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What's in a name?

What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet.

(Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, Act 2 Scene 2)

If I interpret this correctly, then Shakespeare is suggesting that we are who we are, no matter what we are called. Even if we change our name, we are still the same person.

But in the Bible, names seem to mean more. Sometimes they refer to the character of the person, or to the task they are given. Some characters had their names changed to reflect new circumstances, which can be confusing, to say the least. Famously, Jesus told Simon that he would be called 'Cephas', which is Aramaic and is translated as 'Peter' in Greek. Both mean 'rock'. I suspect Jesus is playing with words here, referring to the burly fisherman and equating this strength to something on which the church will be built.

The most obvious Biblical name with a meaning to look at is 'Jesus'. Our parents usually choose our names. Jesus' parents didn't choose their firstborn's name; an angel told Joseph the name to give him:

'[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' (Matthew 1: 21, NIVUK)

A footnote in the Bible explains the relevance of this:

Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the Lord saves.

Jesus' name tells us God's intention. Jesus was born to save us from being separated from God; to reconcile us to him. So whenever we hear the name 'Jesus', we know how much he loves us.

This Week:

Sunday (13th): I will be leading and presiding at communion at our 10 am service. Revd Irene is preaching as we return to the Church of England set readings: Romans 14: 1-12 and Matthew 18: 21-35. Our sung worship will be supported by music from iSing.

At 4 pm, we have a meeting to discuss developing worship and ministry for children and families. We will be talking and praying about possibilities, including a potential new service, "Second Sunday at 4". Please come along if this is something you feel you are able to support.

During the week:

Reminder for PCC Members: the PCC meets on Monday (14th) at 7 pm in the Lounge.

- **Healing Rooms** meet at 2 pm on Monday (14th). All are welcome to attend for prayer.
- **Cygnets**, our baby and toddler group, restarts after the summer break on Tuesday (15th) at 10.30 am in the Church Hall. For children under school age (0-4+), accompanied by their Parents / Grandparents / Carers / Childminders. Please share the word about this group amongst friends and families. Cost, including refreshments: £2 per adult and one child, 50p extra for each additional child.
- **'Coffee Plus...'** on Thursday (17th) at 10 am, in The Lounge.
- **'GAPP'** - Grandparents and Parents Prayer – meet at 10 am on Friday (18th) to pray for family and friends. ***For September (and October), GAPP will be taking place at Ros's home, not Jean's.***
- **Women's Bible Study** meet on Saturday (19th) at 9 am in the Lounge. A relaxed monthly group exploring Christian faith together through discussion, a Christian book and prayer. Newcomers are welcome.

The next Church Prayer Meeting is on Tuesday 22nd September.

'Singing at St. B's' is not meeting this Wednesday; returns 23rd September.

Next Sunday (20th), I will be leading and preaching at our 10 am service of morning worship, drawing from Philippians 1: 21-end and Matthew 20: 1-16. Our sung worship will be supported by music from Ruth, Nigel, Marilyn and Dave.

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

Last chance to comment on the new Chapel seating

Over the summer we have trialled everyone sitting in the front, in the Chapel rather than the Annexe, bringing our sound desk and creche area forward and permanently leaving the doors open to the Lounge.

The PCC will review this at the meeting on Monday. We'd love your input. Forms are still available in church this week. If you know you are not going to be here but have something to share, please email me at vicar@stbchurch.org.uk and let me know:

- Would you like to keep the new arrangement, or revert to the previous pattern?
- Any Comments / Changes / Suggestions for improvements

Save the Date: Sunday, 4th October, 10 am. Harvest Festival

Have a great week.

Kevin

Revd Kevin Barnard, Vicar of Swanland

Day Off: Friday

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

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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

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The Parish of Swanland, St Barnabas Church

Reg Charity No: 1130240