

Newsletter

Sunday 5th May 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

Some time ago, someone told me that I was a soft touch. I think in the circumstances in which it was said, they meant that I was too understanding of someone. That I was keen to make amends quickly rather than to hold the individual to account. Occasionally, being forgiving and generous to another can be misunderstood as a worldly softness – not that I am 100% certain that being gentle and soft is always bad. Far from it. Being generous, kind and forgiving to a person who makes a mistake should be our natural character as Christians. After all, we have a God who is outrageously generous, deeply loving and when we turn to him, forgives us. And oh, how badly do we need to be forgiven! Our world is broken and too often we go our own way. Our prayers are not 'Help me Lord, poor wretched sinner that I am' but rather, 'Look God, let me help you. I can offer you some good advice, from my own experience, that will help you in this situation.' The truth of seeing myself in that response makes me chuckle.

'Not me' I hear you protest. I don't agree. Isn't that what is happening every single time we doubt him or prefer our own solution? Too often (perhaps not all the time every day) we set ourselves above God and we put self before neighbour. In spite of this, God still longs that we will come to him. He knows our innate sinfulness and the failure of humanity to accept Jesus in his lifetime. And even knowing all this, he continues to love us unconditionally and sacrificially. I know this to be true. In the death of Jesus God has made a way for our weakness and failings to be dealt with so that we stand forgiven before him, 'unpotted and blameless.' (Colossians 1.22)

I think one of the issues that some people have, and I sadly include Christians here, is the failure to recognise the extent to which we are loved by God and the enormity of the forgiveness that we have needed. It is uncomfortable to look at our own wickedness. It is uncomfortable to consider ourselves as poor and wretched sinners and so that language, at least in the Western Church is largely out of fashion. But that is exactly what we are. I am called into faith not because I am better than others but because God chose it for me. We all of us are called to be ministers of the gospel, despite our weaknesses, faults and failings.

On Thursday I had a bit of a mess up. I called a meeting for 9.30 am with a group of people. I then asked them to attend at 9.15 am. They did. I however arrived at 9.23 am. It was a tiny room. It was an important meeting. I thought I was the only one late. Lots of faces all looked at me. I felt awful. I had made a mistake. Someone offered me coffee, I apologised unreservedly. What else could I do? They had all jumped through hoops to be there. I felt awful. Just as we began the meeting, I realised one of the senior members of the organisation I had invited to attend was not yet there. About 10 minutes later he turned up. He was full of apologies and obviously embarrassed. Now chairing the discussion, I offered him a minute to settle and accepted his apologies. At the end he came over to me. 'I am SO sorry!' he laboured. When I told him not to worry, he said, 'You're too kind.' I could have stopped there because he did not know what all the others did. 'I was late too.' I said, 'We all have stuff and we are all doing our best.' Earlier I had been forgiven. It would have been hypocritical and wrong for me to do other than forgive him.

I know that being late for a meeting seems trivial compared to the wrongs that are done to some people. When Anthony Walker's mother publicly forgave the people who killed her son it made the news. How could a woman do this? She did it because she understood that in Christ we all stand forgiven and she knew the enormity of that for herself which in turn gave her the strength and words to forgive those who wronged her and her son. Mrs Walker said, "At the point of death, Jesus said, 'I forgive them for they know not what they do.' I have got to forgive them." Anthony's mum saw that her son's killers were victims of birth, circumstance and a world that is broken.

Forgiveness did not mean they were let off what they had done. There was a trial, and they were sent to prison and as a Christian I believe they will also receive God's judgement.

Is there anyone you need to forgive? Do it now. And as you go through this week be observant and seek forgiveness of your own mistakes, just as you are forgiving towards others who will also make mistakes.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Daisy'.

