CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Dear friends Weekly Mailing 8th April 2020

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. '*Truly I tell you,* '*he said,* '*this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.*' *Luke 21: 1 - 4*

How little we have. Even when we feel we have a great deal, in reality we have so little, in comparison to the riches of the creation, let alone the glory of the Creator himself. Even at times when we feel we have much, th reality is that we have very little to offer him. At this time, confined and limited, able perhaps only to pray or ring people up, we feel there is so little that we can do for him, so little we can offer in worship or thanks. But Jesus knows our poverty. And the wonderful truth is that it is Jesus who does the giving. What the widow did, Jesus himself did, giving all he had. We remember that this Holy Week. Thank God that Jesus was like this woman, giving himself completely for us. Pray that, empowered by the Spirit, we might receive his gift of forgiveness and life and then echo his generosity in some small way ourselves.

I hope this find you surviving in this very difficult time. Perhaps you are even, in some ways, able to flourish, perhaps finding more space to listen to God through his word, to grow in your trust by your prayers.

Here are some things we wanted to let you know about:

Services this week

Maundy Thursday

There will be a short informal communion service at 7.00. This will take place over Zoom, a video conferencing website. To join the meeting click on this link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/577589505 and use this Meeting ID: 577-589-505 (If you have not downloaded Zoom already you will be told to do so, and it will be explained to you. It really is quite easy!)

Good Friday

We will have a Good Friday Reflection at 2.00 on Good Friday, again by Zoom. To join the meeting click on this link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/477677642 and use this Meeting ID: 477-677-642

Easter Sunday

We will have an all age service online at 10.30 on Easter Sunday. As in previous weeks, you can access this through our website or through Facebook or twitter. We are sorry that some people had technical difficulties last week, but we think we have overcome them. It may help you to go direct to our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCezCTgqf6MaDG1joJZgKmHQ

If you subscribe you will be notified of new videos and may find it easier to get to the website.

Other matters

Keeping safe. We have been made aware of a number of ways in which unscrupulous individuals have tried to take advantage of the current situation, by appearing to offer help. Please be aware of this, and if you are in any doubt ask advice from someone you trust. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Coral Greenwood and she will be very happy to talk to anyone who has concerns for themselves or anyone else. You can reach her on 342 4122.

Services on the radio. You may like to know that there is a 15 minute daily church service on BBC Radio 4 - 198 Long Wave only - at 9.45am.
And BBC Radio Merseyside (95.8FM, DAB, Freeview 722/online) have a 30 minute service on Sundays at 8am. Do take advantage of these if you can.

Can I remind you that you can hear a sermon through **Dial-a-sermon**. To help those who are nto on tthe internet we have set up a dial-a-sermon phone number. For the cost of a local rate call you can ring up and hear last week's sermon. The number is **0151 318 0420.**

It will perhaps not be a surprise to you to hear that the **APCM** has been postponed. The Church of England has amended its rules, so churches can hold their APCM's any time before October 31st. When we are able to meet again as a church we will decide when to hold the APCM and will elt you know.

Money matters. We have as a church been greatly blessed by the generosity of many over the years. We see the value of this giving in our present time, when we are able to support and build one another up. But the financial needs of the church continue, indeed they are heightened by the restrictions that we face. We estimate that because of lost hall hire and people being unable to give through the plate or envelopes, our income is going to be reduced by about £3500 per month, in addition to the monthly deficit we knew we would be facing. So can we encourage you to think again about what you give to the church and the work of the gospel in this place, and to think about the way by which you give to the church? Church family who normally donate by covenant envelope, gift aid envelope or by plate, who wish to continue, can do so by one of a few alternative ways:

By setting up a weekly or monthly standing order – this is the most helpful way and can be done most easily using online banking
By making a direct online payment or
By card.

To explore any of these please ring Bob Jarvis on home 342 2143 or mobile 07759 272742.

May God bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord give you his peace.

Peter

Easter scene, courtesy of Peter and Noel Robinson