

Newsletter

Sunday 23rd June 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I was brought up in North Devon, not far from a very beautiful but rocky coastline. The area also has some of the best sandy beaches in the world. Saunton Sands is internationally famous for surfing as is Croyde Bay. Andrew and I were rarely taken to these places. North Devon beaches are busy and Croyde can be dangerous with rip tides caused by the rocks on either side. We regularly saw the search and rescue helicopter fly over our heads taking casualties from the beach or the cliffs to the local hospital. When we went to the beach, often after others had gone home so that the roads were quieter and there was a chance of a parking space, we would clamber down a steep path, go over the rocks and find ourselves on an almost deserted shingle beach called Barricane (see picture). When the tide was up there was only shingle and rock pools. I learned to swim in a particularly large one. It was around the time of the *Torrey Canyon* Disaster (1967) just off the North Cornish Coast. At that time it was the worst oil spillage in history. The clean-up operation made matters even more serious by the amount of dangerous chemicals that were sprayed on the area. For us, the consequence was that shoes and clothes and towels very often picked up lumps of crude oil. We were taught to try and avoid the sticky blackness though inevitably it often got on somebody. It made your skin sore and that was before it was scrubbed off your body!



I write about all this because Sunday's gospel reading takes us to the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Lake of Gennesaret. To be certain of clarity, this is an inland lake and not an area of the coast. It is the world's second lowest lake (The Dead Sea is the only one lower) and 700 feet below sea level. It is surrounded by small villages and the location of Jesus's Sermon on the mount and where Peter walked on water, that is until he took his eyes off Jesus! (Matthew 14). On another occasion, the disciples were crossing the lake in a boat when a huge storm came. The account of Jesus calming the waves is the subject found in Mark 4. Verse 35 to the end. You will know that we are told Jesus slept through the early part of the storm until the disciples woke him and he calmed the waves. How scared they were and might have expected sympathy from their teacher. Instead he says to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' Of course, they were astounded by his power over nature and said, 'Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him.' Even though they had responded to his call on their lives, even though they had seen the miracles he was doing they still struggled to put all their trust in him or The Father from whom he came. This is such a human reaction isn't it? Speaking personally, although my faith is deep and strong I am still amazed by the miraculous and full of fear on occasion.

So how does my upbringing in Devon relate to the Bible account that I have just referred to? I have always seen a tiny glimpse of the enormity of Almighty God in the power of the sea. Even on sunny days the waves have great power to knock down and destroy the largest of vessels and the most experienced of surfer or swimmer. There is a rumble that comes with a rough sea and a crashing sound that is heard as the waves break on the particularly hard and jagged rocks associated with that area. Interestingly, the Sea of Galilee is not only unusual for how far it is below sea level but also because of the remarkable and sudden changes in weather it can have. Because the Golan heights are to the north, huge storms can be whipped up in a few minutes just as the lake can also be suddenly becalmed. Fishermen, like many of the disciples, would have lived with the fear of either event as it would affect both their safety and their livelihood. You couldn't just switch on the motor and chug to the next village. You had to row or wait. You lived at the mercy of nature and the understanding of God the Creator was imminent (close to them). I think we lose sight of that in our busy human-made existence. Having said that, the weather in Bromborough is tidal and we often experience several changes in a day because of that. Do you notice?

Another thing I learnt from my early experience of the sea is how humanity can mess up nature. When the *Torrey Canyon* spilt its oil, 170 miles of mostly British Coastline were damaged. Around 15,000 sea birds were destroyed as well as marine life over 270 square miles. On top of that 10,000 tons of solvent emulsifiers were sprayed onto the area with a toxicity that is hard to quantify in the long term. As I was learning about the awesome power of God, I was also seeing the ability of mankind to mess up the good that God has entrusted to us.

Thankfully, the coastline has recovered. Out of an awful situation new rules and guidance has come for transporting oil and other chemicals as well as legislation around the cleaning up disasters at sea. Again and again we see how God redeems what mankind destroys though we still live with the consequences of our actions both individually and collectively.

