

# Newsletter

Sunday 26th May 2024



Charity No. 1127144  
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

In a recent survey (findings reported in November 2023) 1 in 5 young people (11-25 year olds) reported experiencing significant mental health issues. What this report, and a similar survey conducted by the mental health organisation Mind also shows, is that many of these people do not feel listened to or have not had appropriate access to mental health support. This is difficult reading. Equally disturbing is the fact that there are 944,000 people with dementia living in the UK. It is expected to go over 1 million by the end of 2025. These numbers are part of the global estimate of 55million people suffering with this dreadful disease in the world. Many of these people and their families do not have adequate help or support.

What is an appropriate Christian response to these findings? I am aware that some of you may not even read beyond the first paragraph. I am guilty of contributing to yet more 'doom and gloom' but please do read on. As Christians, we are called not just to live in the hope that Jesus brings into our lives, but to be 'hope bringers'. (A wonderful phrase I learned from Malcolm.) How can we do that?

Firstly, we can be the means of support and encouragement and comfort to the young people we know. That might include family members, neighbours, the four teenagers who worship with us or even the parents of young people. Let them know they are cared for. Listen to them too, even if you struggle to understand. Let them know they are prayed for and don't be afraid to say that. In my experience even the most cynical teenager accepts prayers.

Second, those who have family members with dementia can feel very alone. I would say that from experience it is harder than death to deal with (though for others that may not be so). We watch those we love disappear before our eyes and we live daily with the grief. Those around us are often incredibly supportive when a loved one dies but are we able to offer that level of support when our friend's parent, partner, friend is ill? I think as church there is so much that we can offer here. I would love us to have a group that met regularly in the café for bingo, singing (great for those with dementia) chat. There are several churches that run CAMEO groups. The name stands for Come and Meet Each Other. In some places it is just for carers, in others it is for the carers and the cared for. On Friday the Centre is often very quiet. Could we make something happen then? It needs a few leaders to help organise but tea and coffee would be easy to do. I would be willing to help get it going. It would not just be for those who have dementia but for all who want to get out and about. Anyone willing to make it happen?

Another thing we can do as Christians is to gift our funds appropriately to aid action and research and alongside that, think and act politically. Do you engage with your local counsellors about provision for the young and the old in South Wirral? Or indeed any other issues? What are the questions you might want to raise with your local MP? Saying 'there's no point' should not be an option as a Christian. We believe that God gave us creation to watch over. We believe we are called to share the 'Good News' of God's kingdom. It is so easy to throw political literature into the bin. It is easy to say, 'they're all the same' but when we disengage, we silence the Christian voice in a very important area. I am not here to tell you how to vote. I am not even here to weigh for you who is telling the truth and who is not. I'm afraid you must consider that for yourselves. What I am saying, from the perspective of a Christian leader, is that we have an opportunity to know what the scriptures say and to engage with political issues as far as we are able in the light of that Bible knowledge and understanding. We carry social responsibility and with prayer and good conscience we should exercise our democratic right and vote according to our beliefs. You will find in all political parties some evidence of those things that the Bible teaches. It is reading and listening and then deciding who would Jesus want you to vote for in Bromborough and for our nation? Who is best placed now to govern with stability? Who will help those in need? Which party can work to bring the 'unity of peace and concord', to borrow from one of the collects. The Christian faith is not a call to inaction but to be active, outward looking and engaged. And there is no retirement from it I am afraid.

We are a church that has become practically more active in our community. We need to think about how we can engage at the next level – to bring wider change to significant issues in the world. To be hope bringers and world changers. Prayers for you in the week ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denny', is written at the bottom right of the page.

# What's on this week

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	The Centre is closed
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	The Centre is open Tuesday -Friday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm 9.30 am -12.00 pm Caritas drop in. Drink and a chat. All welcome. In the Centre 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	There is NO prayer meeting this month
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Holy Communion

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

### Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Romans 8: 12 – 17

\*John 3: 1 - 17

## Wednesday

### 22<sup>nd</sup> May

1 Peter 1: 18 – end

Mark 10: 32- 45

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### Trinity 1

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 12

Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

\*denotes the reading at  
11.00 am

# Notices

## Singing Cake church on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. St David's Church Eastham

Lots of cake and singing. All are most welcome.

