CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Dear friends

11th of June was Barnabas Day! I wonder if you knew that? I must confess I didn't. It is the day when the church remembers God's work in the life of Barnabas, friend and companion of the apostle Paul, and known as the great encourager. He appears a number of times in the book of Acts. His warm heartedness and spiritual insight had significant effects
- when the early church were suspicious of the recently converted Paul it was Barnabas who introduced him to the main apostles and convinced them that Paul was sincere
- he saw early on that God was doing a new work in bringing Gentiles to faith in Christ. He brought in Paul to share in his work in making Jesus known and stood up for this work at the great Jerusalem Council.

There are a couple of things that might encourage us about this encourager. First, his character is key to his ministry - he is remembered more for the person he was than for the work that he did. Secondly, there were ups and downs and disagreements in his work and in his relationship with Paul. But God still moved things forwards. He was willing and persistent and God was bigger than his mistakes. We are not to let our mis-steps disqualify us from serving Christ. He is always bigger than all of our failings and he will accomplish his purposes for the people of Barnston and Pensby.

Here is the collect for June 11th:
Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,
who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas
and gave him grace to encourage others:
help us, by his example,
to be generous in our judgements
and unselfish in our service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

And can I encourage you? Can I encourage you to join in with the Generosity Project, if you have not done so already? It is not too late! If you ring Cecelia we

will get a book to you very soon, and you can join in the Zoom meetings or read it by yourself. I hope that as many of us as possible will be part of it, that we will be learning more together about how we can respond generously to the lavish generosity of God to us.

Here is the reaction of one person who attended last week:
"Thanks so much for a wonderful session this morning. I have SO missed house group/bible study meetings. This one is really good, and I'm looking forward to next week"

If you think I am giving this a big sell, well you would be right. This course, dovetailing as it does with our preaching on Ephesians, is our key focus as a church this term. Doing it together is a really important way for us to keep connected and "to grow together in Christ".

And in other news...
You will have seen that **restrictions on the use of church buildings are being eased**. We have permission to do more, but we still need to work out what is best, given the needs of the congregation and the nature of our buildings. Please pray for wisdom for the staff team and the standing committee as we work out the best way forward. We will keep you informed. Again, whatever we are allowed to do, we will continue to show services online and to have them broadcast on the radio.

Do **join us as we pray** this week
To join in Morning Prayers
From Tuesday 16th June to Friday 19th, from 9.00 to 9.20.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85109791040

To join in Pray at Home
To join us on Thursday 18th June (7.00pm - 7.30pm)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497349126
This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, Barnabas Fund

And to join in **The Hub,** looking at The Generosity Project, link up through one of these links:
Hub (Wednesday) June 17th 10.30am
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226696471

Hub (Thursday) June 18th 8.05pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81497349126

If you want to watch the video before the meeting, look at the video for session 3 at https://matthiasmedia.com.au/pages/tgp-videos
And if getting in touch with the Hub is not for you, why not ring a friend and see what they think about the book? We will be on Week Three this week - find out what they thought! If you would like to talk to someone from the staff team about it, do ring Cecelia in the office and she will arrange it.

You can listen to our morning service on **Flame Radio** (**1521MW)** 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.

Please continue to **remember the family and friends** of Linda Slorach, Joan Jones-Menon, Joyce Cashin, Peter Starkey, Rene Dodd, Brenda Davies, Vera West and Linda Bailey as they mourn their passing.

I think that's it! I think we need a lot of patience at the moment, as we wonder how quickly we will be able to properly see people we care about, or do things we have looked forward to. I pray that we would continue to face these challenges with Christ, and above all to grow in our trust and joy in him. He is our true comfort and our certain hope.

Much love in Christ to you all

Peter