CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly Update

17th August 2020

Dear friends,

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn."
Isaiah 60: 1 - 3

We are going to start a new series of sermons in September, leading us through the final section of the book of Isaiah. In it, Isaiah looks far ahead, beyond the return from Exile and the re-establishing of the physical nation of Israel, far ahead to the return of God's king and the new creation that he will bring with him. This is what everything in human history is leading towards. And that is a pretty amazing thought. All the turmoil of the current age, its heroism and selfishness, its injustice and its kindness, is going to end with the awesome rule of God's king, Jesus. These verses tell us something more. They recognise that darkness covers the earth, over all the peoples. This pandemic tells us that there are some things that are true of everyone. But God's glory rises. Where does it rise? On his people! That's where hope and life are to be found, in those who have willingly taken God's king as <u>their</u> king. And as God's light comes to them - in the certainty of forgiveness, in the hope of life beyond this life, in the power of God the Holy Spirit in them - so they offer light to the peoples of the world. You, we, the church, are a key way in which God's light and life are available to those who live in darkness. We don't have to be trying hard for this to happen, we don't have to be perfect, we just have to be trusting Jesus and living with integrity. Perhaps today you might pray that you would be a bringer of the light of God to those who live in darkness.

Many blessings to you.

Peter

Good things to know about:

Last Thursday you should have received information regarding the **APCM**. There is one small error in the information: the Deputy Wardens will not be elected by the PCC but chosen by the wardens, in consultation with the Vicar. Sorry for getting that wrong!
So far, the following have indicated their willingness to stand for these roles:

Church Warden: Bob Fiddaman
Rob Moots

Deanery Synod: Sue Orman
David Reed
Linda Edward

PCC: Roy Edward
Eleanor Haslam
Paul Irons
Bob Jarvis
Zoe Putman

If there is someone else you would like to see nominated, you can find nomination forms on the Resources page of the church website.

Sunday services. Our apologies for the sound failure yesterday. We are not yet clear what happened - all was done much as it has been in previous weeks. However, the tech team will be beavering away this week to make sure we are up and running OK next Sunday.

Our next step in re-establishing church services will be, God willing, the starting of an 8.30am Holy Communion service at Christ Church. We currently intend that this will begin on September 20th, the week after the APCM. This will coincide with moving the live-streamed service to 9.30am and the start of Sunday groups for children. If you would like to come to either service, please ring Cecelia in the office. We still need to be aware of who is coming so that we can make proper arrangements for seating.

Please continue to pray for our services. The services will continue to be available of Flame Radio (**1521MW**) and a recording of the sermon can be heard on Dial a Sermon on **0151 318 0420.**

Do join us as we **pray** this week:

To join in Morning Prayers

From Tuesday 18th August to Friday 21st August from 9.00 to 9.20.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81086186447

To join in Pray at Home

Through the Summer we will continue to pray each Thursday evening from 7.00pm till 7.30pm.
To join us on Thursday 20th August:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84305622435
This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, St Peter's Rock Ferry.

The same link will take you to our book group looking at **God's Big Picture**.
This week we will be looking at Chapter 5, the Prophesied Kingdom.