

# BR

## Magazine

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The Ireton family leave Finchley for Kenya

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Fun for toddlers, haven for parents

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transforming lives • changing the world



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**CAP Money**



From the Vicar

## No room at the inn

It's a sad fact that our frantic western culture has devalued time spent sharing our lives with others, in favour of a mad dash for greater achievement and prosperity. It would be a positive result if the crunching realities of the current economic downturn caused us to reassess life's priorities, and although this may be a vain hope for society at large, at least within the church I believe we can model a different way of living.

In September I preached on hospitality as a means of fulfilling not only Jesus' command to love others, but a crucial plank of mission. The sermon clearly struck a chord (it's still available as a download from the website) as I received a lot of feedback from people who felt dissatisfied with the isolated self sufficiency of modern life. What follows are extracts from an emailed response that particularly struck me.

*"It feels as if, in our busy London lives, we all live in our separate bubbles, and no-one intrudes on anyone else's - purely because it would require courage, emotional energy, and time that we haven't got. I long for - I believe the Lord longs for us to have - a lifestyle in which we overcome the barriers between us and 'love one another sincerely, from the heart'. I think this would require a radical difference in the way we think about church."*

'The personal cost of this is astronomic, but the prize is greater still - a loving assault on loneliness.'

*I don't think that means dropping the idea of mission until we are a close-knit community, I think that means doing mission as a family of people needing each other, rather than as a team of (or handful of individual) professionals."*

Living open and vulnerable lives where hospitality is a hallmark of our very nature is massively inconvenient. Yet that putting ourselves out for others is what Jesus did all the time. No one was too small or poor or lowly for him literally to stop

everything he was doing and turn his attention purely on them. People invaded his personal space, interrupted his 'chill out time', and took advantage of his loving nature. Yet he continued to reach out with both arms, without counting the cost, and often receiving rejection in return. Meanwhile I see in myself the inclination to close ranks and shut people out with the rebuttal "no room at the inn". My calloused heart has warm patches, but they are buried under a hard London exterior that only God's Holy Spirit can melt.

How we need to be changed to become more like Jesus, to set aside our own desires, preferences, comforts and time for the sake of loving others. The personal cost of this is astronomic, but the prize is greater still - a loving assault on loneliness.

Henry Kendal

One of our hopes for the new Missional Communities is that by being intentionally outward looking, we will start not only to break down the barriers between the outsider and the church community, but also soften the barriers in our own hearts.

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Peter Boreham is one of St Bs churchwardens and is part of the church@five team on Strawberry Vale. In this interview we find out a little bit about what is happening.



## INTERVIEW

### Who comes?

We normally have about 30-40 people. Around half live on the estate and the rest are people from St Bs who have committed to be part of church@five.

### What's your job?

All sorts - leading, preaching, clearing away, mopping up spillages etc!

### What else is happening?

We have midweek groups for mums & toddlers, boys, girls and teenagers. There are monthly open house brunch meetings, we had a Christmas party, and 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' when we distributed Christmas goodies to every home on the estate!

### Can I get involved?

We're always looking for "Godparents" who will pray for the estate, the services and the leadership team. You can also offer to help with one of the midweek groups. For more information, please email [neighbourhood@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:neighbourhood@stbarnabas.co.uk). We do welcome visitors on Sundays, but if you start visiting regularly we'll find plenty for you to do!

## So Peter, why haven't we seen so much of you at St Bs lately?

I'm part of the team running church@five, our latest congregation which meets every Sunday afternoon on the Strawberry Vale estate.

### What does a typical church@five meeting look like?

It's very informal with cabaret-style seating around tables, gallons of tea and coffee, and lots of kids running around. We start with some worship led from the guitar or keyboard followed by prayer and a short talk. Finally we eat together. There's also kids work during the service.

### What's the best bit?

Every week someone volunteers to be our pray-er of the week and the following week they share what they've been praying for and what's happened. We've had some outstanding answers to prayer - last week someone shared about their son being set free from alcohol addiction and the week before someone in chronic pain told us they'd been set free from it!





# Into Africa

By Jess Mariano

The beginning of a long journey for the Ireton family

The last six years at St Barnabas have been a fantastic time of learning and growing for the whole family

Kenya may be a great place to spend a holiday, with its stunning landscapes, amazing animals and vibrant people – but would you up sticks, leave everyone you know behind, and move out there? Well, Elliott and Jo Ireton are doing just that! Taking their children Alice (5), Minnie (2) and Isaac (five months), they are leaving for Naivasha, Kenya, this spring.

**For the last six years Elliott Ireton has been St Bs' children's pastor, while his wife Jo has been teaching at a primary school and co-ordinating the church's under-fives work. So why did they decide to move to Africa?**

Elliott explains: 'The last six years at St Barnabas have been a fantastic time of learning and growing for the whole family – literally, in the case of our three beautiful children, who have all been born since we've been here! But over two years ago we began to feel it was time to move on from our home and jobs in Finchley. We've been exploring what that next step might be, and part of that process involved a trip to Kenya in May 2010.'

Elliott and Jo visited the Helping Hands Organisation of Kenya in Naivasha. Since 2005 Helping Hands has been co-led by St Bs overseas members Bernie and Celia Mascher; it was set up in 1997 by Bernie's parents, Dr Hellmut and Elise Mascher, who had worked in Kenya since the 1960s and were moved by the difficulties facing disabled Kenyans and the general need for education and training.

## KENYA FACTS!

1. Kenya gained independence from the UK on 12 December 1963
2. The country is home to seven major ethnic groups
3. 40% of Kenyans live in poverty (on less than \$2 a day)
4. Around 80% of children attend primary school, with only 50% going on to secondary school
5. Alongside Swahili and English (the trade language) there are more than 40 local ethnic languages
6. Literacy in English is at 59%.

