

Newsletter

Sunday 2nd August - Trinity 9

Charity Number: 1127144

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Dear Friends,

This week I found myself feeling strangely disappointed. For the first time that I can remember, there has been no free-to-air television coverage of the Commonwealth Games, apart from a bit on Channel 5. It is only sport, you might say. But I don't think it is *only* sport.

The Commonwealth Games are about more than medals. They remind us that we belong to one another. They give us shared stories, shared celebrations and a sense of community. Their absence reminded me how easily we can take such gifts for granted.

That thought stayed with me on Saturday morning as around twenty-five people gathered in church to pray. We divided into small groups. Some used written prayers, some prayed in their own words and others simply sat quietly in God's presence. What struck me was not *how* people prayed but that they did. Around the church there was a gentle hum of prayer.

I came away convinced that God knew exactly what we needed. Many of us are weary. Relationships can be difficult. The world seems full of conflict and uncertainty. The early Church understood that before they preached, before they planned and before they served, they prayed. If we long to see God grow his Church, we must first become a praying Church. We rightly pray for our world, our mission partners and those in need, but we must also pray for one another and for the work God has entrusted to us here at St Barnabas.

Afterwards, a small group walked around the churchyard, exploring how parts of it might become wildflower meadows and encourage greater biodiversity. I am especially grateful that God has brought Don and Ali Thompson among us. Don's knowledge and experience are already proving to be a real blessing as we seek to care well for this place.

Tomorrow's Gospel tells of Jesus feeding the five thousand (John 6.1-21). The disciples saw only what they lacked. Jesus saw what God could do with what they already had.

Isn't that often God's way? He begins with what is already in our hands: people who gather to pray, people who care for creation, people who quietly serve through the work of The Centre, people who notice a neighbour in need. Offered to God, these ordinary gifts become something extraordinary.

The writer to the Hebrews encourages us: *"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."* (Hebrews 10.24-25)

Community is one of God's greatest gifts. Whether it is found on a sports field, in a church gathered for prayer, in a churchyard being lovingly tended, or around a table at The Centre, it reminds us that we were never created to journey alone. May we cherish these gifts, never take them for granted, and always place them into the hands of Christ, who can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.

With every blessing,



What's on this week

The Centre is open Monday -Friday from 9.30 am until 2.00 pm

- Sunday 2nd 9.15 am Holy Communion
Trinity 9 11.00 am Word and Worship – Trevor Minister Jenny
Preaching
Followed by Parish Lunch at The Mere Brook.
6.00 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's Church (see below)
- Monday 3rd 1.30 pm Knit & Knatter in the Centre – all are welcome
- Tuesday 4th 7.30 pm Ladies Fellowship in the Centre
- Wedn'day 5th 10.30 am Holy Communion in the Centre
1.00 pm Bible Study at the Rectory
- Thursday 6th 12.30 pm Singing Group meet in the Centre – all are welcome
- Friday 7th 9.30 am Friday Chat & Craft in the Centre
If you can't craft, you can chat. If you can't do either, eat soup!
Noon Soup lunch – pay as you feel
- Saturday 8th 10.00 am Brass cleaning in Church
- Sunday 9th 9.15 am 1662 Holy Communion
Refreshments between services will include Mothers' Union cake followed by lighting of candles and Mothers' Union prayers at the beginning of 11.00 am service.
11.00 am Word and Worship
2.45 pm for 3.00 pm in the Quire, Chester Cathedral
St Werburgh Street, Chester, CH1 2DY. Choral Evensong celebrating Mary Sumner's 150th birthday anniversary.



Sunday 2nd Trinity 9

Isaiah 55: 1 – 5
Romans 9: 1 – 5
Matthew 14: 13 – 21*

*Reading at 11.00 am

Wednesday 5th Jeremiah 31: 1 – 7 Matthew 15:21 – 28

**Sunday 9th
Trinity 10**
1 Kings 19: 9 – 18
Romans 10: 5 – 15
Matthew 14: 22 – 33*

Notices

Parish Lunch

The next parish lunch is **today** - The Mere Brook Bromborough
Sunday 6th September we will be at Green Oak Farm, Rossmore Road East, Ellesmere Port, CH65 3BR. **/// files.fruit.speeds**

Church rota

The next Church rota is being compiled. If you would like to join the rota please speak to the Rector or Wardens; we need people to welcome or do refreshments or read or pray. If you are on the rota thank you! Please email Fiona Austin by 16th August rota@stbarnabasbromborough.org with the dates you are unavailable for the period September - November. Thank you.

What are the red marks ///?? They are the logo for an app, called What3words, available for Android or iPhones, free to download and use. The words are more accurate than a postcode and gives every 3 metre x 3 metre square on Earth a unique location marker. Used by emergency services to locate precise locations. e.g. Church is **/// perform.head.scooters** **It is especially** useful if you want to find your car in a car park, meet a friend in Cheshire Oaks or at the Christmas Fair at St Barnabas. Give it a try! Need help? Lots of us will gladly assist you in adding it to your phone. There is no cost to use the App.

