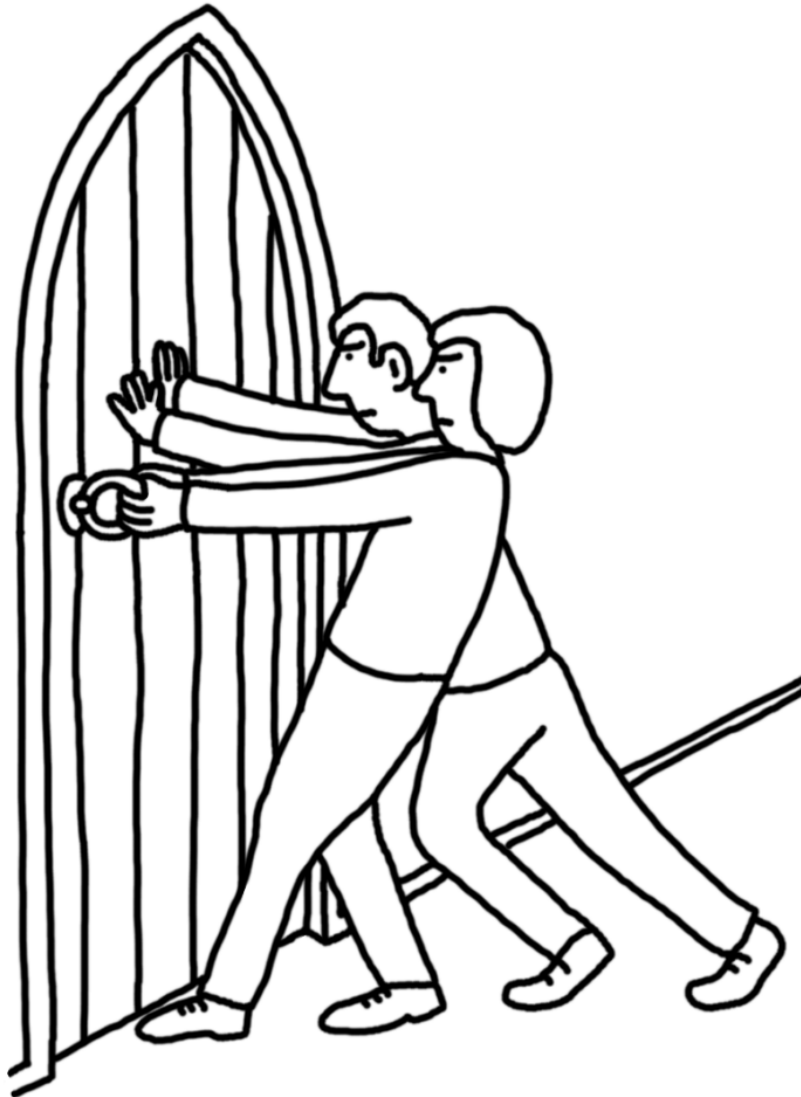


THE COMMONER

ST BARNABAS CLAPHAM COMMON

21 JANUARY 2022 ISSUE #42



cartoon church.com

(HAPPY NEW) YEAR OF INVITATION

I'm not quite sure what's going on in this cartoon but I have a couple of suggestions about the simultaneous and contradictory pushing and pulling in evidence. On the one hand, it might be a very uncoordinated attempt to open a particularly stubborn church door. We actually have one of these ourselves: the right-hand door of the two main doors. Fair to say, it is a bit of pig to open; and equally fair to say, I may have seen the odd uncoordinated attempt at opening it, too (naming no names...). This is why we are putting in new front doors (like for like); the old ones are damaged and, if I'm honest, look a bit unwelcoming, too.

Fabrics issues aside, another way of looking at this cartoon is to see it as representing a fundamental disagreement about who should or shouldn't be allowed into church. As our church tag line is *Church for all - including you*, I find myself rooting for the guy trying to push the thing open, especially so at the start of 2022. I want all of us to see this year as a year of invitation - a year when I will keep inviting you to join in with whatever we are doing as church, and also, a year to keep encouraging you to invite others to come and join in with what's going on, too. Opportunities will knock. Fling wide the doors for all who will come. [RT].

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

| | | |
|----------|-------|---------------------------|
| Jan 23rd | 11.00 | Holy Communion |
| Jan 30th | 09.30 | BCP Communion |
| | 11.00 | Candlemas All Age Worship |
| Feb 6th | 09.30 | Family Service |
| | 11.00 | Holy Communion |
| Feb 13th | 11.00 | All-Age Worship & Baptism |
| Feb 20th | 11.00 | Holy Communion |
| Feb 27th | 09.30 | BCP Communion |
| | 11.00 | All Age Worship & Baptism |

MID WEEK

Taize Communion Service Weds 09 Feb @ 8pm
Daily Prayers Monday to Thursdays, 12-1pm

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Family Service (next on the 6th Feb) and the All Age Worship Service (next on the 30th Jan), are specifically pitched to include children and young people.

On other Sundays, we aim to run Sunday Groups:

Splash, Reception to Yr 6, on Sun 20th Feb

The Grid, Yrs 7 to 11, on Sun 20th Feb

Film Bible Study Yrs 12 & 13, on Sun 13th Feb

We will also attend the St Mark's evening service on Sunday 6th February at 5pm.

CANDLEMAS

Join us on Sunday 30th January as we celebrate Candlemas and remember the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

The service will include the blessing of candles. We are therefore inviting all the families that have had a child baptised in the past couple of years to join us and bring their baptism candles, and are asking everyone else to also come with a candle.