All information and figures are taken from UNESCO's website

Helping Hands was founded with the vision of bringing 'empowerment through education.' It has a primary school integrating disabled and non-disabled children; vocational training; and other ministries which have grown up in response to local need. Theological training is provided for Kenyan pastors, and the centre hosted reconciliation conferences following the post-election clashes in 2008.

Having been to Helping Hands myself, I can imagine how the Iretons may have felt on their visit. I found that a sense of God's peace envelops you from the moment you enter the gates. It is a vibrant place with its white walls, orange roofs, and green shrubs, where everyone seems to be smiling. The story of one little boy struck me as an example of how Helping Hands changes people's lives. Before he started at the school, this child was left at home all day because his disabilities were seen as shameful by his parents. Since his first silent, withdrawn days at school, he has become a happy, chatty, if not downright cheeky, little boy!

Elliott says: 'During our week in Naivasha we were incredibly excited by what we saw, and on our return we quickly realised that we had to go back and volunteer our skills to support Bernie and Celia. It's a great opportunity to work on such an inspiring project, especially as we can do it together as a family.'

Since their decision, Elliott and Jo have ploughed a lot of energy into getting ready. In September, Jo resigned from her teaching job and Elliott became part-time, and they began a cross-cultural course at All Nations College. They are also thinking about raising support: Helping Hands is a charity and, as volunteers, the Iretons will be financially dependent on friends, family and supporters. Once in Kenya, they will need to learn Swahili and face big cultural differences. There will be sacrifices: 'It's hard to think that our families won't see the kids so regularly as they are growing up,' says Elliott, 'but email and Skype will help. The new broadband cables they are laying in Naivasha will make a huge difference in communication.'

Life in Kenya will look quite different for the Ireton family. Alice and Minnie will spend their mornings at the Helping Hands school, and their afternoons being home-schooled alongside the Maschers' children, Abbie and Theon. Elliott's great practical and IT skills will be put to the test at the centre – on his first visit, he helped Bernie build a toilet! He will also be working with the students there, drawing on his experience of training young adults through the Equip scheme at St Bs. Jo's experience as a teacher will be invaluable. She says, 'I think getting involved in the school will be a great challenge for me. I am so used to my smart board, and in Kenya they use chalk. I'll have to be quite creative as it'll be back to basics!'

If you want to find out more about supporting Jo and Elliott, or are interested in serving overseas, please contact MTF coordinator, Jess Mariano at [jessicamariano@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:jessicamariano@stbarnabas.co.uk)





# Barney's: play, fun, mess... lifeline

"Great place to play, hang out and make new friends – with more and more blokes coming it means I can get to meet other fathers over a cuppa – and Jacob loves it too!"

## Some recent comments about Barney's:

"The support I received from and at Barney's after the birth of my first child when I was finding the transition to 'woman with child' 'pretty tricky, was really special. We appreciate the work the Barney's team does VERY much!"

"After having my second child in less than one and a half years, I was feeling very overwhelmed and having trouble leaving the house. Barney's was the first place I successfully took them both by myself. I'm very grateful for the warm and supportive environment."

"My son enjoys coming to Barney's very much. We are Japanese and we have a limited time staying here. So it's wonderful to have such a lovely time sharing with other people who speak other languages."

By Sally Dryden

As any parent knows, the early years of our children's lives are not always the easiest. Support from others can be a lifeline. When my older child was two and the younger one just born, we moved to an isolated part of Finchley Central. There was nowhere to walk to except the cemetery. My husband was often away with work and I had no other friends who had children, or any adults to spend time with. I now think I was heading for a breakdown - of both my marriage and my mental health - when a friend finally persuaded me to go to Barney's toddler group. I was reluctant, as other groups I'd tried were cliquey and unfriendly.

Barney's, however, was amazing. They were so welcoming, never letting anyone sit on their own. There was such a warmth to the group, which I now know was the Holy Spirit's presence. Within two weeks I felt I'd always been there! I found friendships; I was invited to family events at the church, and then to an Alpha course, where I met with Jesus in March 2003.

Now, seven years on, I have the privilege of leading Barney's as part of my ministry. Every Wednesday and Friday morning, a team of St Bs volunteers welcome 65 under fives and their parents or carers into the church. Through toys, crafts, messy play and singing, with a fruit snack for the children and plenty of tea and coffee for the adults, we aim to help both adults and children make friends, have fun and relax.

Barney's members are all local mums, dads, grandparents, childminders and nannies; they are from all round the world and of many different faiths. Our aim is to offer support, care and hope to all, and also to express the love of Christ through our actions: building relationships, sharing parenting advice and life experiences, and both laughing and crying with the families who attend.

We all regularly share our personal testimonies to God's grace if they are pertinent to any conversation we may be having. God can use all situations to His glory.

On the first Wednesday and Friday of each month, we host Toddler Praise, an interactive ten-minute slot with God for everyone. We sing worship songs, tell them about Jesus (with the help of lots of mess), pray, and finally send everyone off with a small gift which relates to the story. It is just the most amazing monthly event!

Through our relationships with our members, we are able to invite them to other family events at St Bs like our Family Services, Family Craft Morning, FamilyFESTs and GAP/MiniGAP. Many attend these and thoroughly enjoy them.

We also have the privilege of being able to offer prayer for (and with) many of our members, for healing, family issues, school places, employment, and so on. We have seen lots of answered prayers. We recently prayed for one dad who had been out of work for 18 months - the very next day he was offered a job which has since become a permanent contract – praise God! Another wonderful lady who after many miscarriages was sure she would never have another baby is now six months pregnant! We have seen prodigals returned, families restored and people give their lives to Jesus.

There is no special formula for opening someone's eyes to the love of Jesus, but I have found that serving people, loving them, supporting them, praying for them and telling them about what Jesus has done for me is like planting lots of seeds.

