

Dear all,

Carolyn is a fan of jigsaws. I wasn't - "it's not much of a puzzle; the answer (picture) is on the front of the box!" A turning point for me was not to have the box in front of us while we do the puzzle, even though we usually have an idea of what the puzzle will look like.

(Taking this to an extreme - I set Carolyn a real challenge for her birthday; I had a puzzle made from our photos and presented it to her in a bag with no box, no picture, no clue. She solved it; she is very good at jigsaws.)

I wonder if we think of our lives as a jigsaw puzzle which we have to solve, finding the 'picture' God has for us? Whilst God does call specific people to specific tasks at certain times, is it reasonable to think we could get every decision about how we spend our lives 'right'? Perhaps a better way to live is to trust that, through good times and bad times, God loves us and walks with us. His plan for our lives is to know this, and for us to love Him and love others in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

Rather than end with a Bible verse, I'll end with a line from a Christian song, "Empty Page" written by Paul Field in the 1970's

So, I'm not pretending my story never fails

But I've already read the ending and Your love prevails.

The summer holidays have started, but we are continuing to meet:

This Week:

Sunday (26th) I am leading our worship service at 10 am, and preaching on Romans 8: 26-end and Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52, thinking about what God's Kingdom is like. We will share communion together.

The Finance Team is meeting to review the Q2 accounts on Monday (27th) at 4pm.

The Church Prayer Meeting meets on Tuesday (28th) at 6.30 pm in The Lounge.

'Singing at St. B's meets on Wednesday (29th) at 7.30 pm

Coffee Morning on Thursday (30th) at 10 am, both in the Church.

Men's Breakfast is on Saturday 1st August at 8 am in the Lounge on the subject of Transformation. Please contact Michael if you need a copy of the book (we are looking at pages 45 to 56) and to arrange a bacon roll!

Cygnets, has broken up for the summer, restarting on 15th September.

The Following Week:

Sunday (2nd) Andrew is leading a service of Morning Worship, with Richard preaching on Romans 9: 1-5 and Matthew 14: 13-21.

'Singing at St. B's meets on Wednesday (5th) at 7.30 pm

Coffee Morning on Thursday (6th) at 10 am, both in the Church.

There is no Church Prayer Meeting; the next one is on the following week on Tuesday (11th).

Cygnets, has broken up for the summer, restarting on 15th September.

All the details can be found on the church website: [Church calendar and Events](#), where you can also find the [August Rota](#).

My next email is on 8th August.

Have a great 2 weeks

Kevin

Revd Kevin Barnard, Vicar of Swanland

Day Off: Friday

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Church Office:

For all administrative enquiries, including hall hire, weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Mon - Thu 10.00am - 12.00pm

St Barnabas Church, Main Street, Swanland. HU14 3QP

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A Church Near You: achurchnearyou.com/st-barnabas-swanland

Follow us on Facebook: [@stbtbswanland](https://www.facebook.com/stbtbswanland)

Our parish of Swanland is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults from harm. Read [our policy](#) here. For concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer Graham Dunn, phone 07974 020837 or email safeguarding.stbchurch@gmail.com. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police and your local authority's children or adult social care services.



The Parish of Swanland, St Barnabas Church

Reg Charity No: 1130240