

Newsletter

Sunday 2nd June 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

The doorbell rang at 9.20 am. It was Dave the dog walker who had come to collect Anna's dog Olive (the one who went through the fence to Narnia, otherwise known as the estate behind my house). Anna was in her temporary office in my dining room. She was facilitating a meeting so in a lead role. Rachael was in the shower, and I was getting up and therefore in a state of undress. I do not think the reader need dwell on that for any length of time but yes, I was shamefully late.

Anyway, as some of you know, when you ring the doorbell in my house it is total pandemonium. Harry and Olive both run around trying to get help and raise the alarm. They remind me of Manuelle from Fawley Towers. They also bark continually which makes many an Amazon delivery person run for the hills. I should say that they have both passed 'Level 1' dog training but staying calm when someone is at the door was not part of the assessment.

Back to the doorbell. It rang and chaos ensued. I found out later that Anna had previously asked Rachael to answer the door. I also learned afterwards that Rachael wandering past my bedroom door saying, 'I'm going in the shower' was my instruction to be ready to open the front door. I had not understood the mission.

Dogs barking, me clothe-less, Rachael covered in soap in the shower, Anna blissfully in ignorance that anything might be required of her. Rachael shouts, 'Mum it's Dave'. There is no way I can make myself respectable and get down the stairs in anything like the time needed. Rachael on the other hand now has a towel around her and though soap is dripping down one side of her face, sacrifices her dignity to answer the front door. I am thankful. Rachael is fortunately laughing. Anna is oblivious until she gets a text from Dave which says, 'You may owe your sister big-style.'

I hope that when the Lord comes, I will be more prepared than I was when the dog-walker came to the door today. As Christians we are encouraged to be prepared always for the second coming of Christ. We cannot avoid judgement, but if we are prepared, we should not fear it. Those of us who have accepted Jesus are promised eternal salvation but that does not mean that we don't have to think daily about the things that we say and do. We find out what that is like by reading (or listening to) the Bible and studying it alone and together. This does not have to be a chore. I hope that out of your love for Jesus you will want to know more about him and as you learn, will become more self-aware, able to mould your thinking and your actions to his teaching. The gospel of Matthew is one of the several places which reminds us that the final judgement we receive is affected by what we do and how we act now. 'For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.' (Matthew 16.27) Though the master of the vineyard rewards the workers who start later the same as those who come earlier (Matthew 20) we should not leave our spiritual preparedness to the eleventh hour. The Bible hints at the connection between how we behave now and what life is like in eternity.

The call in scripture to 'be prepared' does not only refer to The Coming of Christ. The people from the church in Ephesus are encouraged to 'put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, [they] may be able to stand [their] ground.' Paul is taking an image that is before them, that is a Roman Soldier's Uniform, and changing it into a powerful spiritual image of strength. He is reminding them of all the tools they have that enable them to live in very difficult circumstances. Look in Chapter 6 of Ephesians and you will find the account describing the helmet of Salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the shoes of peace and the sword of the Spirit. I often pray on the armour of God, for myself and for others. The armour was not just for the Ephesians. These are Spiritual tools that are available to us. God gives so that we may be prepared for whatever it is that is set before us though I suspect that we are not always good at receiving the gifts he offers.

Dave the dog walker is still chuckling at the sight that greeted him. I hope the story has made you smile too and alongside that reminded you of the importance of being prepared and putting on your armour. Much more effective than a towel!

Wishing you a very good week ahead,

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

What's on this week

Monday 3 rd June	The Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm
Tuesday 4 th June	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 7.30pm Women's Fellowship in the Centre. All welcome
Wed 5 th June	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 6 th June	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Friday 7 th June	4.00 pm. Body of Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen welcomed into church to remain overnight.
Saturday 8 th June	1.00 pm Funeral for the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen in church and after in the Village Centre
Sunday 9 th June	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Word and Worship 12.15 pm Baptism

Sunday 2nd June Trinity 1

1 Samuel 3: 1-10
2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 12
Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

Wednesday 5th June

2 Timothy 1: 1 – 3, 6 – 12
Mark 12: 18 – 27

Sunday 9th June Trinity 2

Genesis 3: 8 – 15
2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 5:1
Mark 3: 20 – end

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

TODAY 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. We will be there as soon as we can after the 11.00 am service.

