



Mission Action Plan

As a church, St Barnabas has been engaged in a process called 'Immeasurably More' over the last few months, in which we've been seeking what we believe God is calling us to do in the next three years. And the result is what's called a Mission Action Plan, a 'MAP'. In this month's Outlook is a copy of that document.

Where did this document come from? It has been produced and approved by the church council over recent weeks, based on the conversations and prayer we've had as a whole church in recent months. Thank you, everyone, for your participation in 'Immeasurably More', in far from ideal circumstances.

What I want to do now is flag two things: four values and five priorities.

Four Values for St Barnabas Church

The four values are about being:

- Bible-based
- Christ centred

- transformational (that means that, through the Holy Spirit, we seek transformation, real change, in ourselves, in others, in wider society)
- servant-hearted

These values represent what the church has been and seeks to be. Like words in a stick of rock, they should be visible in whatever we do.

Five Priorities for St Barnabas Church

- worship
- people aged under 25
- compassion
- sharing the good news of Jesus
- nurturing – that is the building up – of church members

Five priorities are like a sandwich. 1 and 5 (worship and nurture) are key to anything happening. We are here to give glory to God by our worship – that is ultimate purpose of our lives. And each of us as church members need nurturing, knowing God's blessing in our own lives, if we are to have anything to offer others. That doesn't mean life has to be all sunshine. But it does mean that we know God's peace in our hearts, whatever we are facing.

Then come points 2, 3 and 4 – focus on people aged under 25, compassion, sharing the good news of Jesus. The Church Council has discerned that these are key to St Barnabas impacting for good the community around us.

There is much more to say and there will be a meeting, open to all church members, to discuss the 'MAP' and how we take it forward, on Zoom, on Monday October 12th, 7.30 to 9 pm. Email the church office for the meeting link.

You might fairly say 'how can you talk about the future in the midst of corona?' Think of how, in the depths of World War 2, the NHS was planned. This Mission Action Plan is a way of looking beyond COVID-19. It will end and by planning for the future, we are refusing to let those troubles frame reality

The Immeasurably More plans contain, as you will see, some big hopes and big challenges. As you read them, you may think, 'Can we do it?' And the answer is 'No'. But do we serve a God who can produce treasure from us, frail as we are? The answer, most certainly, is 'Yes'!

Please pray for St Barnabas in these strange days, that we may know and share God's blessings.

David

Title changes

With the agreement of the PCC, the Bishop of Whitby has authorised the change of Lindsey Goodhew's title. Lindsey was licensed to St Barnabas as 'Associate Minister'. However, many people outside of the church don't really understand what that title means. So Bishop Paul has re-licensed Lindsey as 'Associate Vicar'. This is a small change, but it will make Lindsey's role clearer, especially to the wider community.

There is a second title change. The PCC has approved the change of Mark Walley's title to 'Curate with oversight of children's and family ministry'. St Barnabas is blessed with many people involved in ministry with children and families. This shift in Mark's responsibilities will enable the church to better coordinate and take forward that work.

Revision of Electoral Roll

In preparation for the APCM on 23rd November, the electoral roll will be revised. This is not the year when everyone has to reapply for the roll, so if you were on the roll last year, you will still be on this year. If you live in the parish or are a regular attender at St Barnabas, you can be on the electoral roll. In order to vote at the annual church meeting, you need to be on the electoral roll by Sunday 8th November. You can find an electoral roll form and details of eligibility on the website www.st-barnabas.net/electoral-roll/.

This is a good opportunity to check that St Barnabas has your correct contact details. If you've moved house or changed your phone number, email office@st-barnabas.net.

Church on the phone

As you may know, you can listen to the St Barnabas Sunday service on the phone, 01642 130011, for the cost of whatever you pay for a local call. Apologies that there has been a delay in updating the service for the last few weeks, but from now on, the new service should be on by Sunday evening. The introductory message now says which week you are listening to, so you don't end up realizing that you've heard it before!

PCC in September



The PCC met via zoom in September.

The PCC approved the final draft of the MAP. It was agreed that Mark Walley would take on oversight of ministry with children and young people. There was the usual review of the task groups overseeing various aspects of church life.

Ordinations

Vanessa Kirby was ordained deacon at York Minister on Sunday 27th September. We pray for Vanessa, as she continues her curacy at St Chad's and St Oswald's.

Mark Walley will be ordained priest at St Barnabas on 18th October.



From the Registers

Baptisms

26th September Jan Dzurko
 Vicky Vojatiskova
 Alexandr Dzurko
 Lilien Dzurkova

Funerals at the Crematorium

19th August Joyce Southworth
11th September Kathleen Lees



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'Immeasurably More' **a Mission Action Plan for St Barnabas**

(approved by St Barnabas Parochial Church
Council, 7th September 2020)

'to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.' Ephesians 3: 20

Who We Are: Four Key Values

We seek to be Bible-based

We seek to be Christ-centred

We seek to be transformational

We seek to be servant-hearted

Five Priorities

Blessing in Jesus' Name: Worship

Our top priority is giving glory to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit - it's what we (try to) do

- Use 2020-21 as a year of 'faith-recovery' from COVID for the whole church
- Termly 'Bible Focus' which gives us a concentrated half-day/day of teaching
- Significant enhancement of worship via online resources
- Regular renewal evenings/healing evenings.

Blessing those aged 0 to 25

We recognise the crucial importance of work with people under the age of 25. Our 'fringe' has markedly shrunk in terms of children/families in the last 20 years, so we need to create a new 'fringe'

- Deepen discipling of families and 'church in the home'
- Seek warmer relationships with and ways of supporting Linthorpe and Ayresome schools.
- Deepen collaboration with para-church bodies such as uniformed groups and Big Kids
- Appoint an existing clergy member to coordinate children and families work
- Start major initiative, with a specifically Christian ethos, connecting with significant numbers of children and young people inside and outside the church by 2021 (for example: a 'St Barnabas After-School Music School'; provide educational support for the many children, especially from poorer households, whose education has suffered during COVID, such as a tutoring programme, homework club)
- Encourage all church children over 11 to go to Christian children's camps from 2021
- Aim to have an average of 30 people under the age of 16 in church each Sunday by 2022; 40 by 2025
- Grow student membership: – aim for 30 students at term-time Sunday worship by 2023
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Blessing Middlesbrough with the Compassion of Christ

We seek to be a compassionate church which works for transformation of individuals and the community, building on the good work already happening at St Barnabas

- To do this well, we will use 2020-21 to deepen our understanding of the parish, especially the Ayresome end – including a termly ‘Middlesbrough Seminar’.
- Start a major new compassion outreach in 2021-22, recognising that we can’t touch every need, but are determined to start something significant and which fills a key gap
- Work intentionally with the diverse nationalities in Middlesbrough
- Green the church: become better stewards of God’s creation is part of discipleship – including an audit of current behaviours; eg target of 50% of energy use from renewables by 2022; explore ways to further green the church grounds; hold a Summer Festival in June 2021 with a strong environmental theme.

Blessing People with the Good News of Jesus

- *The gospel is good news, which needs to be shared. We aim to be a gospel-centred church, continually engaged in evangelism, particularly in the north end of the parish.*
- Maximise the church’s accessibility to the community – via physical and online presence
- Run Alpha three times a year, including an Alpha specifically designed for parents
- Energetically encourage baptism and confirmation, with a target of 10 non-infant baptisms/confirmations a year
- Major mission annually, in February/March each year; first one in 2021 or 2022
- Prioritise evangelism across all ethnic groups, with the aim of St Barnabas becoming ‘a church for all nations’

- Aim to see average adult attendance rise 10% by Christmas 2022
- Plant a new congregation (inside or outside of building) by 2023

Blessing for all Church Members

St Barnabas seeks to be a nurturing church, nurturing the whole church family as disciples for life.

- Support the rapid integration of new people into church life via a 'Welcome Pathway' – in place by autumn 2021.
- Supporting seven-day discipleship by church members at work/in the community/at home – including focus on weekday discipleship in Lent 2021
- Increase life group membership. Those unable to join a group are encouraged to link with at least one other church member as a mentor/support/prayer partner. Aim that everyone aged 18 to 40 has a mentor/support/prayer partner by 2022 and that 75% of church are in small groups or have a mentor/prayer partner by 2022
- Marriage support: regular courses for marrieds to support them in sustaining life-giving, lifelong marriages
- Encourage every church member to seek spiritual refreshment through one of the following every year – Spring Harvest, New Wine, Keswick, retreats, quiet days and/or equivalent day conferences
- Explore and develop giftings in ministry and mission, across the church family

Afterword: We can only bless if we have the resources to do so

Resources are the elephant in the room – we can't achieve things simply by wishing they were so. That means finding the money, time, staffing, tech and buildings to support the call we believe God has given us.