

Satnav for Life

This Morning presenter, Alison Hammond, recently quoted her mum who used to tell her, 'Use your Bible as your Satnav in life.' In an unstable, confusing world, we need a spiritual 'Satnav' – not to get us down the road, but to get us through the day.

This September we start a series on one of the most immediately usable parts of scripture – the ten commandments. And it is titled 'Satnav for Life'.

The ten commandments are a fabulous guide for daily life. They fall into two sections: commandments one to four are all about following and loving God. Where we get direction-finding wrong is the idea that we start with our problems (how can we be honest, loving, fair etc etc) and get God to help us. It is really the other way round. We should start with our need for a dependable guide. We need God. Humans are simply too frail and foolish to work things out on our own. And we really need God from square one. We can't just dial God up when we feel it helps. We need him everyday, just as we need air to breathe. So the first four commandments start with our need of God. They call us to have no other God, to put nothing (however good it is) in a higher place than God, not to misuse the name of God and to take space to rest before God (sabbath).



Section two of the commandments consists of commandments five to ten. Here we turn from loving God to loving our neighbour. And the commandments are as clear as they are challenging as they are utterly relevant to our daily lives. There is not a day when this Satnav won't help us steer round trouble. They show us how to love our families, how to control anger and lust, how to be honest and tell the truth and how to let go of envy.

Jesus said that the top commandments were to love God and to love our neighbour – and you can see that mirrored in the two-fold structure of the ten commandments.

The commandments were given to the Jewish people in the Old Testament, before the time of Jesus. Living after the time of Jesus we see them in a new way. They are not there as some kind of exam – to test us and trip us up. Rather, as people who know how lost we are without God, who know that whilst we cannot find God, in Jesus God has found us; we now use the commandments, as Satnav on a journey guided and directed by Jesus and in the power of the Spirit.

David Goodhew

Giving for Mission—an update

In June/July we had our annual 'Giving for Mission' programme. It is good to report that around 50 responses were received, alongside other one-off gifts. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

St Barnabas' costs have risen significantly. We have also taken on new initiatives in recent years which require resources. So, if you have not yet responded please do so, if you can. By so doing, you help St Barnabas share Jesus' love by word and deed in a world of deep need.

If you wish to give financially, go to the church's website – www.st-barnabas.net/giving/ for information on how to do so.

Harvest Festival

Harvest is a time for celebration. And this year St Barnabas is going to really celebrate in style, with a programme lasting from Friday 6th October to Sunday 8th October. This is a great opportunity for church members to celebrate the good gifts God gives us and invite others to join in the celebration. It is also an opportunity to ponder how we can become better stewards of the amazing creation, of which God has made us stewards.



Friday 6th October, 7pm Visit of Comedy Magician John Archer



John is originally from Teesside and once served in the Cleveland Constabulary. Expect an entertaining and thought-provoking evening and do consider whom you could invite along. Tickets £5, for individual or family (suitable for children aged 10+), student/unwaged £3, available from the church office.

Saturday 7th October (morning) Harvest Clean

Teams from St Barnabas regularly go out to pick up litter and distribute invitations to church as part of our 'mission mornings.'

There will a special Harvest litter-pick on the morning of Saturday 7th October – as part of our Harvest celebrations. This is great opportunity to bless the wider community and it would be terrific if we could get a really big team out and make a visible difference in the community.

Sunday 8th October Harvest Celebration

9.30am Harvest Parade Service

11.15am Harvest All Age Worship

12.45pm Harvest Church Lunch

6.30pm Harvest Communion

Connect Sunday—3rd September



St Barnabas will mark Sunday 3rd September as 'Connect Sunday' – hopefully including the now traditional barrow of delicious ice-cream from Luxury Ices. It is also the first Sunday of the new school year and the first Sunday when our Sunday groups for children restart. This is an opportunity both for existing church members to re-connect, after the

interruptions of summer. But it is also an opportunity for anyone new to St Barnabas to connect with church life – whatever age they may be. It is also a great moment to invite someone to church, as the services will be particularly suited to those connecting with St Barnabas for the first time.

As part of Connect Sunday, we will be 'blessing the backpacks'. So, please bring the backpack/bag/briefcase that you normally use for school/college/work to church at 9.30 or 11.15 on 3rd September.

New Student Worker

St Barnabas' new student worker will be Emmanuel Alawode. Emmanuel is studying for his Masters in Artificial Intelligence at Teesside University. Emmanuel comes from Abuja, capital of Nigeria and worked as a software developer, prior to coming to Teesside University. Emmanuel will start work in September. Please pray for him and welcome him as he begins his new role.



Job Vacancy—Community Worker

St Barnabas seeks to appoint a passionate, enthusiastic and faith filled person to further develop opportunities to serve and bless the local community through its work with the Middlesbrough Community Grocery.

Middlesbrough Community Grocery, run by the Message Trust, is a joint venture with St Barnabas. The store has around 1800 members from the local community and beyond.

The Community Worker will oversee the current provision of activities available to grocery members as well as develop future courses and groups. They will help build strong relationships between church and grocery and pro-actively seek to engage members in church activities including Alpha and other invitational events.

The appointment is for 10 hours a week for 12 months.

For full job details and application form, see the website, or an informal chat, please contact Lindsey Goodhew, Associate Vicar on either 01642 817306 or lindsey@st-barnabas.net



From the Registers



Baptism

2nd August Isaac John George Hodgson

Funeral at the crematorium

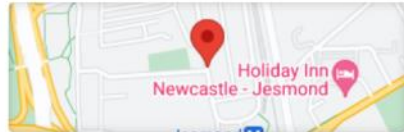
2nd August Lorna Johnson aged 86



Biblical Theology Workshop for Women in Newcastle with Nancy Guthrie

SATURDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 10:00AM - 3:45PM BST

**Jesmond Parish Church
Eskdale Terrace, Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4DJ**



For more information and to book, sign up [here](#).

PCC in June and July



The PCC had an awayday to think about the new Mission Action Plan. The PCC approved advertising for a senior administrator, a student worker and a community worker.

The PCC has approved a fire evacuation plan for the church.

A report from the green group was received. Reports from the Facilities Management Group were received and expenditure on the pinnacle repairs was approved. The treasurer gave a financial update.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting.



Diary

Tuesday 29th August	Explore, 6pm in church
Sunday 3rd September	Connect Sunday
Monday 4th September	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 3rd September	Life groups meet
Tuesday 12th September	Explore, 6pm in church
Week beginning 17th September	Life groups meet
Tuesday 26th September	Explore, 6pm in church
Friday 29th September	Lydia Group meets, 2pm in the Reid Week
Week beginning 1st October	Life group meet
Monday 2nd October	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Friday 6th October	John Archer
Saturday 7th October	Mission morning
Sunday 8th October	Harvest Thanksgiving Church Lunch, 12.45pm in the hall
Tuesday 10th October	Explore, 6pm in church
Week beginning 15th October	Life group meet
Tuesday 24th October	Explore, 6pm in church
Week beginning 29th October	Life group meet