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Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind

I love the foggy days we have had recently. I know I am the first to complain when it is too cold, and the fog does make travel more difficult, but there is something wonderfully mysterious about fog… familiar places take on an entirely different character, shapes become indistinct, and even the sounds seem somehow altered – muted and softened.

Crossing the Humber Bridge in the fog, I couldn't see the water below or the tops of the towers above, but they were both still there! Fog doesn't change the world. It is simply that we can no longer see it as clearly as before.

I see a parallel in the Bible when the Apostle Paul wrote:

> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
>
> 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NIVUK)

When this was written, mirrors were made of polished metal, rather than the clear silvered glass of today. These mirrors were imperfect and could tarnish. Paul is saying that we have an understanding of God now, but it is not perfect. Sometimes it seems that we can't see God; perhaps he is hidden by the 'fog' of the challenges of life. **But He is still there**. One day, we will see clearly.

This Week:

This Sunday (15th), I will be leading our service of Morning Worship, and Revd Irene is preaching on 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 and Matthew 25: 14-30..

During the week, our regular activities run as planned:

- **Reminder to PCC Members…** PCC Meeting: Monday (16th) at 7.00 pm in the lounge.

- 'Cygnets', our baby and toddler group, is on Tuesday (17th) at 10.30 am in the Church Hall.
- Our Bible Course is also on Tuesday (17th) at 7.30 pm in the Lounge. Share coffee, cake and conversation as we watch a video and talk about the Bible. This week we start the New Testament.
- 'Singing at St. B's' meets on Wednesday (18th) at 7.30 pm in The Chapel.
- 'Coffee Plus...' on Thursday (19th) at 10 am, in The Lounge.
- GAPP' - Grandparents and Parents Prayer – meet at 10 am on Friday (20th) to pray for family and friends. This meeting will be back at Jean's house.
- Women's Bible Study meets on Saturday (21st) at 9 am in The Lounge. A relaxed monthly group exploring Christian faith together through discussion, a Christian book and prayer. Newcomers are welcome.

This week I will not be available Friday afternoon or Saturday.

Next Sunday (22nd) is 'Christ the King'. I will be leading our service of Morning Worship, and preaching on Ephesians 1: 15-end and Matthew 25: 31-end. We will also share communion.

The next Church prayer meeting is next week, on Monday (23rd)

All details can be found on the church website on the Church Calendar, where you can also find the November Rota and this Sunday's Order of Service.

Please can the leaders of all groups contact Sharon to confirm any changes to their meetings over Christmas and the new year.

Tickets available now from the church office:

- **Saltmine** is coming to St Barnabas to present **"Treasure Island"** on Friday, 11th December 2026 at 7 pm.
    - £15 per adult
    - £8 per child (under 16)
    - £40 for a family (2 adults, 2 children)

- **Creative Christmas Wednesday 16th December, 7 pm – 9 pm**

  Come and create a Christmas Table Decoration with friends. All materials provided - free light refreshments.

  Tickets £10 (must be purchased in advance due to popular demand).

Christmas Service Dates For Your Diary:

- **Carol Service, with Swanland Churches** Sunday, December 20th, 6.30 pm.

  This year, there is a joint Carol Service with Christ Church, St Barnabas and The Bridge, ***at Christ Church (The Church by the Pond).***

- **Carols Round the Crib** Christmas Eve, December 24th, 3 pm

  For all the family, particularly suitable for primary-aged children. Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite Biblical Christmas character or animal as we tell the story of Christmas and sing carols together.

- **Christmas Day Service** December 25th, 10 am

  Come together to celebrate Christmas with a family-friendly service, including Communion.

We will continue to meet every Sunday in December (including the 27th) at 10 am.

Kevin

Revd Kevin Barnard, Vicar of Swanland

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

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

Follow us on Facebook:@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