



Southfields Grid
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference
to life on the Grid*

GRID NEWS

■■■ November 2018 ■■■



LOUISE AT SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST | ISABELLE J PHOTOGRAPHY

A TASTE OF HONEY AT SOUTHFIELDS HARVEST

The crowds flocked to Southfields Harvest this September and they weren't disappointed.

Holos Kombucha, a "raw living tea" (brewed in SW18), Southfield's honey, apple juice, jams and chutney were all on display.

A dearth of apples this year sadly meant the Abundance apple press was idle, but there was a splendid display of freshly dug veg from King George's Park Allotments, which raised over £200 for Wandsworth Food Bank.

Amongst the stalls were: the SGRA, Friends of Wimbledon Park, Southfields Theatre Group, the 8th Wandsworth Scouts, Green the Grid, allotment band 'The Beetroots' and the Southfields Sings choir and many more. Local MP Justine Greening also attended.

Thank you to our host Ian Tattum at St Barnabas Church and to everybody who gave their time and energy to make the afternoon such a success.

southfieldsharvest.org.uk



DEREK SPENCER

FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2018

At the September SGRA meeting, the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Piers McCausland presented the prizes for this year's SGRA Front Gardens Competition. A packed room enjoyed an illustrated presentation of 'gardens in bloom' finishing off with an awards ceremony for the winners of each of the three categories - Derek Spencer for Best Front Garden, Alyson Mulcaster for Best Window Boxes & Pots and Clare James for Best Hanging Baskets. Congratulations to all our winners and to the many front gardens who have delighted the judges so much this year.

SGRA FACEBOOK PAGE

We have now passed the 1,000 mark with 1,010 followers on our Facebook page and the Southfields Grid page of nextdoor.co.uk now has 627 members. Sign up and keep up to date with local news and events.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



CHARLES RUNCIE

As the nights draw in, thoughts inevitably turn to the coming season of goodwill. Not that goodwill has been in much evidence recently, with inevitable frustration from some people during the emergency gas works. Strange that one event like closing a road can produce a series of unintended consequences – masses of equipment, displacement of traffic down narrow residential streets, loss of valuable footfall and income to shops and businesses, and a rather scruffy-looking appearance for the area as a result. The only thing that’s amused me has been the antics and behaviour of

drivers trying to cut corners. Something must happen when previously sane people get behind a wheel. Let’s hope it’s all been worth it, and one thing’s for sure: we’ll never take Replingham Road for granted again. Hope you enjoy another packed Grid News, please renew your SGRA membership for 2018-19 if you’ve not yet managed, and feel free to contact me if you’ve a comment on what the SGRA does.

Charles Runcie
Chairman

charles@charlesruncie.co.uk

WANDSWORTH ART OPEN HOUSE SUCCESS

Despite the terrible weather (and the gas works), local artist Sarah Donlan became a very successful first-time exhibitor with the WAOH this October. Over a hundred visitors came to see her work, including local MP Justine Greening. Some of her students’ work was also on display. “It was a fabulous experience” said Sarah. “Not only did I meet lots of wonderful local people that I’ve never met before, but I’ve had some very good sales and commissions for my work too. I would definitely encourage more artists in the grid to open their houses to the public next year. There is a wealth of talent in our area and it encourages the next generation too.”

After finishing art college, and before having a family, Sarah ran an international textile studio for 10 years. She then qualified as a nursery teacher, running private art

classes for children from home, in addition to producing her own distinctive work. Her classes have become very popular and the children have a lot of fun. Without adult inhibitions, and with Sarah’s guidance, the children try out many medias, learning to draw and paint from a young age with great results.

