, deserving people to join their list of Pensioners.

The qualification is:

"The pensioners shall be poor persons who, except in special cases to be approved by the (Charity) Commissioners, have resided in the area of benefit for not less than three years next preceding the time of appointment ..."

The area of benefit is defined as the former Urban Districts of Barnet and East Barnet.

Those seeking to be considered for inclusion should submit their name and address to the Clerk at the address below requesting an application form:

The Clerk to the Trustees
Valentine Poole Charity
Ewen Hall
Wood Street
Barnet
EN5 4BW

clerk@valentinepoole.org.uk

Prayer Diary December 2023

- 1st Pray for all who work with children and vulnerable adults.
- 2nd The work of the Good Neighbour's Scheme and its volunteers.
- 3rd In this Advent season let us say sorry for the times that we have fallen short.
- 4th. St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley and the people there.
- 5th Pray for the work of missionary societies.
- 6th Pray for the Barnet Food Bank and its 23rd Fr Tristan, and the people at volunteers.
- 7th Pray for St Albans Cursillo.
- 8th Pray for all living in the many Alms Houses in Barnet.
- 9th The North London Hospice.
- 10th Pray for the work of Churches Together for Chipping Barnet and for Hope Corner.
- 11th Mary Immaculate and St. Gregory, Father McKenna, and the people there.
- 12th Pray for the Noah's Ark, children's hospice
- 13th Chesterfield Road and Wood Street United Reformed Churches Dominic Grant and their people.
- 14th Pray for the sick, the frail, elderly and housebound in the parish and all who visit them.
- 15th Pray for the members of our church councils and the PCC.
- 16th Pray for the people at St Peter's Arkley.
- 17th Underhill Baptist Church for Pastor Ray Thomas, and the congregation there.

- 18th St John the Baptist Church, for Fr. Sam, Laurie and Geoff (LLWs) and the people there.
- 19th Pray for those marginalized members of our society.
- 20th Barnet Brookside Methodist church, for Shaun Sanders and for and the people there.
- 21st St Thomas the Apostle. Pray for all churches dedicated in his name.
- 22nd Pray for all on School Christmas holidays.
- St Mark's.
- 24th Pray for all the Christmas services in our churches today.
- 25th Give thanks for the birth of Our Lord and Saviour.
- 26th St. Stephen: Pray for all churches dedicated in his name; for St Stephen's Bells Hill, Fr Tristan, Linda Sanders (Reader) and the people there.
- 27th John, Apostle and Evangelist: Pray for all churches dedicated to St. John the Apostle.
- 28th Holy Innocents: Pray for all innocent child victims of war and oppression.
- 29th Pray for the peace of the world bringing to God all countries at war or in conflict.
- 30th Christ Church, Andy Rimmer, and the people there.
- 31st The emergency services in Barnet.



Prayer Diary January 2024 HAPPY NEW YEAR

- 1st The naming and circumcision of Jesus. Pray for this New Year and all it will bring.
- 2nd St Mark's Barnet Vale Fr. Tristan, and the people there.
- 3rd Pray for St Albans Cursillo.
- 4th The work of the Good Neighbour's Scheme and its volunteers.
- 5th Pray for all beginning a new school term.
- 6thThe Epiphany: As the wise men came to worship Jesus let us too offer Him our praise and worship.
- 7th The Baptism of Christ: Pray for all being prepared for baptism.
- 8th Pray for all currently in hospital or in care and nursing homes in Barnet.
- 9th Dominic Grant, Chesterfield Road and Wood Street United Reformed Churches and their people.
- 10th St Stephen's Bells Hill Fr Tristan and Linda Sanders and the people there.
- 11th Pray for all who work with children and vulnerable adults.
- 12th St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley and the people there.
- 13th Give thanks for all who work in the National Health Service.
- 14th Mary Immaculate and St. Gregory, Father McKenna, and the people there.
- 15th The North London Hospice.

