CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly update **27th July 2020**

Dear friends,

"John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick."
Matthew 14: 12 - 14

Do you ever worry you are being a burden to other people? Do you fear they have had enough of your difficulties? I think we may be quick to feel this, worried what others will think of us. Here is an incident that shows how Jesus is never tired of seeing us. John the Baptist has just been killed, in the most cruel and arbitrary of ways. Jesus is told and goes to be by himself. John was his cousin, but more than that his forerunner, going ahead of him to prepare the way. And now John has gone ahead of him in death - did those words about John's disciples sound familiar? We will hear them again after Jesus' death. And so Jesus went to be by himself, taking a boat across the lake, to pray, to rest in his father's presence. But what does he find when he reaches the other side of the lake? The crowds are ahead of him, pursuing him, demanding more. And seeing the crowd he is filled with compassion. Even then, in his own loss and fear, he loves them. It's a reminder of the character of Jesus. This is what he is like. His compassion will always be greater than our needs. Even as he contemplates his own death - and we know Jesus saw it coming from a long way off - he is filled with compassion when he sees lost and desperate people.
I hope this thought is an encouragement to you. As our situation continues, with little apparent change, we may start to feel that our prayers are becoming tiresome to God, as he was saying "not you again!". Take this picture with you, of Jesus arriving in the boat and is looking at us with compassion. What more do we need? Keep on praying, keep on loving and serving other people.

Peter

<u>This week's news:</u>

We are starting our **book group** this week, looking at <u>God's Big Picture</u>. 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. We will be reading a chapter or two each week and then meeting to discuss it on Zoom on Thursday evenings from July 30th. Don't forget that people can ring up

and take part as well. There are a couple of books leftover - Ring Cecelia (648 2404) if you would like to buy one of them - it costs £5.

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 don't forget that if you would like to come to a service you can! Please ring Cecelia (648 2404) by Wednesday lunchtime to book a place.

Safeguarding: Please read this document from Coral Greenwood, our Parish Safeguarding Officer. It is important for pretty much everyone, so please have a look!

Keswick online
You can join the Keswick Convention online this week. Have a look at vkc.keswickministries.org.

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

To join in Morning Prayers
From Tuesday 28th July to Friday 31st July from 9.00 to 9.20.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89280601171

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 23rd July
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84561136849
This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, Neema Children's Home

Our **Book Group** starts on Thursday evening after the prayer meeting 7.45 pm - 8.30 pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84561136849