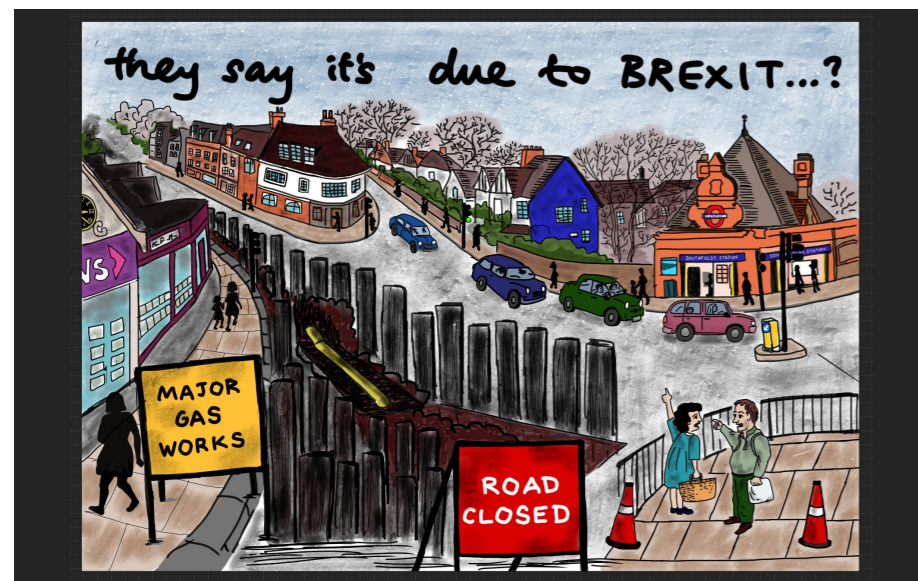
Many of the children Sarah has taught choose to take their passion for art into senior school, even applying for scholarships.

If you missed the WAOH and would like to see some of Sarah’s work, or if you have a budding artist in the house, who would be interested in her classes, you can find her on Instagram @Sarah_donlan, or at sdonlan1@gmail.com.

wandsworthart.com



JUSTINE GREENING & SARAH DONLAN



GERARD SEBASTIAN

GAS WORKS

The closure of Replingham and Wimbledon Park Roads for the gas works created huge disruption. Local shops suffered falling trade and surrounding streets became rat-runs for cars ignoring diversion signs. One frustrated Pirbright Road resident said: “It took 20 minutes to drive down the road one Saturday. No-one would reverse their cars, and people had parked in the suspended bays so there was nowhere to pass. My own car was hit and to top it off, someone hit my motorbike so hard I had to get the steering repaired and replace the front tyre. It cost £150.”

Following a leak being reported, contractors SGN started urgent repairs

to the gas main in Replingham Road in August. “To avoid further disruption, we also began scheduled upgrading of nearby pipes in Wimbledon Park Road” explained communication manager Dan Brown. “Repairs were completed on 24th October, but we discovered an additional leak on a nearby pipe. We worked as quickly and safely as possible to fix this section”. The next stage of the gas mains replacement work, up Augustus Road, began on 7th November for approximately six weeks. “We appreciate the ongoing support of the local community while we work to ensure your gas supplies are safe and reliable for years to come”.

POLICE UPDATE FROM PC JAMES ELVY

It’s getting close to that time of the year when we get more deliveries made to us and our neighbours. Sadly, delivery drivers are not like they used to be, with many drivers leaving the parcels on the doorstep, not even trying to place them in your ‘special place’ if you’re out. If you spot an obvious parcel left for a neighbour, please knock and see if they’re in, (delivery people don’t always knock) or take the parcel in for them.

As the nights draw in and you head out to celebrate the festive season, please make sure that your alarms are set and that you make sure that all windows and doors are locked and secure. A timer switch on your lights is also a good idea.

If you have thick hedges or trees in front of your house, now might be the time to give them a chop. They can be used as cover for burglars to hide behind if they break into your house. A security light outside your front door is also a good idea and worth installing if you don’t have one.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Southfields Public meeting
Saturday 17th November | 10:30am
St Barnabas Church, Lavenham Road

Email: southfields.snt@met.police.uk
Twitter: @MPSSouthfields
Facebook: Southfields Police

GREEN THE GRID TAKES ROOT IN SOUTHFIELDS

On Saturday 6th October, over 100 people braved the wet weather, for the second Green the Grid planting day. Thanks to a grant from Wandsworth Council, free planting bundles, including hebes, wintercreeper and daffodil bulbs were waiting for them at Green the Grid’s stall outside McCluskey’s on Revelstoke Road. Barry Rowe of Putney Rotary Club kindly donated crocus bulbs.

Justine Greening MP, Councillor Guy Humphries and Charles Runcie of SGRA came to support the event.