You never know when, or if, you will see a harvest. It is, however, a great privilege to be part of these families' lives, to lead them, watch and help them grow in their faith - to watch Jesus at work in their lives and see the transformation that He brings.

## 'Mummy, when I die, will I go to Hendon?'

Last week one of our mums said that her four year old had asked, "Mummy, when I die, will I go to Hendon?" – we laughed, but that is our prayer for him (to belong to heaven, that is!). People's lives are still impacted by the Barney's ministry just as mine was. Every week we cry with our members, we share their joy, we celebrate their successes and we give God their prayers – He loves them and so do we!



# What's the Bible all about?

by David Brown

It can be quite confusing can't it? For a few weeks the Bible readings at church are all from the book of Ezra in the Old Testament. Then for a few weeks we're looking at the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. And maybe you're left wondering: "Is there one storyline which ties the whole Bible together?" Well I think there is ... and I think it's the story of God's rule as King over the earth.

## Part 1

The story starts with God creating "the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). As creator, God is the rightful king over the earth and all people on earth (Psalm 47:7, Psalm 100:3). God's plan was that humanity, the pinnacle of his creation, should live under his rule, and should rule over his earth (Genesis 1:26). It all went wrong when Satan persuaded humanity to listen to him instead of listening to God, and humanity disobeyed God (Genesis 3).

The awful consequence of this was that Satan had usurped authority over the earth. That's why the Bible calls him "the god of this age" and the "prince of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31) and tells us that this world is "under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19).

God then sets in motion his plan to recover his rule over the earth. The first phase of the plan began when God chose one man, Abraham, (Genesis 12) and the people descended from him, the people of Israel, and made an agreement or "covenant" with them that they would be his people and would live under his rule. Life under God's rule is summed up in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:3-6).

The rest of the Old Testament is the account of how Israel lived as God's covenant people (Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Kings). It also records God's conversation with his people about the covenant. He spoke to them through prophets (eg Isaiah, Jeremiah) to point out when they failed to live up to his covenant and to call them back.

He spoke to them through poets (eg Psalms, Song of Songs) who expressed the joys and the challenges of living in covenant relationship with God. And he spoke to them through wise philosophers (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) who wrote down their thinking about what life could look like if lived under God's rule.

Sadly, the general pattern was that Israel repeatedly failed to live up to their calling as God's people. They chose not to live under God's rule, and as a result they suffered exile from their land. However, even during exile, God continued to speak to them through prophets (Daniel, Ezekiel) and the Old Testament ends with the story of how they were restored to the Land (Ezra & Nehemiah).

## Part 2

Approximately 400 years after the last events recorded in the Old Testament, God initiates the second and final phase of his plan to recover his rule over the earth, by sending his son, Jesus. All four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) tell the story of how Jesus declared God's rule as King in his preaching and teaching, and then demonstrated it in his obedient life, in his compassionate healings and in his powerful miracles. Finally, by his death, Jesus broke the power of the enemy of the Kingdom of God (Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 John 3:8), and initiated a new covenant between God and people.

## Is there one storyline which ties the whole Bible together?

But the story doesn't end there. God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, and appointed him to rule over all things (Ephesians 1:22). Jesus gathers a new people, in a new covenant relationship with God the Father, and fills them with the Holy Spirit. These people are empowered both to live under God's rule as King, and to continue Jesus' work of declaring and demonstrating God's rule. Through apostles who wrote to the followers of Jesus (eg Paul's letters to the Christians in Rome, Corinth etc) Jesus encourages and exhorts them to live out God's rule in their daily lives.

And how will it all end? Jesus will continue to rule until all his enemies are subject to him (1 Corinthians 15:25). Then, after Satan's final fling (2 Thessalonians 2), Jesus will hand the rule (the "kingdom") back to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28). And it all ends with a new beginning (Revelation 21) when God creates a new heaven and a new earth, and God's people enjoy unbroken fellowship with God, living under his rule for ever.

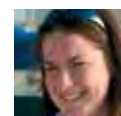
And that's what the Bible's all about!

This is a summary of one of the EQUIP School of Theology sessions at St Bs. To sign up for next year's course, starting in September 2011, email [equip@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:equip@stbarnabas.co.uk).



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See **Weekly Activities** overleaf for times and ages of all the following groups:

### Sunday Ministries

including **Tots Church, Mini Church and Kids Church**  
Hannah Feery  
(see contact details above)

### Midweek Groups

including **Kids Barnabas Group, Mini GAP Kids Club and GAP Kids Club**  
Hannah Feery  
(see contact details above)

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See **Weekly Activities** overleaf for times and ages of all the following groups:

### Sunday Ministries

including **The Sunday Session, Y66 and The Five**  
Liz Bewley  
(see contact details above)

### Midweek Groups

including **Ignition and Friday Night Chill**  
Liz Bewley  
(see contact details above)

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### GIVING

For information about how to give financially, gift aid and other tax-efficient giving schemes, contact:  
Siming Hill  
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020 8343 5783  
[siminghill@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:siminghill@stbarnabas.co.uk)



# Spring 2011 programme & directory

## Events diary

JANUARY		
03	Revival Prayer Meeting	8pm
08	Equip School of Theology	9am-1pm
15	Family Craft Morning	10.30am
17	PCC Meeting	7.30pm
22	Japanese Conference	10.30am
29	Dance in Movement and Worship Day	10am-4.30pm
FEBRUARY		
02	Welcome Supper	8pm
03	CAP Money course starts	8pm
07	Revival Prayer Meeting	8pm
12	Equip School of Theology	9am-1pm
13	Family Worship Gathering	3.30pm
16	Welcome to St Bs course starts	8pm
19	Family Craft Morning	10.30am
MARCH		
05	& 12 Marriage Preparation Course	
07	Revival Prayer Meeting	8pm
07	Barnabas Group Leaders' Meeting	8pm
14	PCC Meeting	7.30pm
19	Family Craft Morning	10.30am
24	Welcome Supper	8pm
26	Healing Ministry Training Day	9.30am
26	Springfest	2-4pm
APRIL		
02	Equip School of Theology	9am-1pm
04	Revival Prayer Meeting	8pm
10	St Barnabas Day and AGM	9.30am/11.30am/7pm
16	Family Craft Morning	10.30am
22	Good Friday Time at the Cross	1.30pm

