

Newsletter

Sunday 12th May 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

As I write, it is Ascension Day. It is a little unusual getting to Ascension so early in May. One of the most memorable celebrations of Ascension that I have been part of, was when I celebrated the Eucharist at dawn on top of Bidston Hill, a short distance from the windmill. Not only was it outside on a hill, which was wonderful, but it was also unforgettable because the high wind that day made keeping a cloth, a book and the bread on the table nearly impossible.

Sadly, Ascension is often left out of the calendar of major celebrations by the people who consider Christmas and Easter so important. I don't mean that the church does not celebrate but that its members don't always join in. It can be tricky on a Thursday I admit but we manage Good Friday on a week day! Perhaps it is in part that we do not recognise the central importance of Ascension.

What is that importance? Tim Keller a great pastor, teacher and defender of the faith argues in his book *Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions* (Dutton) that the Ascension makes an enormous difference. He writes, "The ascension, when understood, becomes an irreplaceable, important resource for living our lives in the world—and it's a resource no other religion or philosophy of life holds out to us." From a theological perspective, Jesus, who is fully human and fully divine was going to take his place as the new king and head of the human race. Second, having ascended, Jesus was no longer limited to a time and a place. "The ascension, when understood, becomes an irreplaceable, important resource for living our lives in the world—and it's a resource no other religion or philosophy of life holds out to us."

As a result of Jesus's ascension, Christ is available to all, across every age and time and space. He is supremely powerful and having ascended he is sovereign over every element of the created order. Because of his sovereignty over all things, we can live with peace in our hearts. Jesus is at God's right hand. As one of my daughters often comments, 'God's got it.' Jesus is directing everything and for each one of us. The ascended Christ guarantees that you can know you are forgiven, accepted, and delighted in by God the Father. He is our advocate who intercedes or mediates constantly for us. Keller explains: "So when the Bible says that Jesus stands as our advocate and representative before the throne of the universe, it is a way to say that he is ascended and not just levitated. It doesn't matter what you have been or what you have done. It doesn't matter how flawed and foolish you are. When the eyes of God the Father look at you, they see the ascended Jesus; when they listen to you, they hear him. When God looks and listens to you, he sees and hears infinite beauty . . . He sees Jesus not sitting at the right hand but standing on his behalf, advocating for him." That is powerful stuff and has the power to change the way a person lives their life. Jesus died to pay the penalty of our sin and because he loves us unconditionally. He was resurrected so that we would know that there is nothing to fear from death when we know Jesus. He is ascended and by this rules over all.

Between Ascension and Pentecost Sunday, which this year is on 19th May, our church will take part in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. As part of this we are all invited to pray for five people who are yet to know Jesus. In order to aid your memory, we have been giving out little bags with five tiny stones. These are to remind you to pray each day for those 5 people, so do put them somewhere that you will see them. Perhaps by the kettle, by your bed, next to your Bible – whatever works for you. If you would like to participate more, you might look at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global> where you will find personal resources for prayer as well as daily videos.

Didn't make it to church on Ascension day? Perhaps next year. Jesus still sits at the right hand of God and rules over all. He is still accessible to you and I hope he continues as sovereign Lord in your life. Pray for those who are yet to know Jesus and join us for a great Pentecost celebration on Sunday 19th May. Don't forget to wear some orange, red or yellow if you can.

Every blessing for the week to come,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

What's on this week

Monday 13 th May	The Centre is open 9.00 am -2.00 pm Monday -Friday 1.30 pm Knit and Natter in the Centre
Tuesday 14 th May	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 3.30- 5.00 pm Messy Church
Wednesday 15 th May	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 16 th May	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome 7.00 pm PCC meets in The Centre
Saturday 18 th May	9.00 am -12 noon. Car boot sale in the car parks and The Centre. The Café is open.
Sunday 19 th May	9.15 am Pentecost Traditional Holy Communion 11.00 am Pentecost Modern Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May Easter 7

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

Wednesday 8th May

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

Sunday 19th May Pentecost

Acts 2: 1 – 21
Romans 8: 22 – 27
*John 15: 26–27, 16: 4b - 15

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

The Bible Course – Wednesday afternoons from 1. 00pm

I currently have one person who is coming to the Bible Course on Wednesday afternoon from 15th May. If I do not get at least 4 people then perhaps we need to review the date, time, location. This is not for those of you in housegroup. Please let me know if you intend to come. 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)

Refreshment Volunteer rota

A new Church and Refreshments rota will be compiled for June - August 2024. We need more volunteers. This is an urgent request. Please email Fiona Austin with dates you are not available by **TODAY**,

Church Service Rota

If you would like to **Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!**

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

The Children's Corner – Sunday 11.00 am

Thanks to those of you who have signed up to sit in the children's corner on Sunday at 11.00 am. 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

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 of 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.

Funeral for the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen

The funeral for Peter will be held on Saturday 8th June at 1.00 pm in St Barnabas Church. Peter will be lying in the church from 4.00 pm on Friday 7th June. The family are pleased if any of you would like to join them at that time but once we leave, I would appreciate it if people could avoid access from Friday evening until preparations need to be made for the 1.00 pm service.

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for David, son of Colin Hart and Colin himself. For Maureen Coleman, Hilary and Eddie Griffiths, Gordon Simmond and Bill Darch. We pray for our church family at home: Josie Davies, Thelma Williams and Pat Porter. We pray for the family of the Lt. Peter Christensen. We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio and Noemi and their children and we thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. We pray also for all who are affected by the awful floods.

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