

If you want to receive this information and other occasional emails about our church activities directly via email, then you can sign up here:

<https://stbchurch.churchsuite.com/embed/addressbook/form>

You can unsubscribe at any time.

=====

Scaredy-Cat

When the vicarage doorbell rings, our cat rushes upstairs and gets in – yes, **in** – our bed. Under the duvet. We have talked to the cat about it; she is unrepentant! We certainly don't encourage this, but we don't always remember to keep our bedroom door shut. So, we keep a hand-held vacuum cleaner in the bedroom to use, with a deep sigh, before getting into bed.

She has always been easily scared, and our bed has become a place of safety for her. Somewhere she finds comfort and can retreat to whenever she feels overwhelmed, unsettled or just plain scared of something unknown.

It made me think about where we go when we are overwhelmed, unsettled or just plain scared of something unknown. The Bible says about God:

*You are my hiding-place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

Psalm 32: 7 (NIVUK)

Of course, God is not offering a physical place to escape to. He offers Himself. He does not promise that life will be free from things which scare us, but He is there when we cry out to him. We can find our safe place by simply turning to Him and saying, 'I am here, I need you'. Or when our words fail, we can use words of the Psalms:

*I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.'*

Psalm 91: 2 (NIVUK)

Our cat has learned where her safe place is. Perhaps God is inviting us to learn where ours is too.

This is a longer email this week covering the next 2 weeks, also with details for harvest festival, our Bible Course and some updates from our PCC meeting. So please read to the end (if this interests you!)

This Week:

- **Sunday (20th)** At 10 am we have our **Morning Service**. I will be leading and preaching on Jonah 3:1 – 4:11 and Matthew 20: 1-16, thinking about grace. Our sung worship will be supported by music from Ruth, Nigel, Marilyn and Dave.
- **'Cygnets'**, our baby and toddler group, is on Tuesday (22nd) at 10.30 am in the Church Hall.
- The **Church Prayer Meeting** is on Tuesday (22nd) at 6.30 pm in The Lounge, and will be led by Richard this week.
- **'Singing at St. B's'** meets on Wednesday (23rd) at 7.30 pm in The Chapel.
- **'Coffee Plus...'** on Thursday (24th) at 10 am, in The Lounge.
- **'Salad Bowl'** is meeting on Friday (25th), this being the 4th Friday of the month, at 11 am in a church member's home. This is a Christian Contemplation Group which welcomes people from various churches or none. It is a facilitated time to be still and be present to God, followed by a shared lunch. You are welcome to attend even if you have never attended before; contact Rena for details via the church office 01482 632941.

The Following Week:

- **Sunday (27th)** Sue will be leading and Andrew preaching at our 10 am service of **Morning Worship**, drawing from Philippians 2: 1-13 and Matthew 21: 23-32. Our sung worship will be supported by music from Ruth, Nigel, Marilyn and Dave. *This will not be a communion service.*
- **'Cygnets'**, our baby and toddler group, is on Tuesday (29th) at 10.30 am in the Church Hall.

- **'Singing at St. B's'** meets on Wednesday (30th) at 7.30 pm in The Chapel.
- **'Coffee Plus...'** on Thursday (1st October) at 10 am, in The Lounge.

The next Church Prayer Meeting doesn't meet this week; the next meeting is on Tuesday 13th October (2nd and 4th Tuesdays).

Men's Breakfast is not meeting on Saturday 3rd October, but has been moved back a week to Saturday 10th October.

All details can be found on the church website under [Church Calendar and Events](#), where you can also find the [September Rota and this Sunday's Order of Service](#).

Looking Ahead - Harvest

We are celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October.

Harvest Gifts

We will be donating our harvest gifts to St John's Bransholme Community Food Store as we have in previous years. This year they have asked for:

- Basics like pasta, rice, any tins, UHT milk, biscuits, cereal.
- Anything classed as 'Christmas',
- Baby food
- Toiletries

In fact, they can find a use for most things.

Please bring your gifts to the service on 4th. If you know you can't be there, you can bring them to the church Monday 28th Sept – Thursday 1st Oct from 10 am – noon. Please do not leave donations outside the church.

It would be great for as many as possible to support this service, and I encourage you to give as generously as you are able in thankfulness for all God has done for us and to support the good work of the Community Store at St. John's in Bransholme.

Harvest Flowers

This year we are asking people in the congregation to create flower arrangements – in vases, baskets or displays – to decorate the church. Please bring them at 9.30 on Sunday 4th. If you know you can't be there, you can bring them to the church on Thursday 1st Oct from 10 am – noon.

Looking Ahead – Bible Course

Starting Tuesday 13th October at 7.30 pm in The Lounge.

Want to know more about the Bible?

The Bible Course (from The Bible Society) is an eight-session journey through the big story of Scripture, helping us to see how the whole Bible fits together and what it means for our lives today.

Come along, explore God's Word with others, build your confidence in reading the Bible and deepen your faith.

Running for 8 weeks on Tuesdays from 7.30 pm at the church, our sessions will include coffee and cake, a video and time for discussion.

See Richard or Kevin for further details.

Sign up in church or contact the Church Office.

Update from the last PCC meeting

Our PCC met last Monday. As well as monitoring safeguarding, the building, budgets and other administrative matters (including Christmas arrangements!), several decisions were taken:

- CCTV will be installed w/c 5th October.
- The Chapel Projector/Screen and Sound System will be replaced. This includes a simpler 16-channel digital sound desk, new cabling, and a lockable cabinet. Training will be provided. The existing speakers and sound-room equipment will be retained. A new laser digital projector and motorised screen will be installed, together with a repeater display in The Lounge. The cross will need to be repositioned. The total project is around £10,000, funded from reserves and a legacy. (All subject to faculty)
- Giving to the Diocese (Free Will Offer) towards the cost of the vicar for next year will be increased from £50,000 to £55,000.

- The new Chapel seating will be retained following the trial, with the majority preferring the more informal, family-style layout and improved sound. Those who prefer the space, or visitors who are not ready to sit amongst others, are welcome to sit in the Annexe.
- We will not be going ahead with the envisaged young children/families service. We hope to hold conversations with children and parents at the school to see what we can do.
- The proposed Home Groups will not be going ahead for the moment. We will be running an 8-week Bible Course this autumn; see below.

We have space to co-opt one or two onto the PCC. If you think this is a way you could serve here, please contact me.

My next regular email will be in 2 weeks, on Saturday 3rd October.

Have a good 2 weeks.

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

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