► PROGRAMME

## Sunday Services

### Morning

#### 8am Holy Communion

A traditional prayer book service in the Side Chapel

#### 9.30am & 11.30am

#### Morning Worship

with Communion on 16 January, 13 February, 20 March and 17 April

#### JANUARY

02 Morning Worship

#### SERMON SERIES: THIS IS MY STORY

09 The story of a changed woman John 4  
16 The story of a healed man John 9  
23 The story of an endurer Psalm 23  
30 The story of a prisoner Acts 26

#### FEBRUARY

06 Morning Worship

#### SERMON SERIES: THE CROSS

20 Two vital goats Part 2 Leviticus 16:1-10  
27 Father forgive them Luke 23:34

#### MARCH

06 Mission Sunday  
13 Today you will be with me in paradise Luke 23:43  
20 Why have you forsaken me? Matthew 27:46  
27 It is finished John 19:30

#### APRIL

03 Mothers Day Family Services  
10 I Thirst John 19:28  
17 Into your hands I commend my spirit Luke 23:46  
24 Easter Day Family Celebration

### Evening

#### 5pm church@five at Strawberry Vale

An informal service at the Green Man Community Centre

#### 7pm

#### Evening Worship

with Communion on 16 January, 13 February, 20 March and 24 April

02 Evening Worship

09 The story of a changed woman John 4  
16 The story of a healed man John 9  
23 The story of an endurer Psalm 23  
30 The story of a prisoner Acts 26

06 Evening Worship

13 Two vital goats Part 1 Leviticus 16:1-16  
20 Two vital goats Part 2 Leviticus 16:1-10  
27 Father forgive them Luke 23:34

06 Mission Sunday  
13 Today you will be with me in paradise Luke 23:43  
20 Why have you forsaken me? Matthew 27:46  
27 It is finished John 19:30

03 This is your mother John 19:26-27  
10 I Thirst John 19:28  
17 Into your hands I commend my spirit Luke 23:46  
24 Easter Day Celebration

► PROGRAMME



**WANT TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE BUT DON'T  
KNOW WHERE TO START?**

The Besom provides a bridge between those who want to give time, money, things or skills, and those in need.

Just one of the ways you can give, is to come out on our van trips which are on alternate Saturday mornings, delivering donated household items to people in need.

The winter/spring van dates are:

8th January	19th February	2nd April
22nd January	5th March	16th April
5th February	19th March	

Email: [besominbarnet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:besominbarnet@yahoo.co.uk), call on  
Tel: 07531 645576 or speak to Sean and Hannah Knight



Hope House North London is a partner charity of St Bs, working particularly closely with St Bs' Estates Ministry.

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Helen Shannon, Projects Director  
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## CAP Money

We are starting an exciting new money management course which can help you manage your money better, clear any debts or simply deal with your money in a more godly way? Want to know more? Contact: Peter Sutton Tel: 07813 024 585 Email: [peter.sutton@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:peter.sutton@ucl.ac.uk)

## Wednesday Club

A friendly social club for senior citizens Wednesdays, 2.15pm-4pm in the Parish Hall at St Bs. With tea, cakes and entertainment – it's free and it's fun! Contact Chris Sykes: 020 8888 1786



**St Barnabas**  
transforming lives • changing the world

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[www.stbarnabas.co.uk](http://www.stbarnabas.co.uk)

## Weekly Activities

During term-time

SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Kids Church (5s-11s) 9.30am & 11.30am	English conversation classes for Japanese Women 10am-12noon	Barney's Toddler Group 9.30-11.30am	Barney's Toddler Group 9.30-11.30am
Mini Church (3s-4s) 9.30am & 11.30am	God Questions 8.00pm	Wednesday Club for Senior Citizens 2.15-4.15pm	Toddler Lunch Club 12noon-2pm
Tots Church (0s-3s) 9.50am & 11.50am	Ignition Cell (14s-18s) 7.30pm	Kids Barnabas Group (9s-11s) 4pm	Mini GAP Kids Club (5s-7s) & Mini GAP Café (for parents & carers) 5-6.30pm
The Sunday Session (11s-14s) 11.30am			
Y66 (11s-14s) 5pm			
The Five (14s-18s youth congregation) 5pm			
	THURSDAY		
	Thursday Women's Group 9.30am-12noon		GAP Kids Club (7s-11s) 7.30-9pm
			Friday Night Chill (11s-14s) 7-9pm



CHURCH



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Young Adults Ministry



Appointment  
Pending, Young  
Adults Ministry

Women's Ministry



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Oasis

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MTF



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Family and  
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Neighbourhood Administrator:  
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Estates Ministry

including: church@five, Blessing  
Brunches, Only Girls Allowed,  
Only Boys Allowed,  
Coffee and Kids  
Helen Shannon  
(see contact details above)

Family Ministry

Barney's Toddlers, Toddler  
Lunch Club, Mini GAP Café,  
Family Craft Mornings  
Sally Dryden  
(see contact details above)

Japanese Ministry

Heajin Slater: 020 8349 1701  
phjslater@hotmail.com

Senior Citizens Ministry

Chris Sykes: 020 8888 1786

Homeless Ministry

Peter Sutton  
07813 024585  
peter.sutton@ucl.ac.uk

For associated ministries  
**The Besom, Hope House,  
and CAP Money  
Management see over**

▲ DIRECTORY

# A PLACE OF ENCOUNTER



## A History of Change

There is a saying around St Barnabas that I heard pretty soon after arriving here: "constant change is here to stay"!

