

# Newsletter

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Before Advent

[stbarnabasbromborough.org](http://stbarnabasbromborough.org)

Charity Number: 1127144



Dear Friends,

This week I've been away at the annual clergy gathering for Chester Diocese – what used to be called a conference, but now feels more like a family reunion with a purpose! It's been a different kind of busy: full of talks, worship, conversation, Bible study, time alone and laughter over lunch with colleagues. We've been reflecting together on, among other things, what it means to *wait* – something the Church often asks of us, but which never comes easily.



In the book of Acts, the disciples are told by Jesus to “*wait for the gift my Father promised*”

(Acts 1:4). They didn't yet know what that gift would look like, or how their lives would be changed by it. All they could do was stay together, pray, and trust that God was at work, even when they couldn't yet see how.

Waiting, in the Christian sense, is not the same as doing nothing. It's active, hopeful, expectant. It's about preparing the ground for whatever new life God is growing. And sometimes it's about showing up faithfully to the small, ordinary things – setting out chairs, making tea, writing lists, putting fairy lights on trees – trusting that even these things can become holy ground.

Which brings me neatly to our next great adventure as a parish: the **Christmas Tree Festival!** It's one of the biggest and most joyful events in our year – a celebration that brings together church members, local groups, schools, businesses and visitors who might never otherwise step inside. It's both a vital fundraising event and a truly missional opportunity – a chance to welcome, to listen, to show hospitality, and to let our church shine with warmth and light at the darkest time of year.

There really *is* something for everyone to do. From greeting visitors, serving refreshments, counting money, switching lights on and off, selling raffle tickets, to simply being a friendly face – every pair of hands makes a difference. We are open for an extra Saturday this year so if each of us could offer around **four hours** during the festival, we'll easily have the rota covered, and we'll ensure that no one person is carrying too heavy a load.

So, as we move from this time of reflection into a season of joyful preparation, let's hold those words from Acts close to our hearts. We wait together, we work together, and we trust that the Spirit is already moving among us – turning our efforts, great and small, into signs of God's generous love.

With gratitude and hope,

# What's on this week

Next week the centre will be open from 9.30 am until 2.00 pm Monday - Friday

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Word and Worship with Baptism We welcome the family and friends of Hallie Sides
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 pm Knit & Knatter - all are welcome
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am Caritas in the Centre 1.00 pm Funeral for Maureen Coleman in Church 2.00 pm Mothers' Union meet in the Centre
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am Holy Communion in the Centre NO Bible Study at the Rectory 1.30 pm Funeral for Carol Jones in Church
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm Singing Group meet in the Centre 7.00 pm PCC meet in the Centre
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am Chat and craft in the centre. All welcome. 12 noon Soup lunch. Pay as you feel. All Day in Church - Tree Festival Preparation begins 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm Fun, Fizz & Flowers in the Centre
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15 am Morning Prayer 11.00 am Holy Communion

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 2nd before Advent

Malachi 4: 1 - 2a  
2 Thessalonians 3:  
6 - 13

Luke 21: 5 - 19\*  
\*Denotes 11.00 am  
reading

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion

Revelation 4  
Luke 19: 11 - 28

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Christ the King

Jeremiah 23: 1 - 6  
Colossians 1: 11 - 20  
Luke 23: 33 - 43\*  
\*Denotes 11.00 am  
reading

# Notices

## Funeral for Maureen Coleman

**- a much loved and missed faithful member of the congregation for many years**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00 pm in Church

## Funeral for Carol Jones

**- another much loved and missed faithful member of the congregation for many years**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30 pm in Church

## Newsletter next week

Any items for inclusion please email them to [newsletter@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:newsletter@stbarnabasbromborough.org) by 4.30 pm on Tuesday 18th November – thank you.

**The next Messy Church** is 2nd Dec - a week earlier than usual so that we can go into Church while the Christmas Tree Festival is still on. The latest newsletter had the date as 9 Dec. If people are coming they need to let us know asap their name, the number coming and any special dietary requirements via [messy@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:messy@stbarnabasbromborough.org)

## Christmas Tree Festival

Sheets for signing up, opening, closing, turning off lights, money counting, biscuit eating, pretending to be busy are ALL available at the back of Church. Please put your name down to assist. This is our biggest community and fundraising event. It is literally all hands on deck.

**The Fun, Fizz & Flowers (FFF) Team** are delighted to announce that we are hosting a special Christmas Wreath making event on Friday 21st November 6:30-8:30pm in the Village Centre. This event is run by Bromborough Flowers who will provide all of the materials and the training. It is £50 per person and will include a glass of mulled wine (or something non alcoholic) and mince pie. Please email [crafts@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:crafts@stbarnabasbromborough.org) to request a place (only 15 available) and arrange payment in advance of the evening or for more information.

