

# ST BARNABAS

CRANMORES  
*The Cathedral in the Woods*  
RH5 6SP

monthly newsletter

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**WELCOME**

**W**ELCOME to our service of Matins this morning which will be led by our Lay Minister Chris Watts and we welcome The Whyte Effect Choir today.

We trust you will stay for a glass of wine or soft drink and, of course, the winning 100 Club number will be drawn (Application forms are available).

Rev'd Caroline Lazenby will preside at a service of Holy Communion on 11th February and then she will preside at a Holy Communion Service at 2.30 p.m. on February 14th, which is Ash Wednesday, and this will include *ashing*. There will be no service in church on the 18th but Churchwarden Robin Luff will lead a Zoom Evening Prayer for Lent at 4.00 p.m. and continue with these services throughout Lent.

Lay Minister Chris Watts will lead Matins services on Sundays 25th February and 3rd March.

**Rev'd Caroline writes:** .... The meaning of our Christian faith is rationalised in the letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11:1. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen".

The certainty of what we do not



## SERVICES

*Sunday 11th February  
at 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion*

*Ash Wednesday 14th February  
at 2.30 p.m. service with 'ashing'*

*Sunday 18th February  
no service in church  
at 4 pm Zoom Evening Prayer for Lent*

*Sunday 25th February  
at 11.00 a.m. Matins (BCP)  
at 4 pm Zoom Evening Prayer for Lent*

*Sunday 3rd March  
at 11.00 a.m. Matins (BCP)  
at 4 pm Zoom Evening Prayer for Lent*

A Call to Prayer  
for Ukraine

see is the belief in the existence of God and his promises. It is through our actions that are inspired by our faith that our certainty becomes reality as proof of things not seen.

Faith is about our ongoing relationship with God and our obedience to him every moment of our lives. As individuals and as church families we are called by Jesus to use the gifts that we have been blessed with, using God's gifts to us wisely, and finding new and often challenging ways to use what we have, so to reach out to everyone – the young and old, families and the lonely, the fit, the disabled and the sick, the dying and the bereaved.

We will have a service on Ash Wednesday – 14th April at 2p.m. – with readings from Scripture and prayers of penitence. For those who wish to receive, ashes will be imposed. The ash will be made from the burnt palm crosses from last year.

Have you ever burned a palm cross before? I hadn't and so last year I joined our Verger Brian in the church porch where it got interesting. Into an empty cake tin we put

## Atlas

There is a kind of love called maintenance  
Which stores the WD40 and knows when to use it;  
Which checks the insurance, and doesn't forget  
The milkman; which remembers to plant bulbs;  
Which answers letters; which knows the way  
The money goes; which deals with dentists  
And Road Fund Tax and meeting trains,  
And postcards to the lonely; which upholds  
The permanently rickety elaborate  
Structures of living, which is Atlas.  
And maintenance is the sensible side of love,  
Which knows what time and weather are doing  
To my brickwork; insulates my faulty wiring;  
Laughs at my dryrotten jokes; remembers  
My need for gloss and grouting; which keeps  
My suspect edifice upright in air,  
As Atlas did the sky.

*U.A. Fanthorpe  
English poet, 1929-2009*

the crosses and tried to set them alight, which eventually Brian succeeded in doing. Flames burnt high and bright and then very soon what was left of the crosses was a few tablespoons of ash. The ash is then mixed with Holy Oil and in a little bowl is the remains of our blessed, year old palm crosses.

It's helpful to link Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday like this. On Palm Sunday the same crowds that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem would be

calling for his crucifixion five days later. Ash Wednesday's ash on our forehead is not just a reminder of death and sin. On day one of Lent, the season questions Christian devotion and piety, taking the memory of last year's joyous celebration and quite literally rubbing it in our faces. It is a tangible metaphor of the weakness of our spirituality: one moment a blaze of glory, the next traces of burnt reminders of our joy one year ago.

Our Ash Wednesday service is a reflective, quiet service and there will be short times of silence, but by visibly being marked with the ashes of penitence, we show our intention to turn around and through faith be ready to begin again on our journey to fully discover God. Our devotion does not pass through the fire unrefined, it is just as liable to being burnt away as our sin.

As Jan Sutch Pickard writes: "Help this to be a time of turning round and beginning again. Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old."

*Rev'd Caroline Lazenby*

## WINTER AT DENBIES

OVER the years people have often remarked that the winter months do test the resolve of the St Barnabas congregation

despite the years of hard work, and the court case, that resulted in the heating system we have now which was installed in 2007.

Sir Stephen Tallents, the First Lord Ashcombe's first grandson, recalls in his auto-biography....

"More often, too, in those years [1890-92] than these, the water in the ponds would be frozen. There was a shallow pond on the Common, just above the corner where you turned down to West Humble, which was safest, but where bigger boys from the Ranmore cottages made slides that were too long and too slippery for us.

There was a deeper pond, however, under the trees in the dairy



field, which took longer to freeze safely but which, once frozen, was private.

There I had from Father my first lessons in skating behind a wooden chair which we borrowed out of the dairy and on that pond, in spite of the chair, I took a fall that I remember as if it had happened only last winter, a sudden tumble backwards upon my head that stunned me for the only time in my life, and left a dreadful headache behind it."

He might have added that the estate workers would have hacked large lumps of ice from these ponds to store in the ice house. A comment, perhaps, on global warming between 1891 and today.

The photo of the Estate staff enjoying their toboggan comes from Aunt Mabel's photo album, probably taken in 1912.

## *St Martin's Church, Dorking*

*Lent 2024*

Fridays 2-3pm  
in the Christian Centre

**February 23rd**  
**March 1st 8th 15th 23rd**

**Handel's Messiah:  
The unfolding story  
of God's rescue plan**

*(we're not performing it...)*

"Why do the nations so furiously  
rage together?"

*(Psalm 2)*

"All we like sheep..."

*(Isaiah 53)*

"Since by man came death"

*(1 Corinthians 15)*

"Come unto me"

*(Matthew 11:28-29)*

"Hallelujah!"

*(Revelation 11:15; 19:6, 16)*



### **Who's Who at St. Barnabas**

Rector: Vacant      St Barnabas is part of a United Benefice with St Martin's Church Dorking. Please contact the Church Office with enquiries about baptisms and marriages on 01306 884229 or email: [stmartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsdorkingchurchoffice@gmail.com)

Assistant Priest	Rev'd Caroline Lazenby	01306 884229
Churchwardens:	Dr Robin Luff	01306 884093
	Mr Nicholas Grealy	01306 882168
Treasurer:	Mr Ian Hudson	01306 888281

You can follow life at St Barnabas and read the monthly newsletter on our website at <https://achurchnearyou.com/ranmore-st-barnabas> or to join the newsletter e-mailing list email Editor [richard.gover1@outlook.com](mailto:richard.gover1@outlook.com)

See also the Ranmore/Denbies History website <https://ranmorewarmemorial.info>