The original church building was a corrugated iron chapel that had stood on the site from 1885 until the present St Barnabas Church was built and consecrated in 1914.

This was at the end of the Edwardian era and the building has been a place of worship ever since. Because of when it was built, it reflects the style of worship back then. The emphases were on the majesty and remoteness of God, and the separation of the clergy from the congregation. This is definitely not the message we want to proclaim now.

Looking at some of the earliest photographs, it becomes clear just how much has changed since then! The original configuration of the interior had wooden chairs. These were purchased with the aid of a grant on condition that at least half were made available free of charge! Amazing though it may seem to us now, people had to pay for the privilege of sitting in those days. There were also choir benches, where the worship team stand today and a high pulpit to the left of the current platform. All this has changed. The Parish Hall and kitchen were created out of the main church, along with the gallery in 1961. The Pierce Hall was built alongside the main building in the 1980s. Then, of course, in the last ten years three pre-fab buildings have been added at the back of the site to accommodate the growing need for ministry space.

## Recent Changes

In 2009 we added a conservatory between the Woodside Hall and the Youth Hall to provide more space for youth ministry. At the same time more office space had to be created and over 20 people were moved into new spaces. This process is still continuing.

## Current Changes

Over the last few months you may have noticed more change happening in the main church. Our goal is to transform our worship space through reasonably small and affordable changes to decor and layout, to enhance intimacy and connectedness between those that minister and the congregation. These works have been made possible by a generous donation earlier this year, set aside for reordering the worship space. This includes:

- 1) The AV desk (the control centre for the PA, lighting and visual projection equipment) was dismantled and a new enclosure has been built to one side of its original position.
- 2) Welcome Area: The AV desk move was to allow the creation of a new welcome area alongside it which now also houses the bookshop. Our goal was to provide an area where visitors to the church could be met by hosts (our new 'meeters and greeters' team) and where they could explore what we are about, through literature and displays (both static and electronic). This area is already in use and is a hive of activity each Sunday.
- 3) Painting the inside of the church, to break the dark, drab colour of the unpainted walls, and so create a friendlier, warmer atmosphere.
- 4) Lighting improvements to the congregation seating area and also to the platform lighting; this is to create a warmer and more intimate environment by bringing the lighting lower.

Improving the church building – again!

by Mike Vamvadelis



Brightening up the church

5) We also plan to redesign the platform layout to accommodate our style of worship. This will involve moving the projector and screen to the centre of the platform and erecting a new, more permanent, backdrop.

6) Lastly, we want to replace our chairs, as our old ones have simply worn out. Alongside the new chairs in the main seating area, we also want to create a new lounge area where our current coffee servery has been in recent years – see sketch from Henry below.



Lounge area (far left)

Many of these works are being done 'in-house' and at very low cost.

In all this we recognise that decorating and moving around the furniture in itself doesn't really change anything. And yet we believe that in this case we're not engaged in a mere home-improvement scheme, but in something God has prompted us to do. We want our church building to be welcoming and attractive both for our members and for all who visit us. Our prayer is that it will also become a place of encounter with the living God.

# I saw God at work

The phrase that comes to mind when I read these stories is 'eye witnesses of his majesty' (2 Peter 1:16). These members of St Bs got a close-up of God's goodness as they served him:

## A TEN YEAR SEARCH

Liz Palmer



I grew up in a non-church going family but always had a feeling that God was around me. About 10 years ago, I met a Christian through

a band that I played with occasionally; it was then I realised that I had a deep longing to be close with God.

I started praying, but couldn't find a local church where I felt at home. With no-one close to talk to about my search, I became side-tracked by 'spiritual' courses and books as I tried to make sense of the difficulties from the past that continued to affect me. I sought love in unsuitable relationships which took me even further away from God. But he was on my case and sent me some people who would lead me to Jesus. I stumbled upon Christ Church Fulham's website and began listening to their sermons online, which deeply inspired and kept me on the right path.

Then earlier this year, completely out of the blue, I received a text from someone I'd met years ago whose name I didn't recognise. He wanted to know who the mystery 'Liz' was in his phone contacts. As we attempted to work out by text who the other was, he described himself - amongst other things - as 'Jesus lover'! Surprised and delighted by this and his boldness, I called him. We talked at length; he invited me to his church, prayed for me and has continued encouraging me.

On 18 July 2010, after listening online to Richard Pennystan from CCF, I followed his suggestion to put out two chairs,

invite Jesus in and speak with him as I would a friend. My sadness and regret about the way I had been living over the years poured out; I asked for forgiveness and for him to stay in my life and help me live in a new way. I could feel his love and compassion for me - and then I had an unmistakable encounter with him, in which he led me to the Father, leaving me in no doubt that I had been heard. Within three weeks I'd found St Barnabas, where I received a warm, personal welcome and the fellowship I'd been seeking.

**God was on my case and sent me some people who would lead me to Jesus**

I'm getting to know Jesus day by day and am overwhelmed by his love, by what he has done for us, and what this means for me and all who come to him. Since my baptism at St Bs on 14 November, I have felt a deep peace and wholeness in Christ that I never knew I could have. God speaks to me regularly and I hear him with increasing clarity. I know he guides me by the Holy Spirit in many different ways and I'm now living to serve Him.

I love what he's doing in me as I notice myself changing and growing in his love and I find myself waking each morning thanking Jesus, and knowing that no matter what challenges I will face as I live the way He calls, Jesus really is the way, the truth and the life for me.