More than 300 tree bases have now been ‘adopted’ by residents in the Grid, meaning that 75% of all tree bases in the area are now planted. Many took part for the first time after hearing about the initiative at Southfields Harvest.

Claire, a local resident, said: “My two little girls loved planting up their patch. It was so nice to see them excited to be outside, learning about flowers and taking pride in the community we live in and wanting to make it better. It’s such a brilliant initiative.”



JUSTINE GREENING MP JOINS IN PLANTING DAY

Please sign up if you want to get involved in Green the Grid’s spring planting activities and get in touch with any ideas for future greening projects.

Email: greenhthegridsw18@hotmail.com
Website: frontgardenfriendly.uk
Twitter: [greenhthegrid](https://twitter.com/greenhthegrid)
Instagram: [greenhthegridsw18](https://www.instagram.com/greenhthegridsw18)

LOCAL NOTES AND PLANNING

Caffe Nero's application to put tables and chairs on their forecourt in Replingham Road has been approved, but only for 18 months. The Planning Committee expressed concerns about the size and location, as it is on a corner that is often congested. The immediate area is due to undergo substantial changes under the Southfields Public Realm Improvement Project. This had not been considered in the planning officer's report and so limited permission was granted to establish compatibility.

The north side footpath at the bottom of Replingham Road is closed because of the damage to the wall of Riversdale School. A stolen car being chased by police, crashed into it, demolishing it and causing damage

to the newly refurbished garden behind it.

EE and 3 have applied for permission for a mobile phone mast opposite Southfields Academy near to Hanford Close. This is described as a radio base with a 20m high monopole supporting 3 shrouded antennas and 2x300mm dishes, with 4 equipment cabinets.

There are prospective changes to traffic near West Hill in rush hour. A six months trial, starting next year, will ban early morning traffic, 7-10am, from Withercombe Road and Princes Way, except for buses and cycles. Windlesham Grove will also be affected.

Margaret Brett, SGRA Executive

SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESS FORUM

Post Office

The Post Office has re-located to the newly re-named Krystal Food Market (formerly Food & Wine) in Replingham Road. They have reduced the promised opening hours which is causing confusion. We understand that the hours of the Post Office at present are:

Monday to Friday - 9am to 5.30pm

Saturday Morning - 9am to 1pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays - CLOSED

You can apparently leave stamped parcels or letters at any time for posting.

We understand some residents have had problems using the new Post Office. Please write or email Justine Greening as nothing can be done unless the problems are highlighted.

justine.greening.mp@parliament.uk
Houses of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Council Officer dealing with the improvement works is investigating whether she can get the old post box relocated to near the new PO location. PO HQ are reluctant to implement this.

National Westminster Bank

They will probably put the bank up for auction early next year. In the meantime, they are still negotiating a price re the cash machine.

Christmas lights switch-on

Wednesday 5th December, Replingham Road. The event starts at 4.30pm. The Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Philip Brook, will switch on the lights at 5pm, hopefully joined by the Mayor. We are having stalls, Father Christmas's Grotto, Choirs from Riversdale, St. Michael's and Sheringdale schools, the SingSwell Choir and school band from Southfields Academy.

Blooms the Florist

Long-established Blooms the Florist on Replingham Road changed hands at the end of October, with the owner retiring after 37 years. It has been re-named SW Blooms after its new owners Sam and Natasha Weston, who are also expecting their first child shortly! They have kept all the old staff and look forward to welcoming regular and new customers.

SOUTHFIELDS CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

David Tidely and Sidonie Forrest-Brown from Wandsworth Council have now taken over the implementation of this project. They came to speak to members of the Southfields Business Forum in early September. One of the most controversial aspects of the design is the 'parklets' - planters placed on decking on the road to provide a green space. The proposed position of these would remove parking places and also impede business deliveries, particularly to Cook and Boots. The officers are reviewing the scheme and are looking again at the surfacing materials to be used on the pavements because of the additional weight on the railway bridge. At the moment the plan is to start works at the tube station early next year but they need to dovetail with SGN, the company dealing with the gas repairs, about the timing of the planned replacement of the gas main in Augustus Road. It seems unlikely that anything will happen in Replingham Road in the near future. We understand that the officers will keep in touch with the local stakeholders.

SGRA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the SGRA and paid their annual subscriptions this year.

