

# Newsletter

Sunday 28th July 2024



Charity No. 1127144  
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

Are you a fan of the Olympic games? I suspect that like me you enjoy some of the Sports more than others. Which ones are your favourites? I enjoy watching track events, especially short distance races and the pole vault. I also like watching swimming, diving and gymnastics too. When I was at school my best sports were tennis and badminton as well as Shot Put. I was also very flexible so until my teenage years I enjoyed gymnastics. Then I realised there were lots of people better than me. That's not really a reason to stop doing something but the opportunities dried up and my interest disappeared – except of course when I am watching someone else do it!

Did you know that St Paul was alive when the earliest Olympics were held? He references the idea of running a race at several points in his letters. He knew that competitors would spend up to ten months training. The people of Corinth were very familiar with these events and because of that Paul uses the games as an analogy for a believer's life of faithfulness. He wrote the church in Corinth saying, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

Paul's exhortation is that believers should be as focused and dedicated as those ancient runners in the games. In serving Christ we "run" not for a temporary crown, but for an eternal one. In his letter to Timothy, Paul writes about what the grace of God had enabled him to do. He says "I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:24). By declaring "I have finished the race," Paul is telling Timothy that he had put every effort into the work of proclaiming to all the gospel of salvation. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4.7). He is not boasting but simply recalling that he has lived out the call on his life that God has given to him.

In the Christian "race" everyone who pays the price of focussed training for the cause of Christ can win. We are not competing against one another, as in athletic games, but against the struggles, physical and spiritual, that stand in the way of our reaching the prize (Philippians 3:14). Paul encourages the people of Corinth to "run in such a way as to get the prize," The writer of Hebrews takes up the words of Paul: "Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). As Christians, I imagine our race is more akin to a long-distance event. It is tough and takes a great deal out of us over time. They continue the run because they want to win. The prize is worth more than the pain. That is true for us too.

In Paris 2024, the Swimmer Adam Peaty will attempt to win Gold in the 100m breaststroke for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. In the past 2 years he has turned to drink and drugs because swimming and winning was no longer enough. He credits his newfound Christian faith as the thing that brought him back from a very dark and difficult time. It has given him purpose and the sure and certain hope that needed to go on competing and to live life outside of the pool.

Christianity offers each of us the opportunity to come first. Some may overcome bigger hurdles than others, some may get there quickly and for others it will take much more time. But when we run the unique race that is set for us and keep our 'eyes on the prize' we are all able to come 1<sup>st</sup>. God does not run out of space or love or compassion or strength or care and individually we are all able to live better now with faith and eventually to be at one with him for ever.

Keeping running my friends but settle from time to time to enjoy watching at least some of the Olympics.

God Bless you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "God Bless you".

# What's on this week

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	The Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.00 am – 2.00 pm 1.30pm Knit and Natter in the Centre
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30 am -12.00 pm in the Centre. Caritas drop-in. Drink and a chat. Advice. All welcome. 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> July	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre 1.00 pm Bible study at The Rectory
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	10.00 am Prayers at The Rectory ( with croissants or toast)
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Word and Worship 12.15 am Baptism

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July Trinity 9

2 Kings 4: 42 – end  
Ephesians 3: 14 – end  
\*John 6: 1 - 21

## Wednesday 31st July

Jeremiah 15.10,16-end  
Matthew 13.44-46

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July Trinity 10

Exodus 16: 2 – 4, 9 – 15  
Ephesians 4: 1 – 16  
\*John 6: 24 – 35

\*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

# Notices

## Parish Lunch

Will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August in The Royal Oak from about 12.15pm. Tables reserved in the conservatory area. All welcome. Sign up at the back to give Carol an idea of how many tables to reserve. The last two lunches have been good.

## The next Church rota September – November

Fiona is beginning to work on this rota. Please will you let her know dates you are not available in that time period or when you are if those dates are fewer in number. Please will you also email if you are willing to be added to the rota. We are currently very short in the welcome team (officially known as the sides people.) Your role? To greet people as they enter church, point them towards the collection plate and tea and coffee table. If appropriate invite someone to come and chat to them if they are new or in distress. **When contacting Fiona, please will you use [secretary@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:secretary@stbarnabasbromborough.org). Information to her by 11<sup>th</sup> August please.**

## Wanted- Volunteers

We need some more people to go on the tea and coffee rota for Sunday. We also need some people to welcome and Count at the door at both 9.15 am and 11.00 am. . Please let Fiona know if you are willing to do either of those things. Email as above.

## Thank you

To our wonderful fundraising group (there aren't many but they are brilliant) for the Silent Disco. Thank you also to Linda, Sue, Thelma and anyone else involved in the Big Breakfast. It is appreciated.

## A notice to those who read in church

Before you read, please look at the Lectionary Bible on the Eagle and check that it is open at the right page. We have had a few embarrassing moments lately. Embarrassing for those who don't check, not for me! Please also check you have got your reading dates in your diary. If you have lost the paper rota it is on the website. Click the tab at the top which says Church Rota. We are moving to this as the main means of communicating the rota so do check.

**Our Scout Group, the 13th Bebington, will be 70 on Sunday 19th October** An afternoon tea and fun day will be held on that day. All past members & family are welcome to join the celebrations. To book tickets (it's a free event) email [70thbirthday@13thBebingtonscoutgroup.org.uk](mailto:70thbirthday@13thBebingtonscoutgroup.org.uk) Please share this with family members who may have belonged to the Group in the last 70 years.

### We pray for...

- The growth of our congregation and God's protection around all who attend and serve at St Barnabas.
- Our new government and for all our MPs. Our local MP is Justin Madders.
- In our parish we pray for; Jean Horan, Wendy Walker, Gordon Simmonds, Val and Pete Jones, Craig Dillon, David Hart.
- Our Church family at home, Josie Davies, Thelma Williams, Eddie and Hilary Griffiths, Maureen Coleman, Mr Maelor, Pat Porter, Jan Harper and Barbara Tharme.
- Our link Missionaries Marcio, Noemi and their children and thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. We pray for them as they plan their visit to the UK in the Autumn.
- We pray for Revd Deborah and 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

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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