

Newsletter

Sunday 17th March 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

I asked the group who met together for Bible study last Wednesday, how Lent was going for them. We had a good chat about the spiritual and personal changes they had made or were making as well as some of us owning that we hadn't really acknowledged the season at all. I did point out that weekly Bible Study was actually an acknowledgement because it took time and commitment. For a few it's also a long time in the café between service and study and I see and appreciate the effort.

Of course, not all denominations make a great thing of Lent. It is not a Biblical thing but a time that some churches, Anglicans and Catholics in particular, set to one side for prayer, reflection and contemplation, and penance. Sometimes, these things mean we are called to action; to give up, take up or to change ourselves. So how is Lent going for you? What have you done? What are you doing? What will you do?

I find one of the most useful aspects of Lent for me is the expectation that God will work in me during the season. I am sure he works in me all of the time, but I find it helpful to have a focussed period that enables me to read something new, create a new discipline or habit or simply to reflect on me as a child of Christ, as a disciple and as a teacher and leader.

One of the things my own Lenten contemplation has illuminated in me is a real fault and failing. I realise that very often I say, 'I will do that' and I don't. I have noticed that some of you expect me not to do things now and so either lose heart, get someone else to do it or avoid asking me at all. It's not easy to watch genuine surprise on a person's face when I do what I have said I will.

There are numerous reasons for this. Forgetfulness and too many things to do being just two of the reasons or you might say excuses. The question is, having become very aware of the problem, what is the solution? What do I need to do about it?

Remember when Jesus speaks to the woman caught in adultery and asks her, 'Has no one condemned you?' They have all gone because once challenged by Jesus regarding their own sinful life, they realise they are not righteous enough to stone the woman. She replies, "No one, sir," and Jesus then says to her, "Then neither do I condemn you...Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8. 2-11. Repentance and recognition of our faults and failings is but the first half of becoming a disciple. The next part is always to commit that sin no more. Sometimes it takes many attempts to stop committing a particular sin, always it will take our life's work to be made holy (Paul calls it sanctification). The important point is that we go on trying.

I have seen the problem. Now I am doing what I can. It may take me some time! I am writing things down more and checking back with my notes. I am making more lists, which I have always done to some degree, but which sadly requires me to remember whatever so that I can write it down. Harder as you get older! I am saying 'I will do it' to fewer things – in other words 'No'. I also have more brain space now that the excruciating pain I had for the first part of last year, has gone. And there are so many bits of life to sort out which will happen bit by bit. If you would, you can help me in several ways. You can remind me, especially if the job I should be doing for or with you, is time specific. You can be kind and not expect me to remember anything you ask me to do just before or just after a service, unless it is specific to that event. Instead, email if you can or message me or as a last resort call me and leave a message if I can't answer. I also want to reassure you that it is never personal when I forget something I am doing for or with you. It is mostly a me problem and one I am determined to tackle.

I continue to pray for you and wish you well as we begin to look towards Jerusalem,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny", written in a cursive style.

What's on this week

Sunday 17 th March	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Words and Worship
Monday 18 th March	The Centre opens weekdays 9.00 am till 2.00 pm 1.30 pm Knit and Knatter in the centre
Tuesday 19 th March	12-2.30 pm The Club house In the Village Hall. 2.00 pm Les and Mavis Henderson's Memorial Service in church which includes the MU prayer and Birthday celebration. 7pm Lent Talk at Bromborough Methodist Church.
Wednesday 20 th March	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre 1.30 pm Bible Study in the Centre
Thursday 21 st March	10.00 am Little Church in church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall All welcome 7.00pm PCC meet in the Centre
Sunday 10 th March	9.15 am Palm Sunday morning Prayer with Lynne 11.00 am Palm Sunday Modern Holy Communion

Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Hebrews 5: 5-10
*John 12: 20-33

Wednesday 20th March

Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28
John 8: 31- 42

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2: 5-11
*Mark 11: 1-11

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

Lent Talks on Tuesdays at 7pm

There will be the usual Lent Talks held at The Methodist Church for all the churches in Bromborough and Eastham. The sessions are the ones in the 'On the Third day' course. 1. Have I got news for you! 2. So what? The implications of the resurrection 3. 'Let him Easter in us': Personal discipleship in the light of the resurrection 4. A Risen Church 5. Celebrating and praying Easter.

Lent group

Is meeting on Wednesdays in Lent at 1.30pm in The Centre. You can still come for the last one, even if you have missed the rest. We are looking at a York Notes course called 'On the third day.' It will be over by about 3 pm. If you have a Bible, bring one. If not, we can provide you with one.

The Electoral Roll

Our huge thanks to Lesley for her work on this (with a little help from Clive). She has kept us up to date and curated the list of names. For health reasons, Lesley is standing down and the PCC have decided that the task will now sit with Fiona Austin. The Electoral roll is a list of the names and details of all those who are eligible to vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) More practically, it affects the number of people on PCC (Parochial Church Council) and whether you can be on the PCC or not. It also helps me to have your contact details. You are entitled to be on the roll if you are baptised (in any recognised Christian Church) and live within the Parish or attend the church regularly. If you are not on the roll, ask for a form or look on the table at the back of church.

Tap to Give

I have created a new slot on the tap to give machine so people can also choose 'Easter flowers' on the tap to give machine to donate by card. Julie

Are you the next Churchwarden?

We will need two churchwardens at the APCM this year. Could it be you? Please pray about this. We cannot run another year without two wardens. It is not fair on the one who does it. God is calling. Are you listening?