## HEALING@FIVE

Helen Shannon



One week at church@ five (the new community congregation at Strawberry Vale) the focus of our corporate prayers was on healing. I felt I should open it up

by saying, 'Who here would like prayer for healing?' A few people responded and we began praying for them. Rachel Shipton was healed of a back injury; one lady whose ankle had got worse as we prayed for it the week before was prayed for again, and this time the pain went.

Another lady was also healed that week. She had been rehoused in Strawberry Vale; I got to know her when I visited her, and Besom helped to furnish her flat. She had needed two operations for a knee problem, and despite lots of physiotherapy she still found walking painful. That week we prayed for her knee - later on during the talk, her phone started ringing, and she got up and walked out to answer it. It was a call from her sister who was waiting outside her flat, so she went down the hill to let her sister

**It was as she was walking uphill that she realised she was not in pain. The knee was healed**

in, then returned to our meeting. It was as she was walking uphill without her stick that she realised she was not in pain any more. Her knee was healed - she has not needed her painkillers since!

## KIDS LOST IN WONDER

Hannah Feery



Something very special has been happening in Kids Church this term - I'm still buzzing! An 11 year old girl brought by a friend to Kids Church volunteered to be prayed for. She then asked why her body felt warm and her hands tingly. We explained she was feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the other children

had words and pictures for her, including that God says she is beautiful. She was both shocked and excited - I don't think she'll ever be the same again!

One Sunday at the 9.30 service we had a powerful encounter with God in worship. For five minutes, the children were just singing the word 'Hosanna' over and over again. The look on the children's faces as they worshipped was unforgettable; many of the leaders were in tears. God's presence was so heavy that one leader was unable to get to their feet for the 11.30 service. At that service, eight of the children were so lost in worship that we let them carry on worshipping at the back inside the

**At that service, eight of the children were so lost in worship that we let them carry on worshipping at the back inside the ministry tent while we continued with teaching**

ministry tent while we continued with teaching. None of the noise distracted them as they stood in God's presence; three girls later said they'd felt a cool breeze on their faces and in their hair, which they felt could only be the Holy Spirit inside the hot, crowded tent!

Some of the prophetic words the children heard in their tent were passed on at the adult services. One woman in particular said that one message, about God not looking at appearances but at our hearts, had been very accurate and timely for her and made a deep impact.

"Transforming Lives, Changing the World"...definitely! Children's ministry is awesome.

## TODAY IS THE DAY

Margaret Adams



At the Women's Day in October I was on the prayer ministry team. Anne Coles was inviting any that wanted prayer to come to the front, when she said - almost as an afterthought - 'There might be a woman here who's never invited Jesus into her life, and you may feel that today is the right day to do it. Just come forward for prayer with the others'.

**As I waited for people to come, a woman approached me and said, 'I'm that person - this is the day to ask Jesus into my life!'**

As I waited for people to come, a woman approached me and said, 'I'm that person - this is the day to ask Jesus into my life!' She had come all the way from West Sussex with a friend. She had done the Alpha course in another church, found it all very interesting, but didn't feel it applied to her personally - until Anne said those words, and suddenly she knew it was time. She had prayed in her seat and given her life to the Lord before she approached me, so all I needed to do was pray God's blessing and be happy for her!

Then, just as I was getting ready to leave, another woman approached me. A member of another church who occasionally comes to St Bs, she last visited four years ago with her daughter, who had a very painful and distressing case of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). The daughter came forward for prayer, and I was the one who prayed for her. She realised the IBS was gone the next day, and it has never recurred. The mother thought I'd probably like to know! Isn't God good?

If you have any stories of God at work in your life, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Margaret Peach [margaretpeach@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:margaretpeach@stbarnabas.co.uk)





OVER TO YOUTH

By Pippa Vincent

"They are the ones who can really impact their friends."



#### What the youth get up to behind the church on a Sunday afternoon

You could be forgiven for thinking that, like most churches, St Bs settles down for some peace and quiet after the morning congregation heads home for Sunday lunch, until the 7pm service ... but you couldn't be more wrong. From 3.30pm every Sunday there is a steady stream of young people heading up the side path towards the group of huts between St Bs and the railway line. They are getting ready – praying, preparing, practising – for their very own services which take place at 5pm.

There are two services. The Five is in the Youth Hall, for those aged between 14 and 18, and Y66, for those between 11 and 14, meets in the Tubeside Hall. "I love the fact that, at 5pm every Sunday, a strange collection of Portacabins comes alive with young people!" enthuses Liz Bewley, St Bs' youth pastor.

The Five service is a little different from what the adults are used to. They tend to start with some games and relationship-building exercises, followed by a low-key but relevant talk, and then to an extended time of prayer and worship –

but this is church that is accessible to them and that draws them closer to God. The ethos of The Five is to train the young people for leadership. They are given the responsibility of running the service themselves – deciding on activities, preparing and giving the talk, praying and ministering to others, leading worship, and setting up and clearing away. With the guidance of an enabling team they are "doing church for themselves". As Liz points out - "They are the ones who can really impact their friends". About 50% of the young people who attend The Five are from families within St Bs; the others have mainly been brought along by their friends. Half of the young people will then choose to stay on for the evening service at St Bs, helping them to feel part of the wider church community and preparing them for moving on beyond the youth work into the next stage of their church lives.

Y66, for 11s to 14s, bridges the gap between Kids Church and The Five (Y66 members came up with the name – 'Y' stands for asking questions and '66' for all the books in the Bible!). Much like The Five, the older members of Y66 are encouraged to start moving into leadership roles, speaking and leading worship. The vision for Y66 is to help young people "go deeper": walking with and supporting them as they make the transition to secondary schools where they suddenly face more challenges and choices in their lifestyles, friendships, faith, relationships and so on.

