

October 2022

True service

One of the most moving pictures of the last week was that of the Queen meeting her new prime minister, two days before she died. It is well said that the reason why Queen Elizabeth was so effective a monarch was because she knew that she herself was the subject of a higher King, King Jesus.

She understood that you do not have to prove yourself, but simply follow Christ. Equality with God is not 'something to be grasped' (Phil 2:6), as Jesus showed. God came to us in Christ, as a human being, as a servant – slave even – humbling

himself to death on the cross. We could not go to God, so He came to us.

It is easy to lob rocks at the monarchy – the palaces, the limousines, the tiaras. I don't think that is the nub of what is going on here. A 96 year old lady shaking hands with the new prime minister was serving her society and, indirectly, showing that she herself was the subject



Photo: Press Association

of the only true authority, who is the God of Jesus Christ.

And there are powerful lessons for each of us. However old or young we are, whether we are physically in the prime of life or facing severe ill health, we can serve.

We can serve others. The Queen's unofficial motto was, reportedly 'never explain, never complain'. And that uncomplaining devotion to duty – just think of the number of tedious speeches, hand-shakings, ribbon-cuttings the poor lady must have endured! – can help us. Whom can you, I, serve today? And we can do it both by actions but, just as much, by being positively interested in the other person.

We also serve by the person we are inside. Having an uncomplaining spirit is not only about what we say, it is about who we are when no one is looking. Do we chunter and churn outwardly or inwardly? I, obviously, have no window onto the Queen's soul, but she seems to have grown more peaceful over the years. That is something precious for us to seek.

And we serve ultimately by the one whom we worship. The queen was consistent in her worship of the God of Jesus Christ. She did what Christians do Sunday by Sunday. And thereby, she reset the compass of her life daily, so that her life pointed not to herself, but to God.

And it is striking that the impact of the Queen's life is all the greater for the fact that she lived to such a great age. There is a tendency to think that once we get past a certain age, the best is behind us. But Queen Elizabeth was serving to powerful effect into her mid-90s. This is a huge encouragement. What she did, we can do too.

Whilst we have breath in our lungs we can serve others, we can serve by the person we are and we can serve by our worship. Christians learn by imitation. We can learn much from Queen Elizabeth.

David Goodhew

The Bible and Creation Care

A meeting on Zoom with Dave Bookless, Director of Theology at A Rocha – the leading Christian environmental charity – Tuesday 25th October 7.30 pm.

How does scripture help us make sense of environmental issues like climate change, conserving the planet and living more sustainably? Come along on 25th October to listen to a leading Christian voice on such matters with the opportunity to share your thoughts. The Zoom link for this meeting will be shared nearer the time.

Family Ceilidh

There will be a family ceilidh with Barney's Band on Saturday 15th October, 6.30pm—9.30pm in the church hall. Tickets £1 for adults, children free, available from Fiona Fletcher, Briony Watkinson and the church office.



Please bring a contribution of finger food for the shared supper, tea, coffee and squash provided.

PCC in September

The PCC agreed the Kingdom Mission Giving for 2022 and the freewill offer to be made to the Diocese for next year.



A fire risk assessment was approved. The PCC discussed further steps to return to normality in our worship post Covid. The PCC continued to explore church planting.



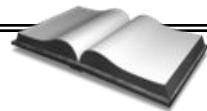
Alpha

Alpha is a relaxed, informal way to explore the big questions in life and how Christian faith offers answers to those questions. The next Alpha course starts on Tuesday 18th October at 7pm at the vicarage (5 minutes from church). Please contact Barbara at the church office to sign up, email: office@st-barnabas.net or tel. 01642 812622.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting restarts

From Wednesday 5th October, we will restart the in-person prayer meeting, in the narthex at the back of church, from 8am to 8.30am. This will have a specific focus on outreach – including praying for the Grocery, the Foodbank and for ideas for church planting. Prayer is a vital undergirding for all we do. We have seen great answers to prayer this year. Please consider joining this meeting.

From the Registers



Funeral at St Barnabas

13th September

Jim Lynas

aged 93



Come and Craft

with us

Join the flower team and friends for a session of Christmas crafts, making decorations to sell at this year's Craft Aid.

All materials (and refreshments) provided, just bring yourself, secateurs and scissors!

Session 1: **Saturday 5th November, 10-1pm**
in the narthex

Session 2: **Friday 11th November. 1-4pm**
in the narthex

Contact the church office to book a place.

office@st-barnabas.net

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Amazing Grace

The incredible story behind the famous hymn

Saturday 15th October

7pm (doors open 6.30pm)

St George's Church

Spencer Road, Normanby TS6 9BH

**Tickets £5 from the Church Office
(01642 281182) or via the QR code**



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Diary

Sunday 2nd October	8am Holy Communion 9.30am Harvest Thanksgiving and Parade Service 11.15am Harvest Thanksgiving 12.45pm Church lunch 6.30pm Evening Praise
Week beginning 2nd October	Life groups meet
Monday 3rd October	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Tuesday 4th October	Explore, 6pm in church
Saturday 15th October	Family Ceilidh, 6.30pm in the church hall
Week beginning 16th October	Life groups meet
Tuesday 18th October	Explore, 6pm in church
Tuesday 25th October	The Bible and Creation Care, 7.30pm on Zoom
Friday 28th October	Lydia Group meets, 2pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 30th October	Life groups meet