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A Faithful Focus

Dear all,

When Carolyn and I were in Warwick, we lived in a house backing onto the River Avon. We had a double kayak, and on Saturday mornings we would carry it down to the river and paddle to Warwick Castle.

If you're not very good at kayaking, which we weren't, it can be difficult to go in a straight line. A mixture of uneven strokes, a few gentle currents or gusts of wind can be enough to send you zig-zagging down the river. A way to improve is to fix your eyes ahead at a point in the distance and focus on that, rather than on the end of the boat.

In a similar way, it can be easy to be knocked off a straight course in life by the problems that come at us, either because of our own weaknesses, or from the circumstances that come at us like the currents of water in rivers or the gusts of wind. Like kayaking, it can help to fix our eyes on a goal.

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.
And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on
Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12: 1b – 2a (NIVUK)

Plan your trip to church this Sunday (25th October 2026)

With this in mind, let's not be distracted by things that would prevent us from coming together to worship this week...

This Sunday, there are two things to remember:

1. Put your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.
2. Some local roads will be closed on a rolling basis from 8.30 am to 11 am for the Haltemprice 10k. You may need to park locally and walk.

On Sunday, I will be leading and preaching on Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18 and Matthew 22: 34-end, and we will share communion.

During the week, although it is half term, most of our regular activities run as usual:

- Church Prayer Meeting on Monday (26th) at 6.30 pm in the Lounge.
- Our Bible Course on Tuesday (27th) at 7.30 pm in the Lounge.
- 'Singing at St. B's' on Wednesday (28th) at 7.30 pm in the Chapel.
- 'Coffee Plus...' on Thursday (29th) at 10 am, in the Lounge.

*'Cygnets', our baby and toddler group, **is not meeting** on Tuesday as it is half-term; it restarts on Tuesday (3rd November).*

Next Sunday (1st November) is All Saints' Day. I will be leading, and Richard will be preaching on 1 John 3: 1-3 and Matthew 5: 1-12, and we will share communion. Shirley and John will be leading our sung worship, with Jenny and me!

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

Children's Ministry Training

At St Barnabas, we have a desire to build the church amongst children and families. There is a new initiative which could help... **Faith in Kids** is setting up brand new children's ministry training hubs across the country; Hull has been chosen as one of the first 12 pilot areas. The training hubs are designed to work across denominations; they are just looking for people who are passionate about teaching children from the bible.

If you've not come across Faith in Kids before, do check out their website for some fantastic resources, including Sunday School lessons, toddler group plans and podcasts for parents and families (<https://www.faithinkids.org/>). They are now setting up this new training initiative, hoping to reach out to passionate children's workers (focused on primary age) and facilitate connection across local churches.

The training hubs aim to encourage, inspire and grow in children's ministry together, to better teach and disciple local children in faith. Would you like to join? They are looking for 1-3 people per church who are involved in running and leading children's ministry - either midweek or on a Sunday, paid or volunteer roles.

The new Faith in Kids training hub for Hull and surrounding areas will start in January and will meet once per half term, initially for four sessions (roughly January, March, May & July). This is likely to happen at St Andrew's Church in Kirk Ella. There will be time for getting to know others involved in children's work before watching a training video and having the chance to discuss what we're learning and how things are going in our churches. The day and timings are yet to be decided depending on what those interested would prefer.

If you are keen to join or you'd like to find out more, please complete

[Faith In Kids training hub – Fill in form](#)

or contact Sally Hopkinson children@kirkellaandwillerby.church

Children's Ministry Coordinator, St Andrew's, Kirk Ella and St Luke's, Willerby,

They will then be in touch in early November with more details. It would also be helpful to let me know of your interest.

There is also more information from Faith in Kids about why they are setting up the new training hubs on their website - <https://www.faithinkids.org/training-hubs/>

Have a great week

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

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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