The stage between 11 and 14 can be difficult for many young people, struggling with no longer feeling like a child but at the same time not being fully autonomous. "We address all of those issues within the context of discipling them to go deeper into a living relationship with Jesus," Liz explains.

... not only have I grown more as a person but my faith in God has developed into something indescribable

Y66 has a buzz right from the start. People are eager to be there; the band is made up of their own members, and the service proceeds with plenty of fun, fellowship, food and worship. "Y66 is what church should be," Liz points out. "It's about family, having fun together and meeting Jesus."

As well as the Sunday services the 14 to 18-year-olds from The Five have their equivalent to Barnabas groups. "Ignition" meets on a Tuesday evening and enables the young people to form deeper relationships as they pray, worship and spend time drawing closer to God in small groups. Starting within the next few weeks, the Year 9 students (13-year-olds) from Y66 will be starting their own small group mid-week for the same purpose.

The plan is that this will enable them to also learn more leadership skills, to be put into practice on a Sunday evening.

Liz is hugely enthusiastic about the impact of both The Five and Y66. "Watching them engage with God in their own way is the most inspiring thing - whether that is understanding the love of Jesus for the first time, or discovering yet another way he can impact their lives now as teenagers. For me, this is what youth work is all about."



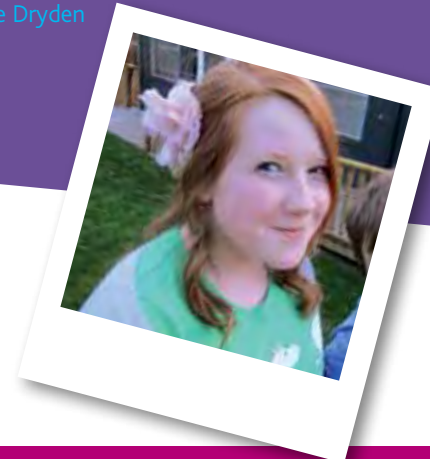
If you want to find out more about the youth ministry at St Bs please contact Liz Bewley at [lizbewley@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:lizbewley@stbarnabas.co.uk)



Y66

Y66 is a really fun, relaxed group for us 11s to 14s at 5 o'clock. We get to go deeper and explore the issues that we face in our day-to-day lives, as well as looking at some of the things in the Bible we don't fully understand, or just want to know more about. Recently, the older ones in this group (year 9s), including me, have taken on more leadership roles - we have been in the group for a while and we have new people every year. I have been leading worship with our band and a few weeks ago did a talk with Tamsyn Radmall (who attends the 14s to 18s group) about spending time with God at home. I really enjoy doing these sorts of things and I also enjoy the group. It's the perfect way to spend some time with God and learn about how he can help us in our everyday lives before returning to school on a Monday.

Alice Dryden



REAL ENCOUNTER

I had my first real encounter with God last year. I had a dream, where one of my friends was showing me a church, explaining that I needed to get closer to my spiritual side. For the first time I felt that I was really drawn to the idea of God's existence. Although I have been brought up in a Christian family, my parents attend a different church that unfortunately I had not been able to connect with. And so my friend and I decided to come to the Sunday morning sessions where we found out about the Five youth group. On my first day at the Five I was nervous, feeling that I would not fit in, but I was surprised to see how welcoming and nice everyone was. It has been a year and a bit since I have been going to the Five and Ignition, and with the help of Liz and my friends at the group, not only have I grown more as a person but my faith in God has developed into something indescribable. Although I still have a lot to learn, I'm now sure that every significant event that has taken place in my life has been because of the Holy Spirit. I was baptized on the 14th of November, and I hope that with that my relationship with God develops even more.

Helisa Shamloo





# News in Brief

A round-up of Who's doing What, Where, When and sometimes Why

## Staff Moves

With our fast-changing lives, each issue of B magazine sees one or two changes to the staff team and this term is no exception. At the beginning of November, Hannah Feery started as Children's Pastor. Hannah is well known to most of us, having been one of our Trainee Children's Pastors for 2 years and we are delighted that she has now joined the full-time staff. Hannah will be replacing Elliott Ireton who, after 6 years, is leaving to move to Kenya with his family (see page 04).



At the end of November, we were very pleased to welcome Trevlyn Yeates to the team as Office Administrator. Trevlyn, who has been a member of St Bs for many years, will be working full-time in the Admin Team alongside Gail Beckett who is now part-time.

We hope to make other appointments very soon as we interview for a young adults pastor and for a leader for Oakleigh Community Church.

## Mission Partners



We are used to seeing our mission partners over the summer as they return to the UK for holidays, but unusually this year, we have also enjoyed visits from a number of our overseas members on home leave through the autumn. Bernie and Celia Mascher have been in the UK and Canada for 3 months and have now returned to Kenya; Malcolm and Kerstin Gray are currently on extended home leave in the UK, returning to Thailand next year; Caroline Burns has also been here for 6 months and returns to Bolivia in January; and Kerry Stillman was able to have a month's holiday in the UK in October/November. Don't forget to pray for all our mission partners across the world, especially over Christmas when many are away from their families.

## St Bs Website

Have you checked out the new St Bs website lately? It contains news and information about all our events and activities and lots of contact information. You can also download sermons you have either missed or want to listen to again. Go to: [www.stbarnabas.co.uk](http://www.stbarnabas.co.uk)



## Finances

October saw one of the worst financial months in St Bs history, with huge concerns about whether we would be able to sustain the breadth of ministries we believe God has called us to. Much prayer and heart-searching continues as we face

difficult times. For more information see the presentation by our churchwarden, Peter Boreham, downloadable on our website: [www.stbarnabas.co.uk/financepresentation](http://www.stbarnabas.co.uk/financepresentation)



## Prospects: Vision, Values, Membership and Money

If you haven't got a copy of Prospects, our latest publication, pick up your free copy from the back of church. With details of our vision, our values, what being a member involves and how to give, this is a must for anyone who wants to know about being involved here at St Bs.



