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Dear all,

Green and Pleasant Land?

I cut the grass this week. Well, it was more like cutting down the dead dandelion stalks and trimming the straw to the same length. It looked neater, but I have almost forgotten what green grass - and rain - look like. Maybe there are some gardeners who say I shouldn't have done this, but I am not a gardener; I am with the Americans on this and think of maintaining a lawn as "yardwork" – a task that brings me no pleasure!

This made me think of parallels with our spiritual lives. Can they become dried up, yellowing, dead? We may do some work to improve their appearance, but this doesn't mean they are 'alive'.

I saw a picture in the news this week of a yellow park, with the comment 'England is not supposed to be like this'. We need rain! Likewise, our spiritual lives do not need to be dead; God brought life in the beginning and brings life now. The Bible repeatedly uses water, rain, rivers, springs, dew, and streams as pictures of God bringing life.

Jesus said...

... 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive...' (John 7: 37-39)

Read the Bible. Pray. Spend time with Jesus. Believe in Him. He brings life.

This Week:

Sunday (16th) I will be leading and preaching in the first of our "Summer Psalms" sermon series on 'Psalms of Praise', drawing from Psalm 8 and Matthew 21: 12-1. All are welcome to the service, and to the prayer meeting in The Vestry at 9.45 am beforehand to pray for the service.

We are continuing our trial of **sitting together in the front section of the church ('the chapel')** rather than the back ('the annexe') of the church. We received positive comments about this, and made a few minor changes that were suggested, so please support what we are doing and sit in the front this week too.

During the week we have:

- **Singing at St. B's'** on Wednesday (19th) at 7.30 pm in The Chapel.
- **Coffee Plus...** (renamed from 'Crafty Coffee') **Coffee Morning** on Thursday (20th) at 10 am, in The Chapel.
- As it is the third Friday of the month, **GAPP** - Grandparents And Parents Prayer – meets at 10.15 at Jean's to pray for family and friends.
- *The next Church Prayer Meeting is not this week, but next - on Tuesday (25th).*
- *'Cygnets' has broken up for the summer, restarting on Tuesday 15th September.*

The Church Office will be closed all week. The answerphone and email will be checked periodically but, for anything urgent, please contact the vicar or wardens.

I am available in the Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to noon if anyone needs to see me to chat or pray. This week I am taking Friday off.

Next Sunday (23rd) we are continuing our short series titled "Summer Psalms" with 'Psalms of Lament'; we will also share communion.

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

Have a great week

Kevin

Revd Kevin Barnard, Vicar of Swanland

Day Off: Friday

The Vicarage, 3 St Barnabas Drive, Swanland. HU14 3RL

Tel: 01482 590973 Email: vicar@stbchurch.org.uk

Texts and WhatsApp only: 07880 288124

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

Tel: 01482 632941 Email: admin@stbchurch.org.uk

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

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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