### Group dates:

**Bible Study 1.00 pm Wednesdays** at the Rectory except 19<sup>th</sup> November

**Brass Cleaning 10.0 am 2nd Saturday** in Church 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Chat and Craft 9.30 am Fridays** in the Centre: 21st, 28th November, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Ladies' Fellowship 7.30 pm 1st Tuesday** in the Centre 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**Mens' Breakfast 9.00 am 2nd Saturday** at the Royal Oak 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Messy Church 3.30 pm (normally 2nd Tuesday)** in the Centre 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**Mothers' Union 2.00 pm 3rd Tuesday** in the Centre 16<sup>th</sup> December

**PCC: 7.00 pm Thursday in the Centre** 20<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December (tbc)

**Parish Lunch Following 11.00 am Service - 1st Sunday** at the Bromborough Pub 7<sup>th</sup> December

**Prayer Breakfast 10.00 am 1st Saturday** at the Rectory 6<sup>th</sup> December (tbc)

**Singing Group 12.30 pm Thursday in the Centre**

20<sup>th</sup> November: 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December

## Dates for your diary

NOVEMBER				
Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Word and Worship and Baptism	Church
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union meet	Centre
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Singing Group meet	Centre
NOVEMBER				
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	PCC meet	Centre
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	All Day	Tree Festival preparation starts – no access to church unless by arrangement with Natalie.	Church
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	6.30 pm	Fun, Fizz and Flowers Christmas Wreath making	Centre
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Work in progress for the Tree Festival	
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Community Tree set up	Church
Wed-day	26 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Tree Festival opens (see elsewhere for full dates)	Church
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	10am-4.00 pm	BVCA Christmas Fair	Whole site
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Advent Carol Service	Church

DECEMBER				
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.30 pm	Messy Church	Centre
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	Ladies' Fellowship meet	Centre
Wed'sday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Centre
Wed'sday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00 pm	Bible Study	Rectory
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Singing Group meet	Centre
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Chat & Craft meet	Centre
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 pm	Soup lunch	Centre
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Prayer Breakfast	Venue tbc
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>		Parish Lunch following 11.00 am service	Bromborough Pub
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Knit & Natter	Centre
Wed'sday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Centre
Wed'sday	10 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 pm	Bible Study	Rectory
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Chat & Craft meet	Centre

## Focus on Safeguarding

### Job Descriptions

Over the next few weeks we will be inviting all those who hold any kind of role in Church to read and sign an agreed job description. Jenny (Rector) and I have tried to ensure that people have already had sight of their description so that they should not be presented with any surprises. However, if their any issues with your, please Speak to Jenny or to me about them. We will endeavour to work with you to get it right. You will be asked to sign tow copies, one for our records and one for you to keep.



### Why Job descriptions?

Simply, it is about keeping you safe and keeping others safe too. Volunteers have a right and should have the protection of knowing what is expected of them. Too often volunteers are asked to 'guess' what the job they put their hand up involves. From a safeguarding perspective we also need to know who we have working among us and what work is expected of them. As our church grows and we have new people we don't know as well as those we have been to church with most of our lives, we need to make sure they have references and the appropriate training offered to them to support them in their role. Obviously, the will not be the same for the children's leader as it is for tea and coffee making but that does not mean one job is more important than another, rather that they are different.

### I am doing a job in church but I don't have a job description. Does it matter?

If you are reading or praying in church then we have not written job descriptions for that- not yet at least! That is also true for servers though this may change. There will be times when you fill in doing something that you wouldn't normally do, like serving in the centre or assisting with tea and coffee. You can still do this. Job descriptions are not trying to stop or limit volunteering. However, if you are working with children then, if that is not a normal task you do, ask to be alongside one of the regular team for the time you are helping. Those who work regularly with children e.g. at Messy Church need to have a DBS check done and may or may not require a job description. If in doubt ASK. [safeguarding@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto:safeguarding@stbarnabasbromborough.org) or talk to Sue Parkin or the Rector.

Christmas Tree Festival Opening Times	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November -Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	12 noon - 6.00pm
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00 am - 4.00pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	12 noon - 2.00 pm (and afterwards for the Advent Carol Service at 4.00 pm)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December - Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	12 noon - 8.00 pm
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	WE ARE OPEN 10.00 am -4.00 pm

**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 to use their name in the newsletter and in the services we hold.

**We thank God for** our work with Caritas, Neo, Fuss and Fups and our schools and for the amazing grant of £20,000 we have received from the Wirral Winter Support Fund.

We pray for the **Christmas Tree Festival** and in particular for Natalie's leadership, for plentiful volunteers and safe set up.

We pray for Helene and the smooth organisation of our **feeding families programme**. In particular we pray that the food and gifts will get to all the people that we need to reach.

**Cyprus:** Revd Deborah, Edna and our brothers and sisters at St Barnabas Church, Limassol.

**As a parish we pray for:** Gloria's family on the death of her daughter - in - law, Sue, Colin on the death of his Son, David.

**We continue to pray for:** Wendy Walker, Graham Jones, Alan Campbell, Dianne Dagnall, Graham Smith, Rachael Gillies and Ros Wood.

**Our church family at home:** Thelma Williams, Eddie and Hilary Griffiths, Edward Maelor, Pat Porter, Jan Harper, Val and Pete Jones, Bill and Jenny Darch.

**We pray for the families of** the Lt Muriel Waring, Lt. Maureen Coleman, Lt Carol Jones.

**We pray for our link Missionaries** Marcio, Noemi and their children.

**We pray for a growth in our ministry to children and families.**

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 [newsletter@stbarnabasbromborough.org](mailto: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](http://www.stbarnabasbromborough.org)

**Called, loved, sent. Known, raised and held. In Christ all things are new.**

Serving God, Serving the Community