St Barnabas
making disciples for life

Outlook

March 2022

Monthly Newsletter of St Barnabas Parish Church of Linthorpe and Ayresome

Lent

We think sin is *stopping doing something that is wrong* (stealing, coveting etc). But the Bible also sees sin in terms of *being passive* – avoiding doing something which is right and good. Another way of saying this is that there are *sins of commission* (things we do and should stop doing) but also *sins of omission* (things we ought to do and don't).

Wednesday 2nd March is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season for growing in faith. It's rooted in Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

You may, rightly, want to give something up for Lent. This is a good idea. We are, all of us, much more reliant on our creature comforts than we like to admit. Giving something up is not about being a kill-joy. It is about having a temporary pause from something. That way, when we take it up again at Easter, we have learnt some self-control – and are all the more grateful for whatever it is that we gave up!

Alongside this, is there something you could actively do this Lent, something you are not currently doing? That 'something' could be close to home. COVID has cut us off from each other. So, are there people near where you live to whom you could reach out? Maybe a

new resident who moved into the street in the pandemic, whom you have not met yet? Maybe someone you knew a little before COVID, but whom you have not seen for months? Maybe someone who you recognise by sight but with whom you've not yet spoken? You might like to think of one or two simple questions to ask them, before you have the chat. Of course, it is important not to be nosey, but it is also important to show an interest in others.

If part of sin is passivity, Lent is a time for us to let go of COVID-inertia and cross the road to say 'hello' to neighbours. Part of the aftermath of the pandemic is that we have lost some of the art of relating to other people. Lent 2022 could be a time for us to re-learn ways of showing interest in our neighbours, which is the starting point of heeding Jesus' call to love our neighbours.

David Goodhew

Ash Wednesday and Praying for Peace in Europe

In response to the crisis in the Ukraine, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have joined Pope Francis' call for Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, to be a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Europe - asking that churches such as ours use 2 March to take time to pray for the peace of Europe. Please do this either on your own or via the opportunities below:

- there is the usual service of communion in church at 9.30 am on Wednesday 2nd March

- there will be a special hour of prayer for peace in Europe at 6 pm to 7 pm in church on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March

- there are special resources for prayer which you can find here: Praying for the Peace of the World | The Church of England

Please use this opportunity to pray for easing of the crisis in the Ukraine.

Lent 2022—Preparing for Easter

March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) marks the start of Lent - a season of reflection and preparation leading up to Easter. It's a great opportunity for a spiritual MOT - a spiritual health check. Intentionally setting time aside to reflect on our relationship with God, our practise of prayer, bible reading, serving, giving etc.

If you do not have a daily practise of prayer and bible reading - or if your current practise needs a refresh - you might like to check out the following resources:

Bible in One Year https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/ - readings for everyday of the year with comments by Pippa and Nicky Gumbel (Alpha)

Lectio 365 - a free daily devotional resource to pray with the bible everyday from the 24/7 prayer movement - https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/

Lectio for Families
https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectioforfamilies/

#LiveLent - this year's Church of England Lent Campaign - https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-embracing-justice-our-lent-reflections

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Early June sees a double bank-holiday weekend, which stretches across 2nd to 5th June. St Barnabas is looking into ideas for a celebration. More news to follow.

Community Grocery – News Update

Plans for a Community Grocery are progressing. This is a project working with the Christian charity, The Message Trust. During March the temporary structure housing the grocery will be moved into the church car-park. In April, water, electric etc will be connected. And in early May it will open to the public. The name of the Grocery manager has been announced as Stephen Mussard. 'Please look out for Stephen (Ste) and make him very welcome.

The Lydia Group

We welcome all ladies to our group.
If you can knit or sew that is a bonus,
All are very welcome.

What we do
Apart from lots of chat together we knit squares to make blankets as well as hats and scarves and knitted garments.
During the afternoon we have a short service followed by refreshments.

Time and place
We meet on the last Friday of the month in the Reid Room of St. Barnabas Church Hall from 2-4pm.
First meeting is on Friday 25th March at 2pm in the Reid Room

Purpose
We make knitted items for Hope for Life Ministries.
All the items we make are taken by road to Romania and Albania. Their destination is The Home for elderly Leprosy patients, the children's feeding centre and residential home, and for needy families.

Alejandro and Doris Mesco, Arequipa, Peru

Alejandro now works for the Medical Mission International in Arequipa. This is a charitable organisation which reaches out to the poorer members of the public who cannot afford to pay for private medical care. He is Chaplain to the staff, runs courses and has plenty of opportunities to spread the gospel with the patients. The staff have been hit by the COVID pandemic but now work is going ahead in Ophthalmology, Physiotherapy, Dentistry and Psychology. The present premises they have are not ideal but they now possess funds to start work on a multipurpose building. Plans need final approval before they can be accepted by the licensing committee and work can begin. Alejandro will co-ordinate this work when it begins.

On a practical level, Alejandro is running the wheelchair dept. for children and adults who cannot afford to purchase one (government health services are basic and do not supply them free of charge) By making adjustments and reusing old chairs a difference can be made to peoples' lives and a container of wheelchairs has recently been donated by the Joni charity.

Unfortunately, the Houses of Peace project (first pioneered in Brazil with remarkable growth) was ready to expand by forming new groups. However, because Peru has been particularly badly hit by the pandemic, the first group has only been able to meet using Zoom. Alejandro is hoping progress will take place as soon as it is safe to do so.

Val Hill

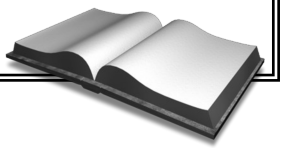
Diary

Week beginning 27th February	Life groups meet
Friday 4th—Sunday 6th March	Taste and See Mission
Wednesday 9th March	Alpha Course starts, 7pm in church
Week beginning 13th March	Life groups meet
Monday 14th March	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Friday 25th March	Lydia group meets, 2pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 27th March	Life groups meet

From the Registers

Funeral at St Barnabas
22nd February Tommy Rafferty

Funeral at the Crematorium
10th February Margaret McQuade aged 92



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