CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

Weekly update **3rd August 2020**

Dear friends,

"Your word O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures."
Psalm 119: 89 - 90

We are starting a book group looking at "God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts. It is an overview of the Bible, showing how it all holds together and all points towards Jesus. These verses help us to see that what God says and what God does are tied together, because both of them are rooted in who God is. God is faithful - always good and always utterly reliable. What he says is therefore completely reliable as well, and we should expect his Word the Bible to be consistent and dependable. So it is with what God does - he works to achieve what he wills, nowhere more plainly than in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus' life, death, resurrection and return, God is showing his faithfulness. What does this mean? It means that we can read the Bible and grasp the character of God - we can know what he is like and we can know him ourselves. And we can understand the work of God - we know why Jesus came, and what difference his death makes. And this means we can know what we are for - we are made to worship God and live for him. Knowing these things we find that the shifting times we live in are more manageable. God is faithful and good, in his character and in his work for us, and we can know him through his reliable word.

Peter

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

Regarding our **Sunday services**, our hope and prayer is that bit by bit we will be able to come back together in church. While our online services and radio broadcasts have been a huge blessing, there is no real substitute for meeting together in person. We anticipate that the next service to start will be an 8.30 am Communion service at Christ Church, though no date has been fixed for this. More broadly, the PCC have been considering our Sunday services and think that this disruption to our normal pattern of services gives us an opportunity to think again about how we organise things. We think that there would be a number of advantages in having more formal services available both earlier and later on a Sunday and in doing the same for the more informal services with children's work. A provisional pattern would look like this:

8.30 am Holy Communion at Christ Church
9.30 am Morning service with children's work at St Michael's
10.30 am Morning service with children's work at Christ Church
11.00 am Holy Communion at St Michael's

We think that this would provide more options for everyone. As we gradually return to a full complement of services, this is the pattern that we are intending to work towards. It will be good to hear your thoughts and comments, particularly as we start the 8.30 am service.

We have been wonderfully blessed by the generosity of **Don McArdle,** who left to the church the residue of his estate, about £56,000. We thank God for his desire to bless the church and the significant way he was able to do this. The PCC want to wait before making any decisions about what to do with this legacy. Please pray with us that we would be motivated by a desire to honour God though our generosity and would be wise as we do that. And Don's generosity is a reminder that Christians give not only because there is a need that must be met, but chiefly because we experience ourselves the generosity of God and want to reflect it in our lives. In fact, the financial needs of the church are still there - a deficit of about £2000 a month. Please pray that these ongoing needs would be met.

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

We are still grateful for **volunteers** to welcome and direct people at the morning service. Could you help? 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).

Do join us as we **pray** this week:
To join in Morning Prayers
From Tuesday 4th August to Friday 7th August from 9.00 to 9.20am.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85417815143

To join in Pray at Home
Through the Summer we will continue to pray each Thursday evening from 7 till 7.30pm.
To join us on Thursday 6th August: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85417815143
This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, Sena and Jane

The Hub
We will continue our book group reading God's Big Picture. Do come along from 7.45 - 8.30 with questions and comments and be encouraged to keep reading the weeks ahead. This week we will be looking at chapter 2 and 3.