

January 2022

New Life Groups

One of the hardest things to do over the pandemic has been to stay connected with one another. In normal times, St Barnabas has a network of 'Life Groups'. These are groups of church members who gather twice a month to enjoy each other's company, to study scripture and pray. They are both enjoyable – and vital as part of the walk of faith. Just as we each need certain vitamins to be healthy physically, so we each need certain 'spiritual vitamins' for our faith to stay healthy.



Photo by [Cassidy Rowell](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Understandably, it has been difficult for Life Groups to meet and it has been difficult to those new to the church family to join Life Groups.

With the start of a new year, we are starting two new ways of joining a Life Group:

First, from Wednesday 2nd February there will be a new Life Group meeting in the church building.

Second, we are starting a new online Life Group, led by Graeme and

Lynn Malyon. So, if you would prefer to meet online, do give this a try.

You might be:

- new to church
- feeling low in your faith
- conscious of how your faith needs to grow
- finding life a struggle right now

Either way, Life Groups offer essential spiritual vitamins. You will feel better and your faith will be stronger if you join one. I strongly encourage you to join one if you are not currently in one. And if you are, but have stopped going for whatever reason, please consider resuming that link.

Mission Morning: 22nd January

In early March, we'll be welcoming back 'Ace' the gladiator (a.k.a. Warren Furman) to help us in a weekend of evangelism, sharing the good news of Jesus with people in our area.

People can find the idea of

'mission' and 'evangelism' scary. And for all of us, the chance to connect with the wider community has been lacking due to lockdown restrictions. So to help us get more outward-looking, there are two special 'mission mornings' on 22nd January and 19th February. These, led by Seb Rab, will provide an opportunity to bless our communities in simple, effective ways – from litter-picking to cleaning kitchens to simple forms of evangelism. And there will be an opportunity for input and fellowship too.

Here are some ways to get involved:

- **Prayer for Mission:** on Wednesday mornings from 12th January, 8 am to 8.30 am. This will start on Zoom, but hopefully will move to being in church at a later date. An opportunity to undergird our outreach in prayer – vital work. Zoom link is 636 804 3587
- Saturday 22nd January: a **Mission Morning** - An hour of worship and teaching on

mission/evangelism + an hour engaging with a mission activity (from litter-picking to kitchen cleaning to first contact evangelism)

- On Wednesday 26th January: a **Half Night of Prayer** – praying for blessing for our community
- Volunteering for the Community Grocery

We often feel weak – understandably. But we serve a mighty God, whose energy can refresh us by His Holy Spirit.

At the start of a new year, how might you contribute to the mission of St Barnabas, by your prayers and in other ways – so that we can bless our community in Jesus' name?

David Goodhew

Wild Goose – a poem by Rachel Grandey

Light on the path ahead
the sun's last rays generous, prodigal
poured out in dying oblation.
All light dies, or turns;
flame fades to ash
and you are left a lonely coal, heavy-footed
lost in a darkness that encroaches and dulls.

But there is another way.
The sky to the west still burns
with quiet translucence
waiting to be filled; a gentle invitation.

So lift this turgid bulk, these trappings
take off, ungainly goose, drag your frame
into air that scatters you like snowflakes
with yet-glowing embers
and welcomes you to lightness and
fleet, home-bound flight.



Diary

Sunday 9th January	Vision Sunday
Week beginning 16th January	Life groups meet
Saturday 22nd January	Mission morning, 9.30am—12.30pm in church
Week beginning 30th January	Life groups meet
Wednesday 2nd February	New life group, 7.30pm in church
Saturday 19th February	Mission morning, 9.30am—12.30pm in church
Wednesday 26th February	Half night of prayer

PCC in December



The PCC received a financial update from the treasurer and approved the budget for 2022. The PCC agreed salary increases for 2022.

Lindsey updated the PCC on the Community Grocer. Mark introduced a paper on children and Holy Communion, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

From the Registers

Baptism at St Barnabas

12th December Joshua Cassidy



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