CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

To make Jesus known and grow together in Him

Dear friends

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. Luke 24: 50 - 53

Here is a taster for Sunday morning's sermon. We come to the end of Luke's gospel with these words. They might make us think of some of the paintings of the ascension of Jesus, where just his feet are visible as he rises above his disciples. It is, to some ignorant eyes, quite comic. But how ever Jesus ascended, the disciples have been transformed. At the start of the chapter the words used are "wondering…did not believe…nonsense." Now we read: "worshipped…joy…praising". And this after Jesus has left them! Before, not having Jesus was unimaginable - how bereft they felt. Now, despite seeing him leave, they rejoice and worship and praise God. Because now they know the truth of the gospel, that the risen Jesus is still doing his work; and they see that they have a vital and exciting part to play in it, and that He will give them a new power to live by as they serve him. Humanly they have so little. In Christ, connected to him by faith, they have all they need and more. So, what is it to be for us? Wondering…not believing… it all seems like nonsense. Or - trusting him - worship…joy…praise. Even in these difficult times, another way is possible!

And here is the news…

Sunday service.
Do join us again on Sunday at 10.30am, through the website or by going straight to our YouTube channel. We are, as I said above, coming to the end of our short series in Luke. Next week (May 3rd) we will start a new series looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians. You could read it in the coming week and get a head start… Our thanks to those who have worked very hard on the technology to bring us our services. And the services are being appreciated far and wide. Last week's service has had over 400 viewings!

If you are in touch with people who are not online, do tell them about **Dial a sermon**. For the cost of a local rate call they can ring up and hear last week's sermon. The number is **0151 318 0420.**

Pray at Home

Our prayer meeting this week (Thursday 23rd April) will once again take place through Zoom. The topics for prayer are in a document attached to this email and the link for the meeting is here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84170698611

After an introduction, we will split into breakout groups, small groups in which it is much easier for everyone to speak and pray, if they wish to. We will be praying for the Barnabas Fund, supporting Christians in places where they face persecution, and for our children, young people and families.

The Hub

We are planning to use Zoom for a new Hub series. It will start on April 30th, running for four Thursday evenings, from 7.45 - 9.00. We are going to think about questions that people ask about church life, in particular about Anglican church life: Why do we have bishops? Why do we baptise babies? What are vicars? Is Sunday special? Do join in and have your mind stimulated and your confidence in God strengthened.

Morning Prayers

Would you like to join us for morning prayers in the morning? There will be a thought for the day and prayers led by one of the staff team from 9.00 to 9.25, from Tuesday to Friday. You can text prayer requests to our phone line: 07520 649440.

The meeting has the same link for the whole week, so do come along when you are able. (Please note that there will be a different link next week.)

The link is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89689340309

A recording of the thought for the day will be put on Facebook afterwards.

Support Group

Many people have been helped in practical ways by our tremendous team of volunteers. But please be on the alert for those who may need this support. As time passes, other support may fade or be interrupted, and we are ready and able to help in a number of ways. Do contact Colin Leeman email (colin7242@me.com) if you are aware of someone who would appreciate help.

Help with the computer or internet

If you have the internet at your home but are unsure how to use it to take part in church life, we may be able to help you. This may apply particularly to Zoom, which is new to many of us. Ring Cecelia in the office (648 2404) who will either help you or put you in touch with someone else who can.

Pastoral needs
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.

This is a most significant time for us. It is not at all easy to understand the larger purposes of God, and we ought to be wary of confident claims that we can. But we know that nothing can deflect the creator from His work and nothing can separate us from His love. We can rest secure, even in this turmoil.

May God bless you.

Peter