## Rota

New Rota at the back of Church. Please take one. We are trying to phase out excessive use of paper. The rota will also be sent digitally. Eventually we will phase out paper rotas as far as we can.

## Cake Rota

Please sign up at the back of church. What do you like to find on the table? Imagine you had not had time for breakfast...what would you choose? That's what we need to offer. Thanks to those who do this regularly. If you prefer to give funds, speak to Pat or Wendy.

## Bible Course – Wednesday afternoons from 1. 00pm at The Rectory but **NOT on the 30<sup>th</sup> May**

To those of you who were waiting, the course books have arrived. They are available at Church on Sunday or HC on Wednesday. The cost is £5 but please don't let that stop you from coming. Paying for them is not compulsory. Money can be put in the pot at one of the sessions at the Rectory.

## Churchyard Thanks

The BVCA (Community Association) have been awarded a grant for environmental spaces. They plan to spend a good portion of it on materials for the churchyard including resources to help keep it tidy and bulbs to make it look pretty. Don't forget to support their fair which is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. We will also be raising money then too.

### **Counting the cash on Sunday**

Would you be able to stay behind after the Sunday 11am service to help count the cash? It doesn't take long, maybe 20 minutes, but it needs 2 people. We will set up a rota so it won't be every week, just one in 3 or 4 if we get enough people. If you are interested please see Julie Watts.

### **Parish Lunch on Sunday 2nd June**

This will take place as usual but note there is a change of venue. **This month we are going back to the Royal Oak and tables in the conservatory.** The Oak has recently been decorated and their kitchen is a little bigger so we are hoping service will be a bit faster and that this will please more people. Please sign up at the back if you can.

### **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.

### **Cream Tea at St David's Church Eastham**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2-4pm. Tickets £4.00 from Judith 0151 513 0764 All are welcome.

### **Silent Disco**

This is taking place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July in the upstairs room of Bromborough Social club. You pay £10 and get a headset. You listen to the type of music that you like. Most popular music tastes catered for. It's funny watching people dancing to different sounds. Bar available. All welcome but you need to be able to climb the social club stairs! The other good thing is that if you switch off the headset you can talk to each other!

### **BVCA Summer Fair**

This is being held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. There will be stalls, entertainment and refreshments. We would love to see you there. The Church is also having stalls and the church will be open. Your help is needed to look after these things. More to follow.

### **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.

### **Have you visited the website yet? Will you look and look again if you have already been.?**

Thanks to Andrew and those who went before him, we are developing a really good website. I know some people have visited it because I have received emails through the contact forms. When did you last look? Can you help us? We would like to get the usage up which helps us be more visible, especially to people who are looking for our page or even happen upon it and discover we are a great church. What we need you to do is 1. Go to the page [www.stbarnabasbromborough.org](http://www.stbarnabasbromborough.org) 2. Have a look around. **3. If you are listed as a leader or know you have an email address that goes back to you please send Andrew a photo at [Communications@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:Communications@stbarnabasbromborough.org).** 3. Encourage friends and family to look at the site. It is something to be proud of. 4. Return to it regularly so that we can increase the views. Thank you

**We pray for...**

Gordon Simmonds, and Craig Dillon. Our Church family at home, Josie Davies, Thelma Williams, Eddie and Hilary Griffiths, Pat Porter, Jan Harper and Barbara Tharme. We pray for the families of the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen, Lt. Bill Beckley. We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio, Noemi and their children and thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. We pray for Revd Deborah and our brothers and sisters at St Barnabas Church Limosol in Cyprus.

**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](mailto:rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org) or via her mobile 07806608219  
Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to [ros.wood@outlook.com](mailto:ros.wood@outlook.com) by Wednesday at 4pm.

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