

THE TRUE VINE

JUNE 2010 at Christ Church

Dear friends at Christchurch

This month sees the commemoration of one of my favourite New Testament characters – Barnabas. We don't know much about him, just a few references in Acts, but the key thing about him was that Barnabas was actually just a nickname – in Acts 4:36 we find that his real name was Joseph, but the apostles gave him the name Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement'.

Encouragement is such a vital gift in the church. Years ago, in my home church in Ipswich, the vicar had asked me to put a group together, which was a new venture in the church. The first morning we played was a disaster – and by the end of the service I was ready to throw away my guitar and never do anything like that again. And then an elderly lady in the church came up and spoke to us. She didn't pretend that we had played well, but she did thank us for what we had done, and she urged us to keep going. That one small word of encouragement made a huge difference.

We all need encouragement. Our services should be times of encouragement: the writer to the Hebrews tells us *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.* (Hebrews 10:25) I hope that over the next 2 months, as we look at some of the Old Testament giants of faith at 9.00 am and 10.45, and as we look at the book of Esther at 6.30 pm, there will be encouragement for all of us who attend.

But we need not only scripture to encourage us, we need people who are encouragers. Ken Fox was one of those, and in losing him we have lost someone who was always ready to bring a word of encouragement. That is something that all of us can do – so why not come to church each Sunday looking out for someone you can encourage?

Yours in Christ

Graham Cousins

Regular weekly activities:

Monday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm TLC
Tuesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.15 pm Art Group
	-	4..00 pm Shine
Wednesday	-	9.30 am Toddler Group
	-	1.00 pm Needlecraft Group
	-	1.30 pm Toddler Group
	-	5.15 pm Rainbows
Thursday	-	1.00 pm Craft Group
	-	9.45 am Keep Fit
	-	11.00 am Keep Fit
	-	5.30 pm Brownies
	-	7.30 pm Guides
Friday	-	9.15 am Mothers 'n' Others
	-	7.00 pm Evening Bowls

ART EXHIBITION

CHRIST CHURCH - PARISH CENTRE

FRIDAY 2ND JULY - 7.30 pm

Please could you return your forms and let Beryl Blackman have them as soon as possible so that the catalogue can be prepared. Thanks

FRIDAY 25th June

7.45 pm at Christ Church.



BLOODLINES

ORDINATION SERVICE

SUNDAY 20TH JUNE - 6.30 pm

**PETER'S ORDINATION
AT
CHRIST CHURCH**

Please come and support Peter