CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Barnston Vicarage

26th March 2020

Dear friends

Greetings to you from the Vicarage study! I hope this finds you well: in good health and strengthened in Jesus. I love the prophet Jeremiah's description of a Christian:

'But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.' Jeremiah 17: 7 - 8

The Bible knows all about heat and drought, about the difficult circumstances in our world that threaten to take our energy and confidence. But while it knows them, it never allows them to dominate. The life we have in God through Jesus Christ brings healing and joy, peace and a future, whatever comes. We stand as we put our roots in Jesus Christ. And standing, we are able to support and help others. Fear is the most sapping of emotions - it can leave us paralysed. Trusting Jesus frees us, from guilt and condemnation, from fear and despair.

Keeping in touch

Our **prayer meeting** goes ahead today. We suggest you join in at 7.00pm, when others will be praying, but you can a get hold of a short talk and notes from twitter and Facebook. Look for BarnstonPensby.

This **Sunday's service** will take place from a living room (or a number of living rooms) fairly near you. To join in go to our website barnston.info . We start at 10.30am.

Watch out for **twitter and Facebook** updates. We are working at putting them out more often.

Our pastoral teams are keeping people in touch by phone - someone may have rung you already.

If you have **practical needs,** or are aware of someone else who does, please could you contact Colin Leeman (colin7242@me.com) who is co-ordinating a team of volunteers, willing to help. Colin's team are already fielding enquiries and making a difference. More volunteers are welcome, and may well be needed in the days ahead.

If you are feeling particularly anxious or troubled and would like to **talk privately** to someone trained and experienced in listening and Christian encouragement, do get in touch with Joanna Hill. Joanna has been trained by Biblical Counselling UK and is willing to be contacted on 07775 562224 or through Peter.

Other matters

Children, young people and families. John is putting some content together for families and it will be emailed out soon. In this strange new situation, we are forced to be adaptable and to find new ways of doing things. It's a chance for families to grow together and to put down sustaining roots in God and his word.

Giving envelopes. Someone got in touch with Bob Jarvis, the church treasurer, to ask what they should do as they normally give using envelopes and cannot do so at the moment. If you are wondering this, Bob is very happy for you to ring him to talk about it. Bob is at 07759 272742 or 342 2143 or barnstonbob@yahoo.com.

Online. There are loads of resources to entertain, educate and encourage. One I am enjoying is the daily morning service from St Ebbes Church in Oxford. Find it at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6LJymKc-5rRhlnDNYzdZhw/featured

Do keep in touch, with the church office, with Peter and Chris and with the church family. It's always encouraging to hear from you!

Peter