

Newsletter

15th December 2024

Charity Number: 1127144

stbarnabasbromborough.org



**ST BARNABAS
BROMBOROUGH**

Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

It is very easy to lose our focus on Advent and let it pass us by as we move forward to Christmas. From a young age children are taught it is a time to count the days until Christmas.

In my day it was with little pictures for which my mum made a frame and put a light behind. Opening a window was magical as the warm glow shone through the picture. Of course, those of you who remember Blue Peter, joined with them in counting down the episodes until Christmas. It was amazing what could be achieved with wire coathangers and some tinsel.

These days, Advent calendars tend to be filled with all sorts including chocolate, alcohol, coffee, or beauty products, but in spite of the gifting starting early there is still the concept that we are passing time until the main event. As I have written previously, being surrounded by Christmas trees does not help us and I take responsibility for that.

Christmas and Epiphany are two of the great Christian Festivals. Advent, though, is much more significant than either of them.

At Christmas we celebrate a moment in our faith story. We look back to when Jesus was born and, in terms of the age of the earth, 2,000 years really is a very short amount of time. At Christmas we are reminded that God is with us (Emmanuel means that) and, as we worship King Jesus, we can also look to his reason for coming. He was born to die so that we who believe do not have to pay the price or take the penalty for our sin.

Advent is not to be missed. It is a golden moment. It is a time to think about and prepare for something that is yet to happen. Jesus warns us, "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect." Luke 12.40. And again in Matthew 25.31-12 Jesus teaches his followers, "...when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

Some of you will recall my baptism sermon about sheep and goats. On the outside they can look remarkably similar apart from the fact that sheep tails go down while goat's tails point up. People may look the same but God knows the truth in our heart.

It is right to say that we are saved by faith. But there are many clues in the Bible that suggest that what we do now, how we behave and the values we hold, in some way impacts upon our life in eternity.

I wonder, if Jesus came tomorrow would you be ready for him? I was listening to a podcast yesterday and it was about death and dying and, specifically, what mattered to people before they die. It was noted that at the end of a person's life, what matters is not things, but relationships. A dying person wants to be sure that someone knows they are forgiven. They want to speak or to hear affirmations of love. Look at the messages left by people in the Twin Towers at 9/11. All of those phone calls and messages were about relationships. "I love you", "I am sorry". "I want you to know that I forgive you."

Advent is not the celebration of what happened nor merely a time of waiting. It is a time for change and transformation. We have an opportunity to change what comes in eternity but more than that, we have an opportunity to change how the world is now.

What does it look like to love God with all of your heart, mind and strength? What does it look like to love your neighbour as you love yourself? Notice that there are two parts to this second commandment. We have to practise self care in order to care for others.

Spend time with God. Tell someone you love them today. Do something that helps. Care for yourself.

I continue to pray for and wish you a very blessed Advent season.

What's on this week

	The Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.00 am - 2.00 pm
Monday 16 th December	1.30pm Knit and Natter in the Centre
Tuesday 17 th December	9.30 am - noon Caritas drop-in in the Centre. All welcome for a drink and a chat. 2.00 pm Funeral for the Lt. Maurice Berhman 2.00 pm Mother's Union meet in the Centre
Wed 18 th December	From 8.30 am Mendell in Church for Christmas Carols Service. 10.30 am Holy Communion in the Centre No Bible study until Wednesday 8 th January
Thurs 19 th December	There is no Little Church until further notice
Friday 20 th December	At 2.00 pm the Centre closes until 6 th January
Sunday 22 nd December	9.15 am Morning Prayer, 11.00 am Holy Communion, 4.00 pm Candlelit Carol Service.

Sunday 15th December Advent 3

Zephaniah 3: 14 - end
Philippians 4: 4 - 7
Luke 3: 7 - 18

Wednesday 18th December

Jeremiah 23: 5 - 8
Matthew 1: 18 - 24

Sunday 22nd December Advent 4

Micah 5: 2 - 5a
Hebrews 10: 5 - 10
Luke 1: 39 - 45*
*11.00 am Reading

4.00 pm

A service of Carols,
with Candles, Community
and Cake.

Notices

URGENT Christmas leaflet delivery

Thanks to those who have been delivering leaflets. Well done. We have a few more to go and some posters about our Christmas Services to put up. If you can help with this take some and speak to the Churchwardens.

Food for Families on 16th and 17th December

Those who volunteered will be packing tomorrow and Tuesday. Please dress warmly as it is unheated. Please also sign in and out. There will be fluorescent waistcoats for some and lanyards for all. Please wear these around the building for added security. Thank you.

The event is taking place at the Kangaroo Storage facility. Our grateful thanks to them without whom this simply would not be happening. They also lend us Lee's time and strength and his van as well. Thanks to Scouts for the loan of tables.

The Centre

Sue Jones and Thelma McGorry would like to thank all customers for their support this year. A big thank you, too, to each volunteer who works so hard to keep the Centre going. The effort you put in is not only in the Centre serving customers but creating the friendly and vibrant atmosphere and the invaluable help you willingly give by talking and listening. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are back on the 6th January.

