

‘Overflow with Hope’: a Mission Action Plan for St Barnabas, 2024-2026

(adopted by St Barnabas Parochial Church Council, 4th March 2024)

*May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15: 13

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

Seven Priorities

Blessing in Jesus’ Name: Worship

Our top priority is giving glory to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit in our worship.

- Sustain and deepen our existing worshipping life, recognising the distinctive strengths of our different services
- Continued focus on daily personal prayer and Bible study as central for every church member
- Termly ‘Bible Focus’ which gives us a concentrated half-day/day of teaching
- Sustain online worship, in ways that deepen discipleship.
- Regular renewal evenings/healing evenings

Blessing those aged 0 to 25

- Deepen discipling of families and ‘church in the home’
- Seek warmer relationships with and ways of engaging with local schools and para-church bodies such as uniformed groups
- Sustain and grow our midweek programme of work with children and young people
- Sustain the partnership between St Barnabas and the Big Kids charity and expand the volunteer team who work with children and families
- Give particular priority to the 14 to 18 age-group
- Aim to have an average of 40 people under the age of 16 in church each Sunday by 2025
- Grow student membership (with 40 students at term-time Sunday worship by 2025) and deepen student discipleship and mission

Blessing Middlesbrough with Christ’s Compassion

- Continue to work energetically with the diverse nationalities in Middlesbrough to make ‘a church of all nations’
- Sustain the work of the Foodbank
- Sustain the work of the Community Grocery, ensuring it is an integrated part of church life

- Work in partnership with other churches and agencies in our response to and care of those who are homeless and have complex needs

Blessing People with the Good News of Jesus

- Have a major mission annually – including energetic participation in Festival Teesside in 2024
- 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
- Promote baptism and confirmation, with the aim of 10 non-infant baptisms/confirmations every year
- Aim to see average adult attendance rise 10% by Christmas 2025
- Aim to plant a new congregation (inside or outside of building) by the end of 2025

Blessing for all Church Members

- Develop the rapid integration of new people into church life via a 'Welcome Pathway'
- Support seven-day discipleship by church members at work/in the community/at home
- Increase Life Group membership and develop forms of Christian nurture for those not in Life Groups
- Support for marriage and those who are single: regular courses for marrieds alongside work to make St Barnabas more 'single-friendly'
- 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
- Strengthen and expand our 'Seniors' ministry, with particular concern for church members unable to be at in-person worship

Blessing In the World God Gives Us

- Support mission partners in Ghana, Thailand, Peru, South East Asia and Uganda
- Bless by good stewardship of creation – including creation of a 'Green Plan' by July 2024
- Achieve A Rocha's 'Bronze' Award by 2024
- Support congregation members in moving towards a more sustainable lifestyle
- Commit to the C of E's target of being carbon neutral by 2030

Blessing through Being Well-Resourced enough to Bless

- Create an 'apprenticeship culture' in which all tasks in church have an ongoing 'pipeline' of people called, equipped and glad to serve.
- PCC to oversee the review of all the church buildings during 2024, with the aim of making them in excellent condition by 2029, fully able to support mission and ministry up to 2050
- Strengthen our financial resources, so that finances are stable and able to undergird ministry and mission
- Sustain and develop the church staff team, so that it is effective in delivering the church's vision and St Barnabas is an excellent employer

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