Your donations help us to produce three editions of this newsletter and pay for organised events such as the Senior's tea party and the front garden competition.

Thanks also to our street representatives who have distributed the collection envelopes.

This year we are also accepting payments online. The subscription is a minimum of £3. If you have still to donate you can either:

1. Drop the envelope in to your street rep.
2. Go to your paypal account and send a payment to: treasurer@southfieldsgrid.org.uk.
3. Donate direct to the SGRA bank account using the sort code: 20-90-69 and account number: 83500020.

Chris Puleston, Treasurer

GRID RESIDENT STARS IN NATIONAL TV CAMPAIGN FOR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY



CLAIRE CUTS THE RIBBON TO START THE MEMORY WALK

In 2013, local resident Claire Gaffey's 67 year old mother Gill, was sadly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Keen to try and help raise money and awareness of this terrible disease, Claire took part in the first of many Alzheimer's Society Memory Walks.

"I felt isolated because dementia isn't talked about like cancer or heart disease," she said. "But joining Memory Walk, you feel you're not on your own."

"Memory Walks are not just fund-raising events. They provide an opportunity for friends, relatives and carers to meet and support each other."

Clearly impressed by her commitment to helping, the Alzheimer's Society contacted her to ask if she would be prepared to appear in their 2018 TV advertising campaign, of which she became the star. She was subsequently invited to open the London Night Walk on 6th October, setting off from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, which raised £196,878.

Claire's next challenge is to make Southfields a Dementia Friendly community, where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported.

In the UK alone, 534,621 people have been diagnosed with dementia. Between 2011 and 2016 there was a 56% rise. The global figures are even more frightening. According to the World Health Organisation, the numbers of people living with dementia will increase from 50m in 2018 to 152m in 2050 - a shocking 204% increase.

Putting these statistics into an economic context, the impact of dementia is greater than cancer and heart disease combined.

If you would like to know more about making Southfields a Dementia Friendly community, please contact Claire on www.justgiving.com/Claire-gaffey. Or if you would like to support Claire's fund raising, you can donate online at: www.justgiving.com/Claire-gaffey.

CYGNET PLAYERS



READER OFFER: £1 OFF EACH TICKET WHEN YOU QUOTE THE CODE GRID.

Cygnets Players can usually be found at St Barnabas Church Hall every Tuesday and Thursday, rehearsing their next show. Established in 1997, they are

a community/amateur musical theatre group who put on at least two musicals and one play per year (usually performing in Southfields, Putney and Fulham). They

pride themselves on performing high-quality shows whilst having a great time in rehearsals and at social events.

They are currently rehearsing for their next musical, Kiss Me, Kate, which is on from 20-23 February 2019 at the London Oratory School, Fulham. You can buy tickets at: cygnetsplayers.com/box-office [NB performance times subject to change, please check with box office when booking].

Their 2019/2020 season continues with:

- Alfie
- Spring Awakening
- All Shook Up
- Shrek
- Big Fish

cygnetsdanceclasses@gmail.com

WINDOW WANDERLAND TO LIGHT UP SOUTHFIELDS

In February 2019, Window Wanderland will be returning to Southfields. The aim is to transform the streets of Southfields into a magical outdoor gallery for all to see. But they need your help! Taking part is FREE and everyone in the community is welcome. You can make a display in the windows of your flat, house, business, school, nursery, car, campervan, shop – or in your front garden! You don't have to be creative to join in. Your display could be something as simple as fairy lights in the window, a candle, your favourite book or dress, your dog! – or simply just open your curtains and show us your lovely interiors. To register simply go to the Window Wanderland website and click on the Southfields event link. For those not on social media, sign-up hubs will be coming to the Library and St Barnabas Church.

9th - 10th February 2019 - 5.30-9.00pm

windowwanderland.com/southfields



ONE OF LAST YEAR'S DISPLAYS

KEEP THE HOME FIRE BURNING SAFELY

It's that time year when it's lovely to keep warm in front of an open fire or stove. If you're lucky enough to have one, don't forget how important it is to have it regularly swept.

Keeping your chimney regularly swept keeps the flue clear so dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can escape; it helps avoid fires, by clearing away the build-up of soot which can ignite; and it helps prevent smoke damage which can blacken the fireplace and ceiling of the room the fire is in.

