CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

To make Jesus known and grow together in Him

Dear friends

I think it is slowly dawning on many of us that the effects of Coronavirus are going to be with us for a very long time. We are not quickly going to return to normal. This may make us anxious, as the future is so unknowable. But whatever the future does hold, we know that the church of Jesus Christ will be asked to be generous.

The current situation has already taught us lessons about generosity. It has shown us the potential of generosity, the huge difference generosity can make to our communities. It has also shown us the challenge of generosity - we know that we can find it hard to give and to keep on giving.

What we need, and what our church and our community needs, is more of it: people willing and able to live giving lives. How wonderful for us to be known more and more as a church that is overflowing with generosity, in every way.

So we are going to run **The Generosity Project**, in which we "learn, pray and work together to become the big-hearted people God calls us to be". It is a course that runs for six weeks, each session lasting for about an hour. People taking part will use a course book, costing £4 - please let Cecelia know (648 2404) if you would like us to get a copy to you (with all proper hygiene precautions).

We will run the course at The Hub, on Thursday evenings (from June 4th) and at a new Hub meeting on a Wednesday morning at 10.30am (from June 3rd). We hope that many people will take part. The course will work well as we meet on Zoom, watching a video and having discussion in small groups. We have found this working well at our prayer meetings and on other occasions, and we urge everyone to join, even if this is something new for you.

People who are not able to join in the Hub meetings can also take part. All of the material needed is included in the course book and we suggest that they arrange a phone conversation with a friend to discuss the questions included. If you prefer, and let Cecelia know (648 2404), we will arrange for someone from church to ring you to talk about the questions.

Here is something really good for us to do together as a church. As well as sharing in our sermons and our Sunday services, we can listen, learn, discuss and encourage each other to grow in the wonderful Christian virtue of generosity. During this next chapter of the Coronavirus saga, this will be our theme: the church of God learning more and more to show the generosity of God. I urge you to get involved. Get the book and share in the conversation, however works best for you.

And in other news…

Do join in Prayer Meeting and the Hub
To join in Morning Prayers
From Tuesday 19th May to Friday 22nd May, from 9.00 to 9.20.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85889122522

To join in Pray at Home
We pray from 7.00pm to 7.30pm every Thursday. On Thursday 14th May the link is
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81504596007
To join in The Hub
At the Hub on Thursday 14th May we will be thinking about **Are Sunday's special?**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81504596007

You can also listen to our morning service on **Flame Radio** (1542 MW) at 6.00pm on Sundays. Do tell others that this is possible, and encourage them to listen in, especially if they aren't able to get our service online

10ofThose are selling a handy Ephesians Scripture journal, which you might like to use with our current sermons series.
https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/26277/ephesians-niv-scripture-journal

Our thanks again to our **pastoral team**, ringing and keeping in touch with every member fo the church family,. And to the **support team**, who continue to go shopping and pick up prescriptions. We will continue to appreciate them for many weeks to come.

It was announced on Tuesday that the **new Bishop of Chester** is to be Rt Revd Mark Tanner, currently Bishop of Berwick. You can hear lots from him and about him on the Diocesan website. https://www.chester.anglican.org. He was a curate at St Mary's, Upton, probably just as Paddy left there. Do pray for him and for his family: starting this new role will be particularly complex in the current situation.

I close with a prayer that you might use for yourself and for our church:

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord. *St Benedict*

May God bless you richly in the week ahead.
Peter