

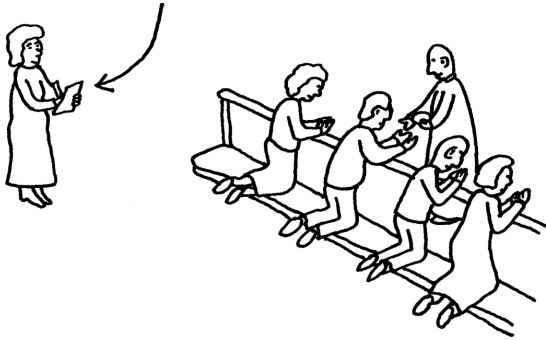
THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

06 MAY 2021 ISSUE #33

NUMBERS

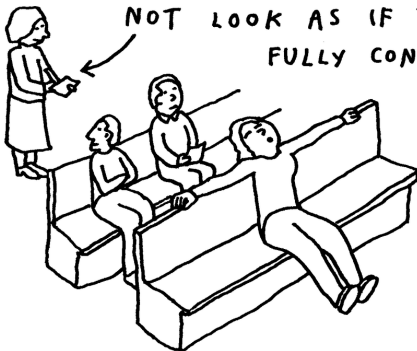
THIS IS THE LADY WHO COUNTS THE NUMBERS OF THOSE TAKING COMMUNION



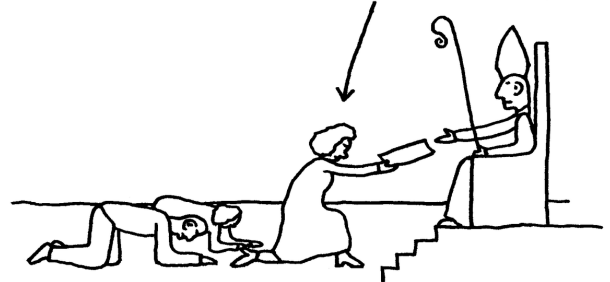
THIS IS THE MAN WHO COUNTS THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT SINGING THE HYMNS WITH GUSTO



THIS IS THE LADY WHO COUNTS THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT LOOK AS IF THEY ARE FULLY CONCENTRATING



EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY ARE SUMMONED BY THE BISHOP, TO WHOM THEY MUST PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS



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A NUMBER OF STORIES AND THE STORY THAT COUNTS

For an institution whose purpose is to tell the story of Jesus, the church can sometimes seem a little obsessed with numbers, especially at this, Annual Meeting-ish time of year. Even excluding the clearly made up counts of *those not singing* (which would be all of us lately, of course), and *those who do not look as if they are fully concentrating* (which is most of us some of the time, probably) there is still plenty of required counting to keep us busy for the Annual Report: the Electoral Roll, the occasional offices, the annual accounts, the number of PCC meetings and the number of vacancies for new PCC members (there are a couple to fill, since you ask).

Numbers are of course, a good and necessary way of keeping records. And given that the particular records noted in an Annual Report reflect different aspects of the life of St Barnabas over the last 12 months, I guess that means that the numbers are in fact a form of storytelling: collating the various numbers of a report is like editing our stories into the yearly narrative of the church. Now, our Annual Report is due out tomorrow and (assuming you read it) I hope that as you absorb its various numbers, you'll be encouraged by the stories of the last 12 months and let them remind you how we've tried to tell the story of Jesus - our main story and the one that really counts [RT].

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, 9th May, we are in church for Morning Worship at 11am, with **Bible Cinema** for children from Reception to Year 6. Please drop off your children at the main doors before going in via Door 3.

The service will be followed by our annual meeting, or **APCM**, when we will appointing and praying for our new PCC and our wardens. Please look out for Richard's worship email on Friday which will include a copy of the **2020 Annual Report** with a snapshot of the financials. It will give an overview of St Barnabas over the year, which, maybe surprisingly, was rich in many ways. Copies of the Annual Report and the Financials will be available on Sunday.

Taize Communion Service will be on Weds 12th at 8pm in church. **Daily Prayers** continue Monday to Thursdays between 12pm and 1pm.

ERRATUM: Please note that the All Age Pentecost service on Sunday 23rd May will be in person (in church) and not online as previous All Age services.

CALLING ALL CYCLISTS

London to Brighton, 19 Sep 2021. If you are looking to shed the pounds after lockdown and need a goal or you are already a cyclist looking for a challenge then the London to Brighton cycle ride could be just for you.

I have already joined up and will be **raising funds for Glasdoor**. They have a couple of places remaining so be quick if you want to join me on this 55 mile route.

The route starts on our doorstep on Clapham Common via a picturesque countryside before finishing on Brighton Seafront. There is even the added bonus of tackling in the infamous Ditching Beacon at the end which is an incredible climb and requires a strong shift to reach the top. However, it is at the peak that it all becomes worth it, with a beautiful view of open grassland and grazing sheep. The ride is a challenge but an achievable one with a bit of practice. The cost of £55 includes the cycling jersey and participants are required to raise a minimum of £150. If you are interested, please sign up on the Glasdoor website. And if cycling is not your thing, there is also the option to raise money for them skydiving, so what do we say, St Barnabas?!

Mike Burton

RECOMMENDATION

We are looking for a gardener, or a garden enthusiast, to look after our shrubs and flower beds. If you are this person or know someone, please ask them to get in touch with us. Thank you.



ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON
CHURCH FOR ALL - INCLUDING YOU

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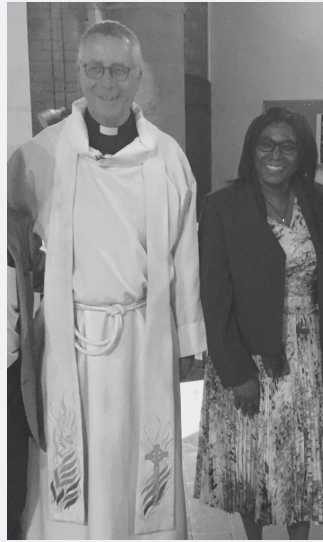
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BEING A WARDEN ...



*To my St Barnabas family, and sisters and brothers in Christ,
Eight years ago, Richard asked me if I would consider becoming a warden and I asked myself "How hard can it be making tea, coffee and tidying a bit?"*

Needless to say, that was a little naive of me. I said yes and was surprised at the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to make sure the church runs well. I thought, 'you just turn up on Sundays and Bob's your uncle!' How wrong I was! There is a team of people who work very hard to ensure that the church is a

pleasant and functioning place to worship and being a warden is being part of this team, getting the church ready for services, keeping records, assisting in maintaining the fabrics of the building, participating in PCC meetings and many more things.

So what did it mean to be a Church Warden? Personally, being a churchwarden has helped me in many ways especially in my spiritual development. I have enjoyed carrying out my duties, the opportunities it has given me to meet with a diverse range of people and take part in the many activities taking place in St Barnabas, volunteering for the nightshelter or visiting various places with the Thursday Fellowship group (as you can see on the pictures).

I am stepping down from my warden duties and embarking on new ones within the church: leading the neighbourhood group, the Tuesday Bible study and eventually leading the Thursday ladies fellowship group. So as you can see I will still be around for a few more years.

Before going, I wanted to give a big thank you to all the stewarding team, the curates and the parish assistants, past and present for their support, they have made my role a pleasure.

Yvonne Langley, Church Warden



Souvenirs from my time as a warden