On Sunday you will hear more about the calming of the storm but for now, be thoughtful. Hear the word of the Lord. Look at where he is working, redeeming, changing. You may not always 'feel' God but we need to use our knowledge of him to assess the situation we are in. Remember that he is all just, all loving, and all merciful. Go and read psalm 145 8-13, and Micah 6 and 7. These are some of the places we can read he about who God is but we will also learn what the Lord requires of us.

Wishing you every blessing in the week ahead,



What's on this week

Monday 24 th June	The Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm 1.30pm Knit and Natter in the Centre
Tuesday 25 th June	9.30 am -12.00 pm In the Centre. Caritas drop in. Drink and a chat. All welcome. From 9.30 am Churchyard clean up. All help appreciated. Refreshments provided. 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 26 th June	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre 1.00 pm The Bible Course at The Rectory
Thursday 27 th June	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Sunday 30 th June	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Word and Worship

Sunday 23rd June Trinity 4

Job 38.1-11
2 Corinthians 6.1-13
Mark 4.35-end

Wednesday 26th June

2 King 22: 8 – 13, 23: 1 – 3
Matthew 7: 15 – 20

Sunday 30th June Trinity 5

Lamentations 3: 23 – 33
2 Corinthians 8: 7 – end
Mark 5: 21 – end

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

Parish Lunch

The next Parish Lunch will be on Sunday 7th July, after the 11.00 am service. We will be in the Royal Oak. Last time the food was good and the service was quick. It's a great chance to be together. If cost is an issue speak privately to me or to Carol Jones. We don't want anyone excluded because of money.

St Barnabas Weekend

To the BVCA for making the Summer Fair happen – thank you. To Natalie Friel and to all those who donated towards and/or worked on the church's parts of the annual Summer Fair, thank you. To the volunteers in The Centre – thank you. To the Scouts for getting involved this year (more next year we hope) – thank you. To the battle enactment group – thank you. To those who attended the wonderful evensong, thank you. To Andrew, who got the choir together, found the organist and chose and organised the music, thank you. To all those who got chairs and equipment out on Sunday, thank you. To those who prepared or made cake, set it out and served tea and coffee at that event, Thank you. It really has been a weekend of great celebration.

Churchwardens and Sidespeople

It was a lovely occasion at St Paul's Hooton, when we attended the Archdeacon's Visitation and supported Ian W and Thelma in the 'swearing in.' This churchwarden stuff is a serious business. It is no longer compulsory for Sides people to attend but the ones that did were able to also promise to take their work seriously. In law, they are the people to whom the churchwardens may delegate duties though not the legal responsibility. And you just thought that you were on the welcome team!

I am delighted that Thelma and Ian will be our Churchwardens this year. We are very fortunate to have two people who are different but between them have the characteristics and qualities needed to undertake this role. Thelma has done this work for many years. Added to Thelma and Ian, we have two deputy churchwardens. Ian Sneddon formalises a role he has had for some time. He is the person who will work in the warden's team with care for the buildings and churchyard. It doesn't mean he does it all himself, but he does keep an eye on it for us. Helene Kaye is our other deputy warden. Helene's role is to learn the ropes so that she might one day be the churchwarden. She is also responsible for our Food for Families project and for the grants that we need to develop our St Barnabas Community Care Network (SBCCN). It is important to understand that Churchwardens have a specific legal role and are answerable to the Bishop. The deputy wardens, though sharing in the workload and part of the wardens team, do not carry that same legal responsibility.

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.

Churchyard Clean up

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 and a few tools ready to weed and pick up rubbish. Ian and I have just walked around the area and it is really in very good condition. Let's work together to keep it that way.

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 because the room is quiet!

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...

The growth of our congregation.

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, Mr Maelor, Pat Porter, Jan Harper and Barbara Tharme. We pray for the families of the Lt. John Bowers, Lt. Vivien Cavell, Lt. Sarah Holmes. 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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