- 16th Pray for our Mayor and Councillors.
- 17th Pray for our Bishops, Alan, Jane and Richard.
- 18th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Pray for the work of Churches Together for Chipping Barnet and Hope Corner.
- 19th Pray for the peace of the world.
- 20th Underhill Baptist Church Pastor Ray Thomas and the congregation there.
- 21st The emergency services in Barnet.
- 22nd Barnet Brookside Methodist church, for Shaun Sanders and the people there.
- 23rd Pray for the work of missionary societies.
- 24th Give thanks for the music in our churches.
- 25th The Conversion of Paul: Pray for all seeking to know our Lord.
- 26th Pray for all aid agencies and their work among the poorer nations of the world.
- 27th St John the Baptist Church, for the Fr. Sam, Laurie and Geoff (LLWs) and the people there.
- 28th Pray for the sick, the frail, elderly and housebound in the parish and all who visit them.
- 29th Christ Church, Revd Andy Rimmer, and the people there.
- 30th Give thanks for all who volunteer their time in anyway in our four churches.
- 31st Pray for the Fair-Trade organisation.





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Quiz Evening

Save the date!

Saturday 20th January 2024

Upper Hall, Church House, Wood St, Barnet, EN5 4BW

Keep a look out for further information to follow. We look forward to seeing you.



CHURCH HOUSE BADMINTON ON TUESDAYS 2PM TO 4PM

EVERYONE WELCOME

2024 Barnet Calendar.

It's entitled 'Barnet - On Screen, our Town and Surrounds on Film and TV.'
Price £10 and available from church staff (during the week) and Terence Atkins on Sundays.

Key Contacts

<u> </u>		
	Team Magazine	
Editor	Elaine and Geoff	01767 310234
	Nicholson	barnetteammag@gmail.com
Advertising	Tony Long	020 8447 0350 parishoffice@chippingbarnetparish.co.uk
General		
Bells Hill Burial Ground	Lynn Baker	8449 4689
Wives' Coffee Break	Janet Austin	8441 0138
Boys Brigade (Wednesday evenings)	Amanda Michalia	07956 846 449
2nd Barnet Scouts (Friday 7.30 pm)	Peter De Naeyer	8440 2437
Good Neighbour Scheme	Church House,	8441 5678
Hope Corner	Wood Street	8364 8756
185 Mays Lane, Barnet, Herts		hopecorner@outlook.com
Hall hire		
Church House, Wood Street	Elaine Nicholson	8449 4704
St Peter's, Arkley	Iris Auburn	8449 0980
St Stephen's Bells Hill	Georgina Awan	07725 941 410
St Mark's, Potters Lane	Eleanor Walton	07812 568 257 st.marks.hall.bookings21@gmail. com
Websites		
St Peter's, Arkley		www.stpetersarkley.com
St Mark's, Barnet Vale		www.stmarkbarnet.weebly.com
St Stephen's, Bells Hill		www.ststephenbarnet.org.uk
St John The Baptist		www.barnetparishchurch.org.uk
St. John the Baptist		
Altar Guild & Altar Servers	Laurie Little	8441 1193
Church Flowers	Averill Lovatt	8449 0696
Electoral Roll	Parish Office	8447 0350
Church Rota	Elaine Nicholson	07957523335
Guild of Ringers, Tower Captain	Nancy Surman	8440 9498
Mother's Union Representative	Vacant	
Librarian & Archivist	Vacant	
Parents & Toddlers (Tuesdays 10.00–11.30 am in Church)	Parish Office	8447 0350
Stewardship Recorder and Gift Aid	Sue Yates	8449 4824

Our four churches are part of Churches Together for Chipping Barnet along with Christ Church, St Albans Road, St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley, Roman Catholic Church St Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great in Union Street, The United Reformed Churches in Wood Street and Chesterfield Road, Underhill Baptist Church, Elton Avenue and the Methodist Church, Barnet Brookside in East Barnet and the Wesley Hall in Stapylton Road.



St Peter's Harvest flowers.



St Mark's Harvest flowers



St John the Baptist's Harvest flowers



St Stephen's Harvest Service