Clean, empty jam jars (with lids if possible) wanted please for fund raising project in the Centre. Thank you – Jenny Hope.

Save the date.....1.30pm for 2.00 pm Tuesday 29th September in the Centre

Question: What does the letter 'C' mean to you? Church? Christ Jesus? Company? Care? Cake? Communion? Chat? Community? Comfort?

Answer: It should mean all of the above.

We are inviting those who cannot regularly come to church and those who do come but don't get much time to talk to each other on Sunday to join us on Tuesday 29th September at 1,30 for a 2 pm It's a chance to meet up with some old faces, renew friendships and make new friends. All are welcome. Please put your name on the list at the back of Church so that we can send or give you a personal invitation and so we have an idea of numbers for catering. Thank you. Ros

The Centre Food baskets and household bookcase.

- **Please don't worry if someone takes a large amount for very little money.** If they can use it, let them.
- **Anyone is welcome to take items** from the food basket or bookshelf. It costs us nothing.
- Our aim is **both** to support people **and** to ensure good food and useful items don't end up in landfill.
- If someone appears to be taking an excessive amount (for example, 10 bottles of shampoo), use your judgement and speak to them yourself. But let's be careful not to make assumptions about people's circumstances.
- If someone needs a full food shop, please speak to a Centre Team Leader. We can arrange for additional supplies to be brought to The Centre or delivered to their home.

Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union on Mary Sumner's Birthday.

9th August will be a very special day as Mothers' Union celebrates its 150th anniversary.

At 11.00 am, Rector Jenny (a Branch member) has kindly agreed that we will light our candles and share the prayers at the start of the service. A celebration cake will be served with refreshments between the 9.15 am and 11.00 am services, and we hope those attending the earlier service will stay to join us.

This year St Barnabas Mothers' Union celebrates its 99th anniversary, so we look forward to our Centenary in 2027. We also hope to have a display of Mothers' Union photographs and memorabilia in church. Jenny Hope Branch Leader

Dates for your diary

6.00 pm Sunday 2nd August Evensong at St Mary's, Stanley Lane, Eastham, CH62 0AQ.

Malcolm Perry is directing the music, John Hosking (organist formerly of Blackburn Cathedral) will be playing. Music includes Parry's I was Glad and Lotti's Crucifixus a 8 as well as Malcolm's own composition of Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F. The choir is made from EPMS Cathedral group as well as St Mary's church choir and friends.

Singing Group

The Group will meet at 12.30 pm in the Centre on the 6th and 20th August. All are welcome.

Funeral for Lisa Houghton

Lisa's funeral will take place on Monday 10th August at 10.45 at St Barnabas followed by burial at Landican at 12 noon. Lisa usually attended the 11.00 am service though occasionally she dropped in to the 9.15. PLEASE make every effort to attend even if you did not know Lisa. I would be glad of your support. Some people who knew her at Christ Church Higher Bebington will attend and take part. This was Lisa's Church before she moved to Bromborough.

Parish Weekend away - 5th-7th March 2027

We have provisionally booked the whole of Foxhill House for this weekend. There are 21 ensuite bedrooms, two of which have twin beds. There are 2 further rooms that have access to a bathroom on the landing. There is another 1-2 rooms in the attic (not for the fainthearted) which we could use. This means with the right combination of people, we could have 29 people staying there. Full residency from 4pm on Friday until after lunch on Sunday is in the region of £223.50 person. There are a few bursaries offered by Foxhill for those who would love to come but cannot afford that. You need to speak to Jenny Rector in the first instance. There is also a day rate of £40 for Saturday and I hope to arrange something for those who might travel over on Friday and be with us on Sunday too. There may be a small amount of cost depending on the activities we decide to do. This will be finalised in the Autumn and will not be significant.

The next step.

We are required to pay a £200 deposit before I go away on 17th August, I am therefore going to ask that in the first instance whether anyone who is hoping to stay at Foxhill would pay a £20 booking deposit. Ros Wood and Ian Walker have offered to manage this. Fuller details of how and when this once the finance team have met next week. You can express your intention by emailing rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org before that but your place will only be firmly booked once you have paid your deposit.

I am really looking forward to spending time with you in somewhere that holds very precious memories for me personally,

Jenny G

Safeguarding Thought of the week

A listening ear can change a life. Take concerns seriously. If someone shares something with you, or you notice something that worries you, **write it down as soon as possible** while the details are fresh. Pass the concern on **both verbally and in writing** and make sure you follow it up so you know it has been received and appropriate action has been considered.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Proverbs 31:8



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

St Barnabas Cyprus Celebration service this week. Revd George's return to health.

As a parish we continue to pray for: Morris Harrison (back in hospital), Anne Ellis, Chris and Phil Gilchrist, Dianne Dagnall.

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

We pray for the families and friends of the Lt. Gordon Dodd (Thelma Williams' brother), the Lt Lisa Houghton and the Lt. Simon Chesters, Lt.Revd Canon Christine Goldsmith previous pastor and friend of the people at St Barnabas in Cyprus.

Serving God, Serving the Community

Our Rector Jenny Gillies 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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website www.stbarnabasbromborough.org