Ian Nolan is a professional local Chimney Sweep. He brings dust sheets and a high efficiency vacuum to remove any soot or dust and uses the latest rotary-sweeping techniques to ensure that your chimney is cleaned thoroughly, but gently.

"All jobs are smoke tested and industry standard certification is issued as proof that your chimney is safe to use. I also carry CCTV equipment to check for blockages or internal damage to your chimney if necessary," says Ian.

To book an appointment, Ian can be contacted by email or phone:

sweep@tootsweep.com

07421 385091



IAN NOLAN OF TOOT SWEEP

THANK YOU

Local resident Serena Potter would like to thank all the local residents who contributed to the cost of the tree pruning in the alley between Trentham and Astonville Streets last winter.

"Your generosity was much appreciated. The pruning has created more light in our gardens whilst keeping the trees healthy. We understand that the alleys on the grid are the joint responsibility of the residents rather than the council and keeping them attractive and clear is of great benefit to all of us," says Serena.

Serena is now looking into the cost of further security gates at the Brookwood Road end and would welcome any suggestions or information on how other alleys are managed. You can contact her on: serena.potter@ukgateway.net

GLASS DOOR RETURNS TO SOUTHFIELDS

Two years ago, St Barnabas hosted its first successful Glass Door emergency winter night shelter for the homeless and has just opened its doors again this winter.

Glass Door is the largest emergency winter night shelter in London and is open to men and women from November until April every year. St Barnabas hosts the shelter on Friday nights. The church provides the premises free of charge and volunteers provide warming drinks and a hearty three course meal. Glass Door provides professional staff to look after people throughout the night and guests leave first thing in the morning.

Glass Door operates across Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Richmond, in cooperation with churches. Last year it gave shelter to

643 people, and its 1350 volunteers served over 22,000 dinners. 80 of those guests were helped into work and 188 were moved into housing. Its funding comes entirely from fundraising and donations. Our recent Quiz night raised £600.

Glass Door is a highly professional organisation and referrals are made through their headquarters in Fulham and their sister charity, The Ace of Clubs, in Clapham. Usually we have around thirty guests but on very cold nights, when it is life-threateningly chilly, the numbers can increase.

If you would like to know more about fundraising or volunteering, visit Glass Door's website, glassdoor.org.uk.

[Ian Tattum, Vicar of St Barnabas Church](mailto:Ian.Tattum@stbarnabas.org.uk)



SETTLE YOUR DISPUTES WITH WANDSWORTH MEDIATION SERVICE

Wandsworth Mediation Service (WMS) is a local registered charity which can offer free community and discounted commercial mediation services, to all Wandsworth residents including our Grid community.

Set up by Stephen Russell QC, WMS has been going for 14 years and is used by organisations such as Wandsworth Council, local schools and law firms to help settle disputes rather than going through a costly and lengthy legal process.

All their commercial and community mediators are fully accredited and give their time for free, so all income raised goes straight back into funding and running free mediations.

Southfields residents can use their discounted service for things such as disputes with builders, employers, landlord / tenant issues or general arguments over bills, services etc.

But for neighbourhood disputes, such as noise, shared access or personal disputes,

SGRA WEBSITE

Did you know that the SGRA has recently re-launched their website? SGRA Chair Charles Runcie worked with Grid resident and freelance digital consultant John Berkoski to design and create the site.

Usage of the old social-orientated site had greatly reduced as Grid residents adopted Facebook and NextDoor to share information. Charles envisioned a new, elegant website, serving as a point of record for SGRA communications and to provide helpful references for community resources. Also, the new site had to be attractive, easy to navigate, and mobile-friendly.

John, Charles, and the SGRA Executive team created a new website that not only ticks all the boxes, but also meets future potential needs such as hosting newsletter back issues, displaying photo galleries, and one-click membership payments.

The new website was soft-launched in mid-summer, and officially unveiled in September. Charles said of the project "John was a pleasure to work with. He focused on our needs, asked the right questions, and exceeded our expectations with the end result."

John develops web-based applications and high-performance websites. If you are looking for a good digital consultant with reasonable rates, his website is www.roove.com.

