

Summer 2026

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

For this year's SIXTY DAYS OF SUMMER, we are spending eight Sundays exploring the different ways Scripture speaks. The Bible does not communicate in a single voice: it tells stories, gives instruction, sings, reflects, confronts, remembers, teaches, and lifts our eyes to God's future. Each week we take one of these forms in turn, letting it shape how we listen and how we understand what God is saying. We are trying to help people pay attention not only to the content of Scripture but to its form, and to discover how each mode opens a different way of hearing God. ABIDE resources will be available.

Sunday 12th July

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 1 OF 8 2 Samuel 12.1–7 and Matthew 13.1–9, 18–23

STORIES: Story in Scripture works by showing rather than telling. It lets readers see events and characters in action so that meaning arises through what happens, and that recognition will not be the same for everyone. Parables are simply a concentrated example of this: they set up a situation in which people realise what is going on from within the story itself.

THIS IS THE LAST SUNDAY BEFORE SABBATICAL BEGINS. SARAH AND ROSIE WILL SHARE BOTH SERVICES. THE BISHOP PEROWNE JAZZ BAND WILL LEAD WORSHIP AT ST BARNABAS.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Jazz Band Sunday SN and RM</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion SN and RM</i>

Wednesday 15th July 10am Communion: St Barnabas [slot 3]

Sunday 19th July

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 2 OF 8 Exodus 20.1–20 and Matthew 22.34–40

INSTRUCTIONS: Instructional texts in Scripture form people by giving clear, memorable guidance for life with God. Their commands shape the habits and patterns through which the community expresses covenant faithfulness. In this mode of Scripture, teaching becomes formative structure — a way of life handed on across generations.