CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly Update 1st June 2020

Dear friends

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul"

Philip Bliss and Christopher Stafford

I know these words are a great friend to many of you. They tell us that spiritual contentment is something we learn, from God. And perhaps one of the most important lessons is that we learn it through times of trial as well as times of blessing.

So how are your lessons going? You may be experiencing peace like a river, you may feel the sorrows of this time as the billows of the sea rolling over you, but are you able to say, with increasing confidence, it is well with my soul?

We will be able to do that as we understand ourselves better, and the sometimes-hidden ways in which we choose not to trust God, preferring to rely on something else. So here are some questions that help us to know ourselves, and to put God and his grace at the centre of our lives.

1. When have your struggled most, spiritually or emotionally, during this lockdown? What are the circumstances, events or people that have caused you to struggle?

2. What has this taught you about yourself, about the things that you truly fear, or long for, or trust? How has something else taken God's place in your heart?

3. What does God say about you in this situation? What does God promise, or intend for you?

4. How can you be honest with God at this point? What would you cry out or ask for, or trust, if you were to be totally plain with God? What will it look like to turn to God and trust him?

5. How can you change who you are towards others? What can you do differently, to look outward and love others?

Today is a good day to pause, to allow God to take back the place he ought to have in your heart and in your life. Great blessings come as we do this.

And now for the news…

Sundays

If you follow the news you will be aware of the discussion about when churches may be able to have small, socially distanced congregations. We are working towards July 12th as a possible start date but will keep you informed. When we do have a small congregation in church, we intend to have a hybrid service, with a live-stream on YouTube for those who are unable to attend physically.

Generosity project

It is not too late to take part in our whole church project, looking the generosity of God and how our hearts can be warmed to greater generosity We will be focussing on this course this at the Hub and informally in the coming weeks. Do take part! To join in the Hub, get the book and come along to one of the two meeting below. To follow along informally, get the book and ring a friend to discuss the questions, or use the book by yourself. To get hold of the course book (just £4) please ring Cecelia (648 2404) and we will bring it round to you (in a hygienic way!)

Hub (Wednesday) on 3rd June 10.30am
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89158745991

Hub (Thursday) on 4th June 8.05pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82706174962

Praying

Here are those all important links to join us in praying

Morning prayer, Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th June 9.00am - 9.20am
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447170174

Pray at Home, Thursday 4th June 7.00pm - 7.30pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82706174962
We will be praying particularly for Neema Children's Homes, for Joshua and Miriam and their work.

Remembering
We are aware of those who have been bereaved and pray particularly for Shirley Carling, Linda Slorach, Joan Jones-Menon, Joyce Cashin, Peter Starkey, Rene Dodd, Brenda Davies and dear friend to many, Vera West.

Many blessings to you all,

Peter