

August 2019

Songs for the journey

In August and the beginning of September, our Sunday Bible readings will focus on the psalms.

Think of a long car journey and the way we use music to carry us along. Whether that means Radio 1 or Classic FM, 'The wheels on the bus go..' or Beethoven, we each have a soundtrack as we travel, our own 'Desert Island Discs'.

The psalms do that as we live out faith across the journey of our lives. They voice every part of the journey, the highs and the lows. The psalms chart every kind of emotion, from exultation to desperation. They map every situation, from the intimate and personal to the royal and national.

Here are songs that draw us nearer to God - in praise, in confession, in rage, in doubt, in quiet trust. They are sometimes raw; but so, sometimes, is the journey of life. They are multi-dimensional songs, that were quoted and alluded to much by Jesus and the early church.



AUGUST

Jesus met the disciples on the road to Emmaus and made himself known to them by opening the Scriptures to them. And he meets us as we read the psalms. That's why Christians have long read them as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus and even as songs from Jesus. Psalms are the songs of the King, only this king is often not how people then (and now) expect kings to behave.

As a result, we see Jesus through the psalms and meet Jesus in the psalms – and know there his peace. As we pray the psalms, Jesus can be our partner in prayer and our answer to prayer.

We'll have time only to look at a few of the 150 psalms in the book of psalms this summer. We'll look at psalm 23, best known as 'The Lord's my shepherd'. We'll look at that great blast of praise, psalm 150, with which the book of psalms ends. And we'll look at lesser known but insightful psalms – like 48, a psalm for urban living



Photo by [Patrick Tomasso](#) on [Unsplash](#)

or 62 a psalm about silent worship.

Whether you know the psalms already or they are new to you, they are a great support for the journey of faith and the journey of life. Psalms are songs that have been sung for thousands of years. But they also speak to us right now and give us words when we, ourselves, have no words.

Let me end with my favourite verse from the psalms. It always draws me back to worship:

'Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you,' (Psalm 63:1)

David

From Sam

Dear St Barnabas, thank you for having me as your curate for the last 3 years. I have really valued my time here, and have grown in lots of ways. I've really felt part of the church family, and am sad to be leaving. St Barnabas will always be a special place for us as the first church we were part of as a family of four and where Rosie was baptised.

St Barnabas rightly has a reputation as a training church and my experience has been that it is an excellent place to serve a curacy in. There is a great amount of life and energy in the church and a focus on living out our faith in Jesus, as well as gathering for worship. I have learnt so much from the many gifted and passionate members of St Barnabas that I have had the privilege of serving alongside during my time here. Thank you for your patience and encouragement as I have grown into the role of curate. The vacancy has been a stretching time for us, but I am proud of the way we have come through it together, and am encouraged by the ways we have seen God continue to work amongst us.

I am really excited about what is to come at St Barnabas in the future, and believe God is going to do great things in and through you. I'm glad to know that as we move to Coulby Newham, we will continue to be partners in the Gospel in Middlesbrough.

With love, thanks and prayers,

Sam

Contact Details for David and Lindsey

You can contact David and Lindsey by telephone: 01642 817306 or by email: david@st-barnabas.net or lindsey@st-barnabas.net

Update from Rachel in South-East Asia

Rachel hasn't been teaching during the summer term at the Language Centre, but continues to meet with the students before class, and at football practice (of course!). She is also doing quite a lot of travelling at present. A few weeks



ago, she went to a nearby city to run a youth camp with a visiting team and young people from four local bodies, which was an encouraging time.

Visiting friends in Thailand, Rachel had the opportunity to pick lemons amidst prickly thorns that brought nostalgia for childhood blackberry-picking... and was presented with 42 lemons to take back with her! Rachel will also be travelling to the north of her country to visit a training project there, and will be spending another week with the curriculum development and translation team over the border.

Give thanks for:

chances to chat with students before class
a successful youth camp in a nearby city
refreshing times away from the city and with friends

Coming up...

Intake testing, registration and the start of the new term at the Language Centre
Visiting a project in the north for two weeks

A week in the neighbouring country working with the curriculum development team

Please ask:

Discernment regarding future work in this country beyond 2019

Wisdom for next steps with the training programme in the neighbouring country

Time-management for lesson preparation and language study

For more information about Rachel's work, or advice on how to contact her safely, please see Cameron or Naomi Smith

PCC in July



The PCC met on Monday 8th July, the vicar, the Revd Dr David Goodhew in the chair.

The PCC heard reports on the buildings and an update on finance from the treasurer.

The PCC received a letter from the Archbishop of York, asking that the PCC consider the freewill offering towards the work of the Diocese for 2020.

Kate Morris reported on the recent deanery synod and developments in the wider Middlesbrough Deanery.



Diary

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| Monday 29th July—26th August | No Welcome Break |
| Friday 2nd August | First Friday, 5.30 pm in church |
| Monday 12th-Friday 16th August | Feast of Fun |
| Week beginning 1st September | Life groups meet |
| Monday 2nd September | Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon |
| | PCC meets, 7.15 pm in the Reid Room |
| Friday 6th September | First Friday, 5.30 pm in church |
| Monday 9th September | Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon |
| Week beginning 15th September | Life groups meet |

From the Registers

Baptism at St Barnabas

14th July Nevaeh Iris Donnelly



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