

Newsletter

Sunday 31st March



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

'Alleluia Christ is risen', the minister says. 'He is risen indeed. Alleluia' the congregation reply. So is the response that we share on Easter day and for the seven weeks after that form the season of Easter in the church's calendar. Just as lighting the centre candle on the advent ring at Christmas fills me with excitement, I never cease to have a child-like joy at these Easter words. Part of the reason is of course that we save the words for a special festival. When I was little, for a while, I tried to recreate Christmas every day. I would sneak upstairs and find the decorations and get them out. I loved Christmas and I didn't want it to end. My dad had to explain to me that part of the reason it was so special was that it didn't happen every day. To my parent's relief, I soon stopped trying to decorate everything after school.

Another thing that was true when I was small was that you could only buy Easter eggs at Easter. That included Cadbury's creme eggs. Now you can get eggs for about 4 months and creme eggs all year round – and they are smaller! Times change. People change. But the truth at the heart of Easter is the same yesterday, today and forever. Christ died for us because of his great love for us. Christ defeated death so that in the face of something that still scares people, we have hope. This life has joyful moments, if we are willing to seek them out, but when Christ comes again, we will have no more pain, no more tears, no more suffering. Through faith in Jesus, we are promised eternal life in a world that is perfect just as God intended. We are also promised a different way of responding to the world we are in now. When



we move forward in faith, we do not tackle life's struggles and difficulties alone. We have Jesus with us and we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Hard stuff doesn't stop but we are better equipped to go through it.



At the heart of Christianity is Christ's death and resurrection. Anyone who has ever worked with the Samaritans will tell you that one of the important and protective factors that a person needs to move forward in life is hope. The resurrection gives us hope. Where some may put their hope in winning the lottery, Christians put their hope in Jesus. The world is broken, people suffer, and awful stuff happens. I am thankful that the gift of faith which I have received enables me to navigate difficult times with a profound sense

that in the end, all will be well. This is not always an easy road to travel but the longer I have lived the more I see and experience the truth of it.

There is one other significant difference between the celebration of Christmas and Easter. Christians are sometimes referred to as an 'Easter people.' Every Sunday we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. We are reminded that we have been called into faith so that we can go out and 'Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the father.' We get to celebrate weekly. Sometimes I think that we forget that.

Whether you have been able to come and be part of the Church this Easter Sunday, or for a variety of reasons have stayed at home, I pray that you will hold fast to the hope that is set before us.

May God bless you richly. Alleluia Christ is risen ...



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Danny'.

What's on this week

Sunday 31 st March	9.15 am Easter Holy Communion 10.55 am Presentation to Lynne Whittaker 11.00 am Contemporary Easter Communion
Monday 1 st April	Bank Holiday. The Centre is closed
Tuesday 2 nd April	9.00 am The Centre is open 9.00 -2.00pm Tuesday to Friday this week. 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome 7.30 pm St Barnabas Ladies Fellowship group meets in The Centre
Wednesday 3 rd April	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre – Revd Colin Hart will preside
Thursday 4 th April	Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall All welcome
Saturday 6 th March	Car Boot sale in The Centre and Church Car Parks 10.00 am -2.00 pm. The centre café is open.
Sunday 7 th April	9.15 am Holy Communion with Revd Kevin Crinks - Vicar of Neston 11.00 am Words and Worship with Andrew Bradley-Gibbons



Sunday 31st March Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
*Mark 16: 1-8

Wednesday 3rd April

Acts 3: 1-10;
Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 7th April

Acts 4.32-35
1 John 1: 1-22
John 20: 19 – end

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

The Rector

Is taking holiday from 1st – 9th April inclusive (Don't panic, I'll be at Messy Church). If you have any concerns, please call 0151 334 4155 and someone will help you.

Easter flowers

Many thanks to all who donated money and especially to Jenny Hope who ended up arranging them all herself. Time to teach some new people to do the flowers... perhaps a flower arranging event after Easter.

Car boot sale Saturday 6th April

1. Would you like a table or a car boot space? Speak to Julie Gordon today or phone 07547925447 Stall proceeds for church funds.
2. Don't want a stall but have stuff to sell? Call Natalie Friel on 07950598466 and she will collect or arrange for you to deliver. Anything donated in this way will be for church funds.
3. Willing to turn up for a hot drink and a wander around? 10.00 am -2.00 pm.

Parish Lunch 7th April

Meet at the Bromborough Pub after the 11.00 am service. Sign up at the back of church or simply turn up.

Knit and Knatter 8th April at 1.30pm

In The Centre. All are welcome.

Messy Church Tuesday 9th April

Please sign up if you can help. We will be in The Centre.

Holy Communion Wednesday 11th April

readings Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21

The Centre Breakfasts

The next breakfast event is on Saturday 13th April 9.30 am – 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 10.30am 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.

Men's Breakfasts

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 20th April and 18th May.

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.

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

Thanks to the now 6 people who have come up with ideas for names (including someone in Cyprus) Anyone else? 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. Please email me rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org. with any thoughts and ideas.

Greetings from Cyprus

Over the past few weeks we have enjoyed the company of Edna Gregory who lives in Cyprus but has a sister living in Bromborough. She attends a church in Limassol which is also called St Barnabas. She sends Easter Greetings to us all from there. Perhaps we should organise a church exchange visit! I have asked her to share greetings to all at her church too.

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

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.

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for; Jan and Gordon who have both been unwell this week, Hilary Griffiths, Craig Dillon, We 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. They are hosting a huge event 22nd -26th April for missionaries across Latine America. Pray for its success. More info next week. Please also pray for two new churchwardens and the people we need on PCC.

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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