CAPABILITY BROWN WEEKEND



The bat walkers saw six different species of bats! Great enthusiasm marked the Zumba session as people danced to the Latino music. Talented students from three local schools - Ricards Lodge, Southfields Academy and St. Cecilia's enthralled audiences with their dance and music performances. Participants of the carp fishing were lucky enough to land themselves some huge carp. The Heritage Park walk highlighted both its fascinating history and evolution. There was victory for The Wimbledon Club Ladies as they beat Eastbourne College Ladies in the tennis tournament.

And finally... Steffie Shields, Capability Brown aficionado, rounded off the weekend by giving an illustrated presentation about Capability Brown - a perfect ending.

thecapabilitybrowsociety.com

A big thank-you to everyone who took part in the capability Brown Festivities Weekend on the 8th & 9th September. We had great feedback which delighted us. So much took place. Many experienced the varied sports activities offered by leading clubs whilst others gravitated to exhibitions run by local groups, including a display of historic postcards.

WILL IT BE AN AWARD-WINNING DELIVERY FROM IAN?

As we go to print our local milkman, Ian Beardwell is waiting to find out whether he has won Milk & More's Milkman of the Year 2018.

The competition received thousands of nominations from customers across the country, and Ian has already secured one of the coveted semi-final places.

Ian beat off the competition from nearly 1,100 fellow milkmen and women, through numerous nominations from customers. As his customers know, he goes over and above his delivery role, returning pets and lost laptops to their owners, chasing car thieves and looking after a woman who'd been burgled.

Ian said: "It means the world to be nominated for doing a job I love by the community I've worked within for nearly 30 years. We're a great team at Milk & More, and we're really focused on making sure we provide the best service to our customers."

Results will be announced in late November on their website: milkandmore.co.uk



LOCAL MILKMAN IAN BEARDWELL



CALLING ALL ARTISTS...

Are you aged between 7-18? Do you enjoy Art and Design work? If so, you are warmly invited to take part in the Capability Brown Art Competition.

Art work in any media is welcomed e.g. photography, collage, printing, painting etc. A3 or A4 size on one of two themes

Views of / from Wimbledon Park

or

Movement in Wimbledon Park

The competition is for three age groups 7-10, 11-13 and 14-18

The winner of each group will receive £50 and each runner up £25

All artwork is to be handed in to The Wimbledon Club, Church Road, SW19 5AG between 9am and 5 pm. The latest time for submission is 5 pm on Thursday, 29th November.

Please ensure that your name, age and contact details including a phone number are clearly displayed on the back of your submission.

There will be an exhibition of the art work in the Bowling Pavilion, Wimbledon Park SW19 8AU on Saturday and Sunday, 1st & 2nd December, between 10 am and 5 pm.

All enquiries to:

sallan@SaintCecilias.london or ChrisB@thecapabilitybrowsociety.com

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M: 07939 310292

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If you have any news, stories or information you think would be interesting to the grid community, please contact the editor, Philippa Haslegrave.

REGULAR EVENTS

SingSwell

Mondays (term time) | 8.30-10pm

St Michael's Church, Wimbledon Park Road.

Cygnets Players Dance Classes (£8 per class)

Every Wednesday | All abilities 7.30-8.45pm | Advanced 8.45-10pm

St Barnabas Church | **Contact:** cygnetsdanceclasses@gmail.com

EVENTS AT ST BARNABAS CHURCH:

Monday Club - a social drop in group for older people.

Every Monday | 2-3.30pm

Hestia drop in group for over 60s - just come along

Every Tuesday | 10-1pm

Under 3s - for little ones and their carers

Every Friday | 9.30-11.30am

Christmas Fair | 1st December | 12-3pm

Nativity Service | 24th December | 4pm

Midnight Mass | 24th December | 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Eucharist | 25th December | 10.30am

The church office is open on Monday and Friday mornings, and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. St Barnabas would be very grateful for any donations you could make to their collection for local food banks. You can find the baskets in the church lobby.

OTHER EVENTS

November

Glass Door at St Barnabas Church

From November 2018 to April 2019

Southfields Safer Neighbourhood Team (police) public meeting

Saturday 17th November | 10.30am

St Barnabas Church, Merton Road entrance.

December

Christmas Lights event

5th December | 4.30pm

Replingham Road

February

Window Wanderland

9th - 10th February 2019 | 5.30-9.00pm