## church@five

In the last issue of B Magazine, this new service for the people of Strawberry Vale and the local neighbourhood was about to be launched. Now 3 months old, this friendly afternoon service is proving very popular. With a regular attendance of 30, plus 18 children and young people, the congregation have enjoyed worshipping, praying, discussing and eating together each week. They have also had the excitement of seeing a number of people healed (see page 10).



## Christmas at St Bs

As always there's plenty going on at St Bs this Christmas. Go to [www.stbarnabas.co.uk](http://www.stbarnabas.co.uk) for details of all our Christmas services - do come along and invite your friends too. Other events have included the Big Christmas Party on Strawberry Vale, the Senior Citizens Christmas Tea and Community Carols on the High Road - all of which have seen members of St Bs serving their local community and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth.

## Winterfest

Christmas came early to St Bs this year, with our annual Winterfest on Saturday 27 November. Once again the church was filled with families for an afternoon of family fun with games, crafts, bouncy castle and food. If you've never brought your family to one of these regular events, then note 26 March in your diary and come along to springfest.



## equip

### Equip School of Theology

September saw the launch, not only of our new Equip Internship training programme, but also the Equip School of Theology. Once a month on a Saturday morning, about 30 people gather together here at St Bs and, led by David Brown, they are getting their heads around how God reveals himself, and are discovering the over-arching story of the Bible. If you feel you've missed out, then why not register your interest now to be a part of next year's intake of new students - email [equip@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:equip@stbarnabas.co.uk)

## Life to the Full

Saturday 16 October saw the church filled with women for the day - many from St Bs, but also many from around the country, who came to worship, pray and share together. With speakers Kate Wharton and Lin Button, those who attended went away refreshed, and inspired once again to live life to the full.



## New Youth Discipleship Group

In response to requests from some Year 9 teenagers (aged 13-14) the youth department have started a 'going deeper' discipleship group after school on Monday nights. On Monday 29 November, the group met and began planning topics to discuss, and areas of leadership into which the young people could branch out through their other group, Y66, which meets at 5pm on Sundays. The idea is to open up the Bible, allow time for the ministry of the Holy Spirit and step out in leadership. A lot still needs to happen, including a name, but it's an exciting start ... anything could happen!

## You're never too old!

If you thought getting involved in mission is just for young people, St Bs Wednesday Club for senior citizens will prove you wrong! Mission Partner Ann-Marie Wilson shared with the club her experiences of working in a clinic in Pakistan and, when asked how they could help, she suggested that as well as praying, they could knit hats for the babies

- she explained that in 5 weeks there she had seen 100 hats used. Some months later Ann-Marie was amazed to be presented with 250 hats, pairs of booties, vests and blankets, knitted by members of the club! So in the same week that St Bs sent £10,000 to the flood victims in Pakistan, four parcels of knitted babywear was also sent out, proving that you're never too old to be actively involved!



## The Space

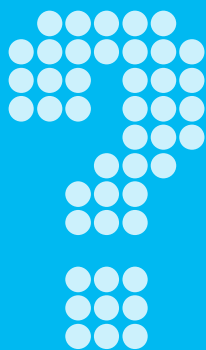
This new Sunday group, which meets in Southgate, has just celebrated its first anniversary. Led by John and Anne Coles with Andre and Zoe Radmall, the group aims to draw in those who do not always find traditional church easy. Now about 50 strong, the group is growing and they have had the joy of seeing a number of new believers and several miraculous healings. Both John and Andre continue as associate ministers at St Bs, but we will see less of them as they lead this group. To see an interview with John and Anne filmed at St Bs on Vision Sunday, go to our website: [www.stbarnabas.co.uk](http://www.stbarnabas.co.uk) and click on downloads for Vision Sunday.





**St Barnabas**  
transforming lives • changing the world

# GOOD QUESTIONS



**TUESDAYS 8-9:30 PM**

**1 FEB – 8 MARCH 2011**

**DRINKS & BITES**

How can there  
be a God,  
when there is so  
much suffering  
in the world?

Don't all  
religions lead  
to God?

Submit questions via facebook, email, or bring them along in person. What is your God question?

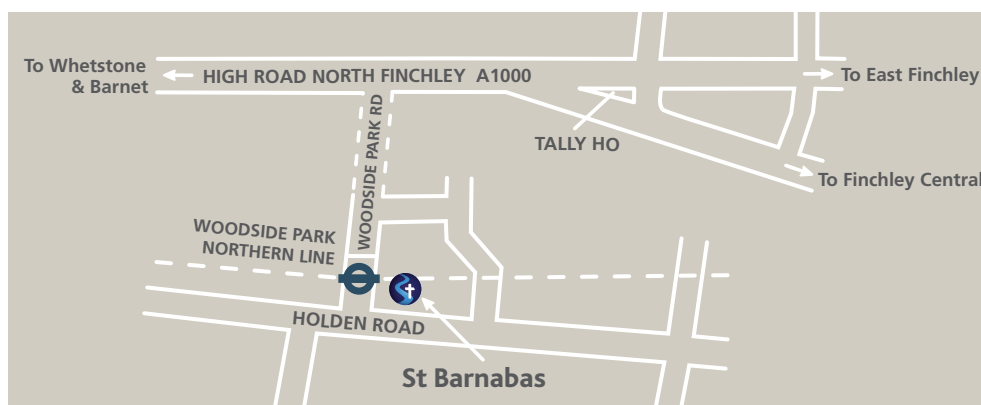


Find us on Facebook 'God Questions'

What is *your* God question?



Join us for an informal discussion on six Tuesday evenings  
Contact Helen Shannon on 020 8343 5789  
Email: [helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk](mailto:helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk)



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