CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly update | 25th May 2020

Dear all,

This weekly update comes with good news for the church.

Last week the PCC discussed and agreed a proposal that we employ Joanna Hill on a part time basis, starting in September, as a discipling co-ordinator. This role has three parts:

1. One to one listening and encouragement with a few individuals, bringing a Christian perspective to bear on the troubles that they face.
2. Training people, individually and in small groups, in one to one Bible reading and Christian encouragement.
3. Encouraging, co-ordinating and resourcing a culture of one to one Bible reading throughout the church.

I believe that this will prove to be a very significant role for us as a church. Part of our vision is to equip everyone for ministry. This role does exactly this, enabling people to grow in joy and confidence as followers of Jesus, and helping to them to serve him in ways that use their gifts.

Joanna has been training for the last four years on a course in Biblical Counselling run by Biblical Counselling UK. In that time, she has also been active for us, meeting with individuals, training groups of people in Bible understanding and ministry, and animating Bible reading across the church. We are delighted that this work will continue and develop and that Joanna will be helping us to make Jesus known, and to grow together in him.

I would like to anticipate some issues that may arise in people's minds.

1. The PCC took this decision in the full knowledge of our current financial situation. The post will be funded wholly out of Julia Oxley's legacy. Therefore, it will not increase our running costs and will not be paid out of your week-to-week giving.

2. The amount we put aside from the legacy for this post is a small proportion of the total amount we received - about 6% of the post-tithe legacy. The PCC had already agreed to spend a proportion of the legacy on ministry. The total that we have committed to ministry (continuing to employ a children youth and family worker for three years, and taking on this new part-time post for three years) comes to about 20% of the post-tithe legacy.

3. This role is an investment in the future of the church. Our hope and prayer is that it will help us to grow, in numbers and in commitment to Jesus Christ. This is a good and right thing in itself. Additionally, however, our hope for financial security lies in this sort of growth, having more church members more committed to Christ.

4. The role, and Joanna's start date will not be affected by social distancing or any other restrictions that we may be experiencing in the Autumn. We are all learning how to work in these new circumstances, and Joanna will be just the same.

I am glad to be able to bring you this good news. In all the uncertainty and anxiety, here is something good and positive that we can look forward to benefitting from in the years ahead.

And in other news…

This week sees a break from the Hub, but **Morning Prayer** continues from Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th May as does our **Pray at Home** on Thursday 28th May.

To join us use the following links:

Morning Prayer: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81141764018

Pray at Home: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87907615968
We will be praying particularly for our mission partner,
St Peter's, Rock Ferry

Generosity Project.
We are starting this new course for the whole church, starting at Hub Meetings on June 3rd (10.30am) and June 4th (8.05pm)

I think it is a great opportunity for us to be encouraged to grow in ways we know it would be good to grow! It's a chance for us as a church to shine more brightly for God in our community.

To take part you need a course book. We are subsidizing these, thanks to a generous donation, and you can get a copy for £4. Let Cecelia know if you want one (648 2404). It will be delivered to your door, in a safe, socially distanced way.

You can pay for it online, using the churches bank details below, or by ringing Bob Jarvis (342 2143) to make a payment in some other way.

Name:	Barnston PCC	Sort Code:	40.52.40
Bank:	Cafbank	Account number:	00016049

And you can take part even if you are not able to join a Hub meeting - get the book and find a friend to discuss the questions with. If you'd like us to help with that, ring Cecelia (648 2404).

Our thanks again to our **pastoral team**, ringing and keeping in touch with every member of 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.

Please continue to remember the **family and friends** of Bill Merry, Nicola Clarke (Lisa Knight's sister), Eleanor Jones (Richard Jones' aunt), Linda Slorach, Renee Dodds, Joan Jones-Menon, Shirley Carol, Sylvia Walkley (Lois Millington's godmother) and dear friend to many, Vera West.

Much love in Christ to you all.

Peter