CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

2nd April 2020

Dear friends

The book of Revelation says this:
*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:*
*'Salvation belongs to our God,*
*who sits on the throne,*
*and to the Lamb.'*
*All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying:*
*'Amen! Praise and glory*
*and wisdom and thanks and honour*
*and power and strength*
*be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!'*
*Revelation 7: 9 - 12*

Here is a thought - in the book of Revelation the church of God is gathered, from every corner of the world, from every age of history. There is no building, no institution, no planning meetings or rotas. These things are helpful now - they allow us to meet and encourage each other, they help us to serve others wisely and consistently. But they won't be forever. In eternity there will be God and his people, lost in wonder, love and praise. So, in some ways the removal of the building and the institution makes our church a bit more heavenly! It is just God and his people, God loving and sustaining us; us worshipping him and serving one another. Thank God that he is helping us to see Him and what we are more clearly.

**Latest news**

**Sunday service**. We had over 400 views for last Sunday's service. Thank you very much to James Mountford and David Mann who made it possible and to all for your encouraging feedback. Do look out for our yet further developed service on Sunday at 10.30 am. Go to the website and click "Online service".

**Pastoral teams**. Our ringers keep on ringing. We thank God for them and for the connection they provide across our church.

**Pray at home.** We continue to pray together on a Thursday evening. Do look out for a video and information on Facebook and Twitter. You can get on to these even if you are not subscribed to them, by clicking on the icons (little white bird or letter F) at the bottom of the home page of the website.

**Dial-a-sermon.** We are aware that it is much harder for people who are not on the internet to keep in touch. To help them we have set up a dial-a-sermon phone number.

For the cost of a local rate call people can now ring up and hear last week's sermon. We hope that other messages will also be available in the future. The number is **0151 318 0420.**

**Support team.** Colin Leeman's team of volunteers has been well used, getting shopping and prescriptions for those who are unable to leave their homes. A big thank you to all who have volunteered. Colin says, "the response has been fantastic". Help has been offered to people from church and the community around us. We anticipate that the need will grow as we enter weeks 2 and 3 of this current phase.

**Children and young people.** John Putman has sent some amazing stuff to church our families, helping them to keep their children engaged with what they have been learning in Sunday groups through the year. "John should be on Blue Peter" was one comment. And Zoom went Focus - the youth group met online on Sunday night.

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.

Next week is **Holy Week**. We are working out how we can celebrate this and Easter in the best way. Look out for information on the Website.

**Other things**

You might appreciate these thoughts from two church leaders in Italy, further ahead in the pandemic than we are, reflecting on the lessons from lock-down.
how-to-survive-and-thrive-in-lockdown

That's it for now. May God bless you as you trust him with your health, your family, your work, your time.

Peter