

CHRIST CHURCH  
BARNSTON



ST MICHAEL'S  
PENSBY

**Weekly update**

**7th September 2020**

Dear friends,

Our new sermon series is going to take us to the end of the book of Isaiah. In it the prophet starts to look far beyond the current trials of God's people to the new heavens and the new earth, the perfect restoration of all things. People sometimes criticise the Christian faith as "pie in the sky by and by". They say that it promises the impossible tomorrow, and nothing today. But this is unfair, or at least partly unfair. Isaiah does tell us that perfection will come later, that we need to learn to wait. But what it promises is not impossible, even though it is wonderful. It is sure, because God has promised it. And it is wonderful because it is about the coming together of heaven and earth. Isaiah 57: 15 says this: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit." What is it that connects the high and the holy place, and the person who is contrite? It is the presence of God. God is exalted and he is with us. He never stops being anything less than himself - eternal, infinite, perfect, utterly other than us. But he also chooses to set his love upon us, as we humble ourselves before him, and his Spirit to dwell with us. Our current difficulties have frustrated, isolated and weakened us. But if they have also caused us to be humble before God, then great good has come from them. Because he is with the contrite and lowly in spirit.

Many blessings to you.

Peter

**News of the week.**

**APCM.** Please come if you can, on September 13th at 10.30 am and let Cecelia know if you would like paper copies of the reports or the accounts in advance of the meeting. Similarly, you will need to let Cecelia know if you would like to come so we can prepare the space. There will be a chance to ask questions.

So far, the following have indicated their willingness to stand for these roles:

Church Warden:

Bob Fiddaman

Rob Moots

Deanery Synod:

Linda Edward

Graham Hill

David Mann

Sue Orman

David Reed

PCC:

Roy Edward  
Eleanor Haslam  
Paul Irons  
Bob Jarvis  
Alan Johnston  
Carol Jordan  
Colin Leeman  
Zoe Putman  
Paul Tolley

NB please forgive a miscommunication: David Williams is not standing for the PCC, but Alan Johnston is.

Thank you all for your willingness to stand. If you would like to nominate someone please ask for a form from the Parish Office. Please pray for us that we would elect wise, prayerful and committed Church Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members.

**Sunday services**

We continue with our intention to develop services on September 20th. On that day we will have an 8.30am Communion service at Christ Church and a morning service at 9.30am at St Michael's, with groups for children. Again, it will be helpful if you could let Cecelia know if you intend to come.

**The Hub**

The Hub will restart on Thursday 24th September. There will be three courses in the first part of term. I will be at St Michael's looking at what it means to be the church - what the church is, why it is important, what a healthy church looks like. Do come and join us for stimulation and discussion. Chris will run a Christianity Explored course (starting on October 8th) again in person at St Michael's. You may have friends or family who have been caused to ask big questions in the past months - do invite them along. And online John Putman will be running the Inspire course, helping parents and grandparents introduce their children to the Christian faith.

The Hub follows our weekly Prayer Meeting and runs from 7.45pm - 9.00pm on Thursday evenings in term time.

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

**To join in Morning Prayers:**

From Tuesday 8th September to Friday 11th September from 9.00am to 9.20am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82207354045>

**To join in Pray at Home:**

Through the Autumn we will pray each Thursday evening from 7.00pm till 7.30pm.

To join us on Thursday 10th September

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87593913007>

This week will include prayers for our Mission partners, Barnabas Fund.

And **finally**.... many thanks to all who showed concern for Shelly and the family while she had coronavirus. She was tired for a few days but is now fine and back at work. Thank you very much for prayers and cards and practical help. All seems back to normal now.

Peter