Messy Church Tuesday 11th June

3.30 – 5.00pm Volunteers needed! Please sign up to help at Messy Church. Do you know any children? Encourage them to come along with an adult. We have a wonderful congregation who are doing church in The Centre in a very contemporary way. It is an exciting place to be.

Ladies Fellowship 4th June 7.30pm

This month there is a talk about the work carried out at Maggie's Cancer Centre at Clatterbridge. The group is keen to encourage new members. It is open to all women.

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

To those of you who were waiting, the course books have arrived. They really are available at Church this Sunday. 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

There will be a churchyard clean up on Tuesday 25th June. If you are able/willing to help then let Ian Sneddon know. Come along with gardening gloves ready to weed and pick up rubbish.

Counting the cash on Sunday

Still hoping for some volunteers please. 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.

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.

BVCA Summer Fair Saturday 15th June 10.00 am -4.00pm

Your help is needed!

The Church intends to raise money at this event, and we are grateful to be able to collaborate with the BVCA in order to do this. In order to be successful, we need everyone's help. I know some of you will be working in the centre.

1. The Church will be open all day. **We require two volunteers** to be there and to keep candles going as well as offer to chat and to pray if appropriate. Please sign the sheet at the back. You can steward it sitting down.
2. There are a number of stalls that we will have. Some require you to be able to move around. Others are very much about sitting down. **Sign-up sheets at the back of church.**
3. Bouncy slide supervision. I know a couple of the chaps looked after this last year. Are you up for it again? **Sign-up sheets at the back of church.**
4. **We need lots of bottle bags.** Any will do. New or used. **Please bring to church on Sunday 2nd or 9th June or drop them in to the centre** and make sure that Thelma McGorry knows where they are.
5. **Bottles of wine needed for the 'water in to wine' stall.** The more that you donate, the fewer we need to buy. Bring to church on 2nd or 9th June or drop them into the centre.

It should be a great event so please do support it. Entertainment includes The South Wirral signing choir, The Mersey Morris Men and a Brass Band.

Evensong on Saturday 15th June at 5.30pm

Do you ever miss traditional evensong? Well now is your chance. We will have the Barnabas Consort to sing evensong for us after the fair. If you are feeling a little fraught from the day or if you would like something wonderful to listen to, I know that this will not disappoint. I am really keen to develop this type of service alongside our other more relaxed and contemporary worship.

St Barnabas Outdoor Service – Brass Band Songs of Praise.

We will be having our outdoor service on Sunday 16th June at 11.00 am. There will be a short said communion at 9.15 am in church and the outdoor service will be Bromborough's answer to Songs of Praise. Do you have a well known favourite hymn you would like to sing? Would you be willing to tell us what makes it special (you don't have to). Either email Jenny G or write it and hand it to me to help me choose. No promises. The band has to know the music and we may not get time for them all!

Funeral for Revd Canon John Bowers

I know only a small number remember John but he was curate here 60 years ago and has had a fondness for St Barnabas ever since. Ann Ellis and he have been friends from that time and John has taken services here during vacancies. Some of you will know him as the chap who does the cycling in aid of the Barnabas Foundation. Rather like Peter, I got to know John when I was in Birkenhead. Sadly, John died on 24th May. His funeral will be held on Tuesday 18th June at 12 noon. We also have a funeral in St Barnabas at that time so I can't be there but it would be wonderful if someone would be able to go and to take Ann Ellis.

Cream Tea at St David's Church Eastham

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

Silent Disco

This is taking place on Saturday 26th 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!

Leader's photos

Those of you who hold a role at church or who are listed on the website in a position of responsibility... we need your picture. This is your chance to send one you like and have chosen. Please send to Communications@stbarnabasbromborough.org If safeguarding issues mean that you don't want your photo used please let Andrew Watts know.

We pray for...

Gordon Simmonds, Val and Pete Jones, Craig Dillon and David Hart (Colin Hart's son. Please pray for him to as he tries to support David.) 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. John Bowers, Lt. Vivian Cavell, 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 our brothers and sisters at St Barnabas Church Limassol 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 or via her mobile 07806608219

Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to ros.wood@outlook.com by Wednesday at 4pm.

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