What's on this week

Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday The Centre is Closed
Tuesday 7 th May	The Centre is open from 9.00 am – 2.00pm Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am -12.00 pm Caritas drop in. All welcome in the Centre 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome 7.00 pm Women's Fellowship AGM and Bring and Buy in the Centre
Wednesday 8 th May	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 9 th May	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 11 th May	10.00 am Brass cleaning in church. Please will you help?
Sunday 12 th May	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Words and Worship

'Forgive us our sins in the same proportion as we forgive the sins of others'
The Lord's Prayer (paraphrase)

Sunday 6th May Easter 6

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

Wednesday 8th May

Acts 17: 15, 22-18:1
John 16: 12-15

Sunday 12th May Easter 7

Acts 1: 15-17, 21 – end
1 John 5: 9 – 13
John 17: 6-19

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

TODAY Parish Lunch

The Bromborough pub after the 11.00 am service. Just turn up. Some people have said they would prefer to go somewhere else. Back to Green Oak Farm? Across the road to the Oak? If you have any thoughts on the subject please chat to Carol Jones or to Jenny G.

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

Thanks to those of you who have signed up to do this work. In the long term we hope to get our Sunday club going again but that's not what this is. We could do with a few more volunteers. 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

Refreshment Volunteer rota

A new Church and Refreshments rota will be compiled for June - August 2024. We need more volunteers. Please email Fiona Austin with dates you are not available by 12 May 2024.

Church Service Rota

If you would like to be added to the rota to welcome people, read, lead prayers or serve refreshments please also email Fiona by 12 May 2024. We especially need people who would be happy to do the prayers in a service (help will be provided if you would like it). Please email Fiona at secretary@stbarnabasbromborough.org

Car boot sale Saturday 18th May

1. Would you like your own table or a car boot space? Speak to Julie Gordon or phone 07547925447
2. Don't want a stall but have stuff that we could sell? Please phone Jane on 07772 075273. Anything donated in this way will be for church funds. Alternatively, drop it in church on Sunday 12th May only or bring it to the 10.30 service on Wednesday 15th May only
3. Willing to turn up for a hot drink and a wander around? It's 9 am -12 noon.

Churchyard Thanks

Have you wandered in our churchyard lately? It is one of the most beautiful urban spaces I can think of. Last week the grass was cut by our single local authority worker (it was 3 now it's 1 man) and Bill Davies. The wood collected during the autumn and kept dry by Ian Sneddon and team has been burnt. The spring flowers have been beautiful. The snowdrops and crocuses gave way to primroses and early daffodils and now the ever-increasing number of bluebells are in flower. There are now only a few graves that are not visible. There has been a lot of work done to tidy the remembrance garden too and the Mulberry tree and Davidia, both planted in recent history, are beginning to leaf up. Thank you to the many people responsible for this from dog walkers who keep a vigilant eye, Lin, Ade and Ian S who spend time clearing, cleaning and weeding with their various volunteer friends, Ros who splits up clumps of bulbs resulting in lots of new flower patches and of course St Barnabas's very own green keeper Bill Davies. Your work is noticed and appreciated. Jenny G

St Barnabas Community Care Network

This is the umbrella name that we are giving to all the activity that we do which relates to the parish's community work. Our own 'Food for Families' will be part of this, but so will our being a hub for the FUSS and FUPS School uniform scheme and our Caritas mornings. This is why it feels right to call it a network. As the Caritas work highlights, we are 'Stronger Together.' We rely on our primary schools, Involve Northwest and our GP surgeries too and there is so much more to come, I am sure. We will be able to use this title when bidding for grants on behalf of the church and we can use the title to link with work done by the Village Hall and any other organisations that we engage with. Many thanks to those of you who gave me ideas. I really liked the ideas if the Salimas Project (this is in Cyprus and is the birthplace of Barnabas). I also liked 'Love Bromborough' and 'Bread for Bromborough' though the latter sounded a bit more like a village Bakery. I have no doubt we may need to use some of these names moving forward.

Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!

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

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for David, son of Colin Hart and Colin himself, Gordon Simmonds, Carole Kelley, Hilary Griffiths and Craig Dillon. 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.

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