Counting Money

There is a small team who count money on Monday mornings. **We need some more people who would be able to do this as part of a rota.** Could it be you? Or would you be willing to count occasionally on a Sunday after the 11.00 am service? We are getting back to doing this on a weekly basis. Speak to Thelma McGorry, to Julie Watts or to me and I will send you in the right direction.

Looking ahead to Easter – giving away Easter eggs

There will be Messy Church held as usual on Good Friday at 10.00 am. We usually have a lot of children who attend. We also plan to give out the Real Easter Eggs which are accompanied by a Bible story booklet about Easter. We have purchased 60 eggs to give out at a cost of £60. We have also purchased a similar give away box for the Foodbank. This means it has cost us £86. We are not without funds for such purchases but any donations for this specific project would be welcome. Please pop them in an envelope and put them on a plate. If you are able to *giftaid*, please tell us who you are.

For your diary

We will have the usual Maundy Thursday meal on 28th March. We arrive at about 6.30 pm. Food at 7 pm. There will be a service on Good Friday afternoon starting at 1.30pm. You as always are welcome to come to some or all of it. We will have an easter Vigil service at 6.30 pm on Easter Saturday. Between the services on Easter Sunday we will be having bacon and/or Sausages in bread rolls. We will also be saying a formal thank you on her retirement to Lynne Whittaker, for her years of service as a reader.

Men's Breakfasts

I love to hear that you chaps are meeting up regularly. I am told that it is very relaxed and a good chat. It starts at 9.00 am at the Royal Oak. Apparently, the breakfast is not costly and tastes good too. All men are welcome, those who attend church and those who don't. If you are a bit worried about turning up on your own, do speak to one of the men who will, I am certain, give you a lift or meet you in the doorway. Future dates are 16th March, 20th April and 18th May.

The Centre Breakfasts

The next breakfast event is on Saturday 13th April 9.30 pm – 11.00 am Just turn up.

Parish Prayers

The next parish prayers will be on [13th April](#) and it will take place in the centre at the slightly later time of 10.30 so that you can eat your breakfast first and then join us. I am sure that if you are not a cooked breakfast type of person they would be glad to let you have a few slices of toast.

A note about regular donations and Gift Aid

Do you give regularly using a white envelope or by cash into the plate? Would you consider paying by standing order instead? All you need to do is fill in a standing order form (available at the back of the church) and take it to your bank. If you bank online you can set up the payment online direct to the church bank account: HSBC sortcode **40-15-04** account number **10183334** name of bank account: **Bromborough PCC**. You are in control of what you send. You can change the amount, up or down (but we hope up!) You can pay weekly or monthly.

The funds will come straight into the bank account. If you are a Gift Aider, we can automatically tag your donation to claim Gift Aid.

Please note: we are delighted that so many of you are using the tap to give device to make donations. However, if you are a gift aider, when a payment comes through from the device, we do not know that it was you who made a payment and we therefore miss out on your gift aid. Perhaps you could send an online payment instead? Or set up a standing order? We can see that the donation is from you, and we can tag it for gift aid.

If you have made donations on the tap to give device that we could claim gift aid on, please let me know. I need the date and the amount. I don't need to tell anyone else if that is a concern for you.

Thanks all! Julie

Communications and the new website

Andrew Watts is our communications team leader. He will work with Anna and Natalie F. to develop the way that we communicate with those in church and even more importantly, outside of it. This will involve a revision of the logo and a look at what we say, where we say it and how we say it. At the moment, even with the changes we implemented several years ago, designing posters, Facebook posts (mine included) and banners is all a bit haphazard. Andrew and Anna both bring a wealth of professional experience that we can utilise. Remember the website is www.stbarnabasbromborough.org.

Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!

Sign up with GiveAsYouLive.com and choose 'PCC of St Barnabas, Bromborough' as your chosen charity. If you need help ask Julie Watts or Thelma McGorry.

We need a name - can you help? We have had a few good ideas.

As the work we do to feed and support families in our area grows, we need to have a name that we can call it. Food for Families or Feeding families no longer seems adequate or entirely encompasses all that we do and hope to do moving forward. It could be a title that references a person, event or place in The Bible. It might be a phrase from a prayer – Daily Bread springs to mind but it's common. It could be a mixture of key words connected with what we do e.g. love, serving, compassion, feeding, support, help. I have been looking and thinking. Sadly there are several Barnabas projects (though we don't have to be original). What do you think? What is God whispering in your ear or shouting in your head? Drop me a text or email. It's fairly urgent as we would like to begin to use the name on our web pages and when we apply for grants. It will operate under our charity number so no change there. Thanks to the three people who responded. Please email me rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org with any thoughts and ideas.

Maureen Coleman

I went to visit Maureen last week and took with me a card from all of us and a wooden holding cross which she has in her hand in this photo. I promised her our prayers and asked if she would continue to pray for us. The good news is that physically she is doing very well and was cheerful. She was a little confused and told me her memory was shocking but it was a lovely visit. The bad news for us is that she has moved now to be near to her daughter Carol in Ross-on-Wye. I have no further details at the moment, but no doubt they will come.



For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for; Maureen Coleman, Lesley Cobb, Gloria and Gordon Simmonds. We continue to pray for our church family at home: Josie Davies, Thelma Williams and Pat Porter. We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio and Noemi and their children in Brazil. We thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. Please also pray especially for two new churchwardens.

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The Rector Jenny can be contacted at rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org or via her mobile 07806608219

Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to ros.wood@outlook.com by Wednesday at 4pm.

Visit our website www.stbarnabasbromborough.org