

# Newsletter

Sunday 9th June 2024



Charity No. 1127144  
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

I am proud. I know that the Bible reminds us that 'Pride goes before destruction...' (Proverbs 16.18) but perhaps pride is permitted when one feels it not about self but about others? Whatever, I *am* proud of the way that the people of St Barnabas gathered to make the funeral of the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen go so smoothly. In fact, it was more than smooth. It was a wonderful church community event. Thank you for the time so many of you gave, whether it was making food, car park or choir duty, ushering, welcoming, preparing the table, ringing the beautiful half muffled bells, attending the service, cleaning and clearing. You were brilliant, and I am hugely grateful. Thank you. There were 159 people in the building, almost all of whom received Holy Communion. I think every one of them will have felt that you did a good job and that they were helped to feel welcome. Perhaps most of all, I know that Peter would have thought that too.

And so we move forward. I often write about time in this newsletter because I find it such a fascinating concept. The way it is perceived by us is so linear. We organise it into years, months, weeks, days, hours, seconds and so on. A year ago exactly I had a new hip. It was 366 days (a leap year) but how does a year feel? It feels like both a lifetime and a fleeting moment. The passage of time is often marked by events rather than a real awareness of how long in calendar terms, time has taken.

At Peter's funeral I found myself preaching. It was not planned as David Felix was going to speak. Sadly however, David was not well (arthritis pain – he is improving) and so the 3 hours on Saturday morning fled past as they often do when we are faced with a deadline or something extra to fit into the allocated space. Thankfully, I had 'enough time'. I spoke about the text from 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18. It begins, '...we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.' It's a wonderful text that reminds us of the hope that is set before all who say, 'Yes I believe.' The hope of eternal life is not the kind of 'luck' we wish for when we gamble on a horse' or the hope that have when we wonder if there is clean pair of socks in the drawer.' This is a sure and certain comforting, uplifting hope. It is the promise of Jesus that this life is not all that there is. There is so much more for those who put their trust in God. Eternity with Christ is promised for all who seek salvation. And Paul in his words to the people of Thessalonica remind them that those who have died will be caught up into eternity first, but then we who are living will come next. And here is the thing. God's time is not linear. He is at the beginning and at the end and in the middle. I am told the physicists are the people who are best blessed to offer an explanation that tells us how this can actually happen. Many of the world's leading physicists have become Christians or at least come to a belief in God through their scientific understanding of time and matter. The point is, those who have died will not be hanging around waiting for those of us who continue to live. It is we who wait but at the last we will be raised together.

We can mark the passage of time in Bromborough by the rectors that come and go. Three since Peter. Each of us giving to this place the best that we can give, each a little different, each sitting in the rector's stall. Each hearing those bells and taking care of the people that cross our path in church and village. I am very conscious that I am part of a great relay race, just as you are too. We are ambassadors for Christ in this moment, building on what has gone before and preparing foundations for what is to come. We are custodians of what God, by grace has given us now and what others have made possible. It is our duty and our joy to care for it and to share it and to make it more than has been handed to us.

We move forward to the Summer Fair next week. We need your help then too, for without funds it will be difficult to live out the mission to which God has called us. Please offer to do whatever you can for as long as you can. Manning a stall may not feel very spiritual, but it is about showing our face and raising the money that helps us carry out the spiritual responsibilities to which we are called first.

Wishing you every blessing in the week ahead,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dennis', written in a cursive style.

# What's on this week

Monday 10th June	The Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 am -12.00 pm In the Centre.Caritas drop in. Drink and a chat. All welcome. 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre 1.00 pm The Bible Course at The Rectory
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00 am -4.00 pm BVCA Summer Fair
Sunday 9th June	9.15 am Holy Communion (said) 11.00 am St Barnabas Songs of Praise outside

## Sunday 9th June Trinity 2

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

## Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June

I Kings 18: 20 - 39  
Matthew 5: 17 - 19

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June St Barnabas

Ezekiel 17:  
22-end  
2 Corinthians 5:  
6-10, 14-17  
\*Mark 4: 26- 34

\*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

# Notices

## Messy Church Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Funeral for the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen

Thank you to all who attended or helped in any way. Ian and Thelma, Churchwardens

# **BVCA Summer Fair Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Mothers' Union meeting 2.30pm Tuesday 18th June**

Please note change of time. This is so that Jenny H can take Ann to John Bower's funeral (see below).

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> May. His funeral will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon at St Bridget's in West Kirby. All are welcome to attend. We also have a funeral in St Barnabas at that time so I can't be there.

### **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.

## **Maureen Coleman**

Chris Pendry spoke to Maureen on Friday. Maureen asked her to let everyone know that she is thinking about you all and sends her very best wishes.

## **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!

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org) or via her mobile 07806608219  
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