CARE FOR THE FAMILY

We are very excited to share that Care for the Family will be hosting a large event in St Barnabas later on this year. We will let you know as soon as we can, which event it will be and hope that many of you will be able to attend it and listen to their fantastic speakers.

In the meantime, there are several events that can be watched online and podcasts that can be listened to. Their website www.careforthefamily.org.uk offers support in various forms, for parents, for couples, for Covid 19 and for bereavement. It is worth a browse through.

And if you feel like you need a bit of a smile or even a laugh, check their latest online event **The Funny Thing Is ...**, the next one is on 11th of March.

CITIZENS OPEN EVENING

Citizens is organising an Open Evening online on **Weds 26 January, 7.30pm-9pm** to learn more about the alliance of local institutions working for common good in the borough. Through Community Organising, the alliance of institutions that include schools, universities, churches, mosques, synagogues, migrant groups, charities, GP surgeries, and other community organisations get together to tackle injustice in our local communities. To learn more, register at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/wandsworth-citizens-welcome-evening>.

PSALM 27

This was Uncle Richard's favourite psalm, and the one he chose when Richard last visited him. He knew it by heart and it seems only fitting to print it here, for us all to enjoy:

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.



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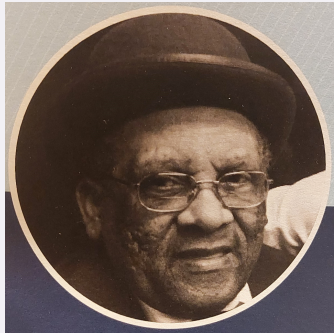
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UNCLE RICHARDS' EULOGY

Uncle Richards' funeral was held in St Barnabas on Friday 14 January. Family members, friends and neighbours gathered for a last farewell. Among the many tributes, Gen and Madge, Uncle Richards' daughters, delivered the Eulogy and Merlena spoke on behalf of St Barnabas Church.

EULOGY



Mr Zephaniah Richards was born on 3rd March 1925 in Saint Catherine's Jamaica to Otis and Victoria Richards. He was the eldest of seven children. Otis Richards passed away when our dad was 14 years old so he had to leave school to help his mum with the family business: sugar cane

cane, citrus and many other produce. Dad later worked for King Cade Dispensary in Kingston, Jamaica.

He was known to be the greatest dancer in his district in Jamaica. He won several ballroom dances. He loved Soca, Calypso, Reggae, and Rock and Roll and could dance to them all. Whenever he went to a dancehall no one would start dancing unless he came there, especially the women. Our dad later married and had four children; Gen, Madge, Bobby (who is deceased), and Franklin Richards. He also had 19 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In 1955 our dad migrated to England. He also helped various fellow Jamaican families migrate to England and get jobs and housing. Our Dad held various jobs such as an electrician and welder. He was the Wilson Electric Trainer for several years before retiring at the age of 65. He returned to school at the age of 53 to complete a Motor Mechanic course in order to fix his own car.

In 1966, our Dad bought the house at 151 Mallinson Rd where he lived until he passed away on 29th of December 2021. Over the years he developed great friendships with his neighbours. His relationship goes back three generations. He loved all people young, old and all races. For example, his neighbour's children, Finn and Frank would visit him regularly after school for tea and would tell him about that day. He taught them to do a gentleman handshake.

Mr Zephaniah Richards, fondly known as "Uncle Richard", attended St. Barnabas church when he was come where he was confirmed several years ago. He was not able to attend church during the last few years however, he loved the visit from the Vicars of the church and church members who often popped around for a cup of tea.

Our Dad lost his first son, Bobby, in 2006 which was very stressful to him. However, he overcame that sadness and took on the responsibility of loving and caring for Bobby's children as if they were his own. They often refer to him as the second dad.

Our dad was such a loving, kind, patient and wise man. He often said my name Zephaniah means Prophet. He was the patriarch of how family. His children and grandchildren looked up to him for inspiration and knowledge. Whenever we all call him for various issues he would love to say "Look on the bright side of life and everything will be OK". He encouraged his family and friends to go for their dreams.

Our Dad was also a world traveller. He loved to tell us of these various trips to Paris, Spain, Canada and USA.

Our dad would like for the family and friends to keep his memory alive by continuing to listen to reggae and gospel music, and to make his famous Curry goat and sorrel drink and tell the younger generation of the stories of his life.

Gen & Madge, Uncle Richards' daughters

MERLENA'S TRIBUTE

Merlena gave a very touching tribute on behalf of St Barnabas and spoke from her heart, without notes. This is a small summary of what she shared.

As soon as Mr Richards started to come to St Barnabas, he became known as "Uncle" Richards to all of us. After the service, he would love to go and sit on one of the chairs in the Claris Hall and have a cup of tea. If you ever asked him, 'Would you like a cup of tea?' he would always say yes, and by the time you would be back, he would be sitting and chatting with someone.

When he was no longer able to come to St Barnabas, the vicars and others from the pastoral team started to visit him at home. I used to visit him at home. There was always a cup of tea and lots of stories, stories from Jamaica and stories from England.

We used to talk about a lot of things. He loved partying and we used to remember the parties we attended when we were younger.



He was very easy to speak to and he loved to talk to people. He was nice and wise, he talked sense. He was part of the St Barnabas family and we would like to extend our sympathy to Uncle Richard's family.

Merlena McHayle



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