Christmas Cards

Many of you like to send cards to your Church friends and bring them to Church. This year there will be a table in the South aisle near the south door on which to place your cards. If you do this please make a small donation to CMS (Church Missionary Society). There will be a collection plate with the cards.

No room at the Inn for Mary and Joseph

The plan for December is that lots of people sign up to 'the Posada' and agree to give Mary and Joseph (small - from our Nativity display) a home for the night. Eventually, we found them somewhere to stay for every night last week but what about this week? Thanks to Dan, Ivy and Braxton who sent in their photo. I know Julie Gordon and the grandchildren have welcomed M&J as have Jean Roberts, Carol Jones and Barbara Baxter. What's stopping you from joining in?



As a new Bromborough resident, I am keen to meet people and to have a chat over a cuppa in a safe space. When it's my turn I shall arrange to meet people in a cafe - there are lots around. I love the Centre cafe by the Church, North Shore cafe on Allport Lane/Road or one of the cafe's in the big shops at the retail park, but you may know others.

In Mary and Joseph's travel bag you will find an envelope for the day in December when you are having them to stay. The envelope and its contents is for you to keep by way of a 'thank you'. Please sign up. My phone number is 07970 481686 and my email address heathersav@me.com Let me know your contact

details and I will contact you to make arrangements. Let's all give Mary and Joseph a place to stay this Christmas, in preparation for Jesus's arrival.

Thank you from Heather (Savage).

Church refreshments

Please sign up at the back of Church to provide cakes, biscuits or monetary donations for refreshments between the two services on Sundays. Not many have signed up and we don't want you to be hungry!

What can you give or get people for Christmas?

You could buy them a donation to St Barnabas Church. We accept any amount, big or small. For some people, this is something they would value. Don't want to do that? You could give St Barnabas a Christmas present of an extra amount above and beyond your usual giving.

Christmas Tree Festival

It looks as though we have raised approximately £4,500. This is an amazing achievement. You will be delighted to know that Natalie and I are already planning next year but we will let you rest a bit to start with. There will be a review meeting in January so if you can jot down any thoughts that might be helpful, please do. Jenny (Rector)

Tap 2 Give machine

The Tap 2 Give machine in church keeps no information about the payer except the last 4 digits of the card number. If I know who these 4 digits belong to, then I can associate that donation with the person who made it and, if they are a gift aider, we can claim gift aid on the donation. So... if you have made donations on the machine at any point this year, please could you send me the last 4 digits of the card(s) you used. It will save you having to fill in a slip each time you use it. Many thanks Julie - Treasurer

Christmas Services

The Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00 pm. Refreshments will be served before the event. It is suitable for people of faith and anyone who wants that bit of Christmas cheer. Help will be needed to light trees and candles beforehand.

The Nativity Service will take place on Christmas Eve 24th December at 4.00 pm. Funny and chaotic. Suitable for budding actors and those with zero skills. Adults, children and sheep welcome (but no live donkey this year). Do come and share the Christmas Spirit.

First Communion of Christmas is at 11.15 pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day Family Holy Communion at 10.00 am.

Sunday services will take place as usual on 22nd and 29th December. There will be no Wednesday Holy Communion on Wednesday 25th or Wednesday 1st January.

About the Treasurer's role

We will be looking to fill the treasurer's role in the new year. There are all sorts of possibilities in the heads of Ian and I with regard to making this work. Ironically, the person does not have to be good at sums nor do they need to attend church. I think we need someone who can lead a team of people who each have individual roles. If you feel God is in any way prompting you with or as the solution please talk to myself, Ian Walker or Thelma McGorry. Thanks Jenny (Rector)

For our Prayers

If you know of anyone in special need of prayer, please let us know. The only stipulation is that the person MUST give their permission. If you wish to join the prayer WhatsApp group please message Jenny (Rector) on 07806608219.

In our parish we pray for: Jean Horan, Wendy Walker, David Hart, Barbara Tharme, Jenny Darch, Graham Jones, and for Gloria's daughter in law Sue.

Our church family at home: Thelma Williams, Eddie and Hilary Griffiths, Mr Maelor, Pat Porter, Jan Harper, Val and Pete Jones and Gordon Simmonds.

We pray for the families and friends of the Lt. Josie Davies, Craig Dillon, Maurice Behren, Janet Bagnall, Beryl Lancashire and Marylyn Mello.

We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio, Noemi and their children for safe travels around the UK and Europe.

We pray for Revd Deborah, Edna and our brothers and sisters at St Barnabas Church, Limassol. We ask God to help us to grow this connection so that it is supportive and enlightening for both Churches.

The Rector Jenny can be contacted at rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org
or via her mobile 07806608219

Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to Newsletter@stbarnabasbromborough.org by Wednesday at 4pm. Both Ros and I have access to this address so please don't send lots of extra emails.

Please put the date you wish it to be included in the subject of the email
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www.stbarnabasbromborough.org