

October 2019

The Compass

I read about two people walking in the Scottish mountains in the mist, there was snow on the ground. As they walked, they came across another set of tracks going the same way. They walked on and found another set of tracks joining theirs. The walkers found this comforting, a sense of not being alone in the white-out. Then they found another set of tracks – and it dawned on them that they had all this time been walking in a gigantic circle. Those ‘other tracks’ were their own footsteps.

Scripture is like a compass. It gives us direction, pointing us to Christ. And we, if we intend getting anywhere, need a compass.

Through October in the mornings we’ll continue our series ‘God’s Big Picture: the Bible in Six Weeks’. It matters that we get the overarching direction of the compass that is scripture, the Big Picture. If we don’t, we’ll be in danger of misunderstanding what the specific details of the Bible mean. We’ll also



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be in danger of viewing any verse from our own perspective, 'what it means to me'. We may have got the gist right, but we may not. And in either case, the Bible becomes a warm bath into which we luxuriate, a warm bath that always confirms our views and never challenges us.

In September we looked at the message of Genesis, about the goodness of the world we have been given and the fallenness of that same world, so greatly needing a saviour. In October, we'll look at 'plan A' – the law and temple of the Old Testament. Then we'll look at Christ, crucified and resurrected - what God does when 'plan A' won't work. Then we'll look at the community that Jesus founded and finally at the eternal life with God towards which Christians are heading.

The compass of scripture helps us in three ways:

First it will help us individually. You and I face many, baffling situations in our families, at work, with our neighbours. Scripture gives us a steer.



Photo by Anastasia Petrova on [Unsplash](#)

Second, it will help us as a congregation. In the coming months, we'll be thinking as a congregation about how we move forward as a church in coming years. We'll all have ideas – which is great – but we need to *sift* them carefully. A good idea is not necessarily a God-idea.

Third, it will help us as a wider society. We live in an anxious age. Whether we are angsty about Brexit or climate change, we need to reach a place of calm from which to live in a way that blesses our wider society. Taking our bearings from the compass of scripture will help us avoid the 'headless chicken syndrome', so prevalent in these days.

David Goodhew

Harvest Thanksgiving



We will be collecting for the Foodbank at our Harvest Thanksgiving services on Sunday 13th October at 9.30 and 11.15 a.m., Here is a list of items needed for the Foodbank:

Urgently needed items:

TINNED MEAT (e.g. CHICKEN CASSEROLE, CHICKEN IN SAUCE, SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE, RAVIOLI)

TINNED MEAT (HAM/CORNEDBEEF/SPAM)

TINNED TOMATOES

TINNED FISH

TINNED FRUIT

TINNED CUSTARD

PASTA SAUCE

LONGLIFE MILK

DRIED RICE

Also needed:

MILK - UHT OR POWDERED
LONG-LIFE FRUIT JUICE OR
CORDIAL/SQUASH

TINNED RICE PUDDING

JAM/MARMALADE/PEANUT

BUTTER/CHOCOLATE SPREAD

BISCUITS (SWEET RATHER
THAN SAVOURY)

SNACKS/TREATS e.g. BARS OF
CHOCOLATE, CRISPS

TINNED VEGETABLES
(CARROTS, SWEETCORN,
MIXED VEG)

TINNED POTATOES OR
PACKET MASH

PACKET SOUPS ("CUP-A-
SOUP")

TINNED/CARTON CUSTARD OR
POWDER MIX

TINNED FISH

COFFEE

Kingdom Mission Giving 2019

Each year the church shares a proportion of voluntary giving received as a tithe to Christian projects at home and abroad and these are the details for 2019. As giving to the Church was down, the level of giving to many projects had to be reduced or discontinued. The exceptions were our 'partnership' projects and people.

1. TEARFUND – Our church as a connected church continues to support the PAG - Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Church and Community Mobilisation project. This involves a series of projects across Uganda. Churches choose a volunteer: a disciple to lead Bible stories which will as well as sharing God's love and truth also put love of neighbour in to practise by initiating community led projects aimed at lifting each other out of poverty by utilising the gifts and resources they have. This includes using land to grow new crops, funds for the vulnerable such as widows and much needed building projects - whatever the community feels is most needed. Tearfund's aim of linking Bible teaching with social action is thus put into practice. Contact – Jonathan Shippey £3,000

2. ALEJANDRO AND DORIS MESCO – Since my last update, Alejandro is still working with the Houses of Peace project and the original group is getting ready to split and form other groups. Unseasonable weather meant Alejandro wasn't able to do as much outdoor evangelism as hoped. However, the Medical Mission in the area was delighted to get his services as a volunteer and he has been counselling some of the physio patients and using puppets to bring the gospel to the younger patients. Work on a new clinic is due to begin and with his experience on building work at Cabanaconde and his last church in Arequipa he will be able to made a valuable contribution here. Contact – Val Hill £2,500

3. CROSSLINKS The Robinsons are continuing their work in Bangkok through the Place of Grace. They have seen many young people accept Christ and now have discipleship groups and are catering for those who need somewhere to study the bible. They have now found more appropriate accommodation and their two daughters are finishing their final years of education. A small proportion of this donation would go to Crosslinks to enable them to continue as a society and support the Robinsons. Contact - Val Hill £5,000

4. INTERSERVE – Rachel, who grew up in our family at St Barnabas, lives in South East Asia where she teaches English to young people and adults at an Anglian language school which she is also currently managing. After a period of home leave in early 2020 (hopefully including a visit to us!), Rachel will be returning to the same country, but will likely be moving away from the capital city to work on a new project equipping local followers whilst continuing to teach English. The funding Rachel receives goes towards her living expenses, which are likely to increase in the new location and project. Rachel is grateful for the support of St. Barnabas her Sending Church, including financial giving, praying and communication. Keep an eye out for regular updates from Rachael in Outlook and for more information about how to contact her safely, please see Cameron or Naomi Smith. Contact - Naomi Smith £2,000

5. THE BIBLE SOCIETY – The Society works both at home and abroad to provide bibles and promote bible reading. £400

6. CHRISTIAN AID – Christian Aid works for social justice and to aid those in need worldwide. £250

7. SOWING SEEDS – This is to support the work of Gram Seed and his helpers. Gram is doing vital work in the prisons and with Young Offenders. £400

8. JACHIE (VEHICLE MAINTENANCE) – This helps maintain 2 vehicles to navigate the horrendous roads between villages. The costs are high because of the state of the roads. Contact – Glynis Hill £2,600

9. ANGEL TREE PROJECT- Prison Fellowship Angel Tree provides Christmas presents for children whose parents are in prison. Contact— Ann Watson £100

10. ST. COLUMBA PROJECT, MIDDLESBROUGH – This project started 13 years ago and the leaders trust God to provide funds. Food drink and a warm place to sit together with small food parcels to take away are provided for those who attend. The gospel is openly discussed and New Testaments given if appropriate. If those attending have addiction problems and wish to attend a Christian rehabilitation centre, financial help for fares etc. is provided. £400

11. OPEN DOOR NORTH EAST This is a local based charity set up to provide poverty relief in the North East. To date it has provided friendship, food and housing to asylum seekers suffering hardship and destitution and also offers friendship,

information, advice and rented housing to refugees. Some of our own congregation are volunteers and work with the men and women they help. £800

12. BORO ANGELS A team of people, some from our own church, go out on the streets at weekends and help those who are having problems through having drunk too much or taken drugs. Depending on their needs they are assisted by the team and often enquire who the volunteers are doing this, giving them a chance to witness to God's love. Contact – Campbell Ritchie £500

13. TOGETHER MIDDLESBROUGH AND CLEVELAND Is a local expression of Church Urban Fund in the diocese of York. Projects are managed locally with representatives from a variety of church traditions, with the purpose of alleviating poverty, helping those in need, and building communities. Current projects include Feast of Fun, providing food and entertainment for children and families in school holidays; Faithfully Ageing Better, helping the over 50s in various ways; and Positive Pathways, giving support to ex-prisoners. £700

14. BIG KIDS This became a registered charity in April 2017 with two part time workers. They will be a Christian Resource and reference point within local schools and support churches as they seek to welcome new children into their fellowship. They have already done some brilliant work at St. Barnabas, Nunthorpe Academy and around Linthorpe and Ayresome. £700

15. CONTINGENCIES £490

16. SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN - In a recent letter the organisation thanked St. Barnabas for the volunteers from our church who had been able to directly impact and support families. However, their budgets were extremely tight and they wondered if we could support them with a one off gift to help them along. £200

17. NICK STANSFIELD – Nick has been a student at Teesside University for the last 4 years and left at the end of July to do a youth internship at St. Mark's, Coventry and would be grateful for St. Barnabas support in prayer and with finances. £250

Footloose Ladies Go International!

We'd heard that the Songs of Praise programme we were involved in was shown 'down under' as church members have family there who reported having seen it, but we have also received an email from an unknown lady in Melbourne, Australia who had watched it.

At the moment she has a form of cancer and is having chemo treatment but when its over she's determined to come back to her roots and walk with us along the Cleveland Way.

We found her message very touching as she said it has given her a goal to strive for. We pray this lady will achieve her goal and look forward to her coming.

Ann Self

PCC in September



The PCC began to consider the process of forming a strategy for the future. Ann Watson reported to the PCC about Feast of Fun. The PCC prayerfully decided on the freewill offering to the Diocese for next year.

It was agreed that Lindsey Goodhew will temporarily replace Peter Rushton as ministry leader for discipleship.

The Kingdom Mission Giving for the year was approved (see above).

From the Registers

Baptism

15th September Charlotte Rosie Weir





Diary

Week beginning 29th September	Life groups meet
Monday 30th September	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Wednesday 2nd October	Alpha Course starts, 7.30—9 pm at the Start Studio
Friday 4th October	First Friday, 5.30 pm in church
Monday 7th October	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon PCC meets, 7.15 pm in the Reid Room
Sunday 13th October	Harvest Thanksgiving, 9.30 and 11.15 am
Week beginning 13th October	Life groups meet
Monday 14th October	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Monday 21st October	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Monday 28th October	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Friday 1st November	First Friday, 5.30 pm in church
Week beginning 3rd November	Life groups meet
Monday 4th November	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon PCC meets, 7.15 pm in the Reid Room
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 15th November	Craft Aid, 10.15 am—2 pm