CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly update **20th July 2020**

Dear friends.

"God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow…Therefore my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Philippians 2: 12 - 13

Many blessings to you. It is good to see the church, here in Barnston with Pensby and across the country, taking steps towards being together again physically. We have done amazing things over the past few months, keeping in touch and helping each other to continue in Christian trust, obedience and love. But we are meant to meet - it is not good for man to be alone, God said to Adam; heaven will be a communal experience, not a solitary one. So, I am glad that we are taking these first, small, careful steps towards meeting together in church services. Please don't feel obliged to come - come when you feel ready. But we will be glad to welcome you when you do.

And whether we are meeting in church or connecting at home, we "continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling". This is Paul's phrase here in Philippians and it's a great description of the Christian life. We have a salvation that has been granted to us by God, because of Jesus. And now, through the ups and downs of our earthly life, we work out this salvation, continually. That is we choose to live, day by day, as saved people, people free of the burden of guilt, people aware of our Father's love, people looking ahead to being with him in eternity. Doing this persistently is difficult, but we are encouraged to remember two things. First, the certain rule of Jesus - Jesus has been exalted to the highest place, he has the name above every name, every knee will bow before him. Therefore, we continue to work out our salvation. Above us is the awesome ruler of the whole world - this Christian living is a serious business! We are filled with awe and wonder that we belong to the eternal ruler of everything - so keep on working out your salvation! But also, if this causes us to feel inadequate, we have the empowering presence of God - "work out your salvation with fear and trembling because it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." God is working in you, he has a good purpose, and he is enabling you to want the right things and to work towards them. We can keep going!

Peter

This week's news:

We are planning a **book group** over the summer, looking at God's Big Picture. We heard it reviewed the other week in church. It is a swift overview of the whole Bible, showing God's purposes through history. A great encouragement, and a real help for us as we read different parts of the Bible and try to connect it up. Ring Cecelia (648 2404) if you would like to order a copy - it costs £5. There will be an informal meeting to talk about it at The Hub each Thursday evening from July 30th. The meeting will be on Zoom, but people can ring up and take part as well.

Please continue to pray for our services, that they would build us all up, with confidence and joy in Jesus, whether we are at home or able to attend in person. The services will continue to be available on Flame Radio (**1521MW**) and a recording of the sermon can be heard on Dial a Sermon on **0151 318 0420.**

We are looking for some **volunteers** to welcome and direct people at the morning service. It would mean arriving early and helping people to follow the guidance for sanitising and social distancing. We recognise that those in a vulnerable category will probably be holding back at the moment, but if any others would like to offer help, please ring Cecelia (648 2404).

And please continue to pray for Danielle Williamson and Ben Taylor. They are getting married at Christ Church on July 25th. May God bless them on this special day and may they find Jesus Christ to be a sure foundation for their life together.

Support Neema.
Bob and friend, Phil Oliver, are intending to hike the Wirral Coastal Path on Wednesday 29th July to raise awareness and support for Neema - an orphanage and school in Kenya which takes children with aids or have been orphaned by aids. Neema is having a difficult time with coronavirus, & the worst locust scourge for 70 years. Bob & Phil have obtained Barclays Bank backing, matching £ for £, up to £750 each, so this could raise £3,000.
To find out about Neema go to www.neemahome.org.uk. To support Bob please phone him on 0151 3422143 or 07759 272742, and he'll give bank details or take a card payment.

Do join us as we **pray** this week
To join in Morning Prayers
From Tuesday 21st July to Friday 25th July from 9.00 to 9.20am.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84877379221

To join in Pray at Home
Through the Summer we continue to pray each Thursday evening from 7pm till 7.30pm.
To join us on Thursday 23rd July: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86254153012
This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, St Peter's, Rock Ferry.

Pray for those who have been bereaved, including the family and friends of Margaret Jones, Caroline Harrison and Joyce Mountford and remember our mission partners, St Peter's, Rock Ferry.