

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

(approved by St Barnabas Parochial Church Council, 7<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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.*