

Newsletter

Sunday 28th April 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

Sometimes, writing the news sheet comes easily to me. Condensing it into something that is short enough to fit on no more than a page is usually where the challenge lies. However, I have been sitting at my desk for over an hour and struggled to think of anything to say. That may surprise some of you!

Part of the struggle to think is because I am very tired. I spent Monday – Wednesday being trained in Pastoral Supervision. The Diocese of Chester is encouraging all its clergy to have supervision as well as training some of us to be able to offer it to others. It's not that we will have someone checking over our work but rather that we offer to those who wish, the chance to reflect and review their practice as well as to support them, and be supported, in any actions that come from that. The programme this week involved a lot of intensive listening. That's not easy an easy thing to do and yet most humans report that the effect of having someone to listen to them is a powerful and often healing experience – even or perhaps especially when the other person says nothing. Yes, God listens to us all of the time but he also works through his people. As Theresa of Avila wrote, Christ has '...No hands, no feet on earth but yours... Christ has no body now but yours..' We are called to minister to one another as servants of the gospel. To hold one another on the path when the Christian Journey is tough but also to be alongside those who do not yet know the love of God. I think that too often we worry that we don't know what to say when in fact, the harder thing is to listen in such a way that the person talking knows that they are heard.

As our own faith deepens and strengthens (there is always more) we become more able to embody Christ in all our doing and being. When life is peaceable my every moment is a dialogue with him. The practice that I am continually working on is making sure that conversations I have continues in the stressful times. I don't mean a quick emergency prayer, I can do those, but remaining connected with Jesus when there's a lot going on. Learning to stay connected with Christ brings great transformation. Brother Lawrence wrote a book called, 'Practising the presence of God' This concept of bringing God into all tasks and all places began when he was given the job of washing up in the monastery kitchen. A less holy task he could not consider but he decided that as he washed, he would pray, internal prayers that became a conversation. And the people around him saw the change in him. Being part of a continual unbroken relationship with God does change us.

Since the start of Lent I have been consciously making sure that at the very least, the first thing I do is have a proper conversation (which means listening as well as talking) with Jesus and the last thing I do is the same. That is alongside any other formal or informal prayers I say during the day. You might think I should have been doing this all through my ministry, but it is so easy to get up and look at my phone first, or have a chat with one of my daughters or read the post. I may still be doing morning prayer at 9.00 am but other things have entered my thinking before that. Now, I am creating (or actually re-creating because I have done this before), nothing before or after Jesus. And it is a tiny thing but it has made me so much better at hearing God in my every day living. It's a good habit to get into.

We can copy the habits of others, can't we? We all know that we pick up the language, words and accents of those around us. We are familiar with the idea of a person, 'getting in with the wrong crowd' meaning they have been influenced to behave badly because of those around them. But we can be enormously influenced by the right crowd. That is why coming to church and meeting together is so important. True, Christians are absolutely not all perfect, but we can support and influence and fill one another with Jesus. We can practice the presence of God like Brother Lawrence, working on a perpetual internal dialogue with Jesus. Importantly, we can listen to each other.

Which crowd are you part of?

Every blessing for the week to come,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denny', written in a cursive style.

What's on this week

Sunday 28th April	9.15 am Morning Prayer (Rector) 11.00 am Modern Holy Communion 12.10 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 29th April	9.00 am- 2.00 pm The Centre is open Mon- Fri 1.30pm Knit and Natter meet in the Centre.
Tuesday 30th April	12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wednesday 1st May	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 2nd May	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 4th May	Prayer Breakfast 10.00 am at the Rectory
Sunday 5th May	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Words and Worship

Sunday 28th April Easter 5

*Acts 8: 26 – end
1 John 4: 7 – end
*John 15.1-8
*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Wednesday 1st May

Isaiah 30: 15-21
John 14: 1-14

Sunday 6th May Easter 6

Acts 10.44-end
1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17

Notices

Parish Lunch on Sunday 5th May

The Bromborough pub after the 11.00 am service. Sign up at the back or just turn up.

Women's Fellowship next meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th May at 7.00pm and will include a bring and buy. The Ladies Fellowship meets throughout the year and is keen to have new people join. It was previously known as The Wives Group but they have decided to change the title in order to be inclusive (as they have in fact always been) of women of all ages and circumstances.

The Bible Course – Wednesday afternoons from 1.00pm

I will be running The Bible Course on Wednesday afternoons starting on 15th May. The dates will be 15th, 22nd May, 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June and 3rd 10th July. Some of you began this prior to lockdown. Some have done the same course in homegroup. It will take place at The Rectory from 1.00pm and last until about 2.30pm. If you have a booklet please bring it. If you don't, please let me know and I will get you one. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church. – Jenny (Rector)

The Children's Corner – Sunday 11.00 am

For some time we had no children in church but gradually we have a little group joining us each week. Thanks to Thea for many weeks and last week Barbara Baxter who went into the space to be with the children. It is not fair to leave this ministry to just one person, neither is it fair that the children miss out. So, we are planning to set up a rota. The more people who volunteer the fewer weeks you will need to be there. For the time being, we just need one person each week. You are not there to police the children or to teach them but rather to interact with

them and allow their parents to hear and receive the word of God. They might bring their busy bags or we can provide other resources. In the long term we hope to get our Sunday club going again. 8 volunteers for this rota would mean once every two months. A few more and you would be at once a quarter. You do not have to be 'good' with children just a bit friendly. There is a sheet at the back to sign if you can or speak to me if you want more detail. Thank you in anticipation, Gill Walker

Silent Disco is cancelled for now but not forever!

New Date is 26th July. What is a Silent Disco you ask? There is no noise except a bit of chatter. You have headphones and a choice of channels. You pick the music you like. Someone could be listening to Northern Soul, another 80's dance music and a third heavy metal (I don't actually know the exact choices, but you get the drift). It's funny because people are doing different types of listening or dance. The bar will be open. We are hoping to encourage people a little younger than some of us. Are you allowed to attend? Everyone is welcome, as long as you can get up the stairs at the social club.

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for Gordon Simmonds, Hilary Griffiths and Craig Dillon. We pray for Maureen Coleman who has had a fall at her new care home. We pray for our church family at home: Josie Davies, Thelma Williams and Pat Porter. We pray for the families of the Lt. Carl Huxley and the Lt. Bill Beckley. 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.

Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!

Sign up with GiveAsYouLive.com and choose 'PCC of St Barnabas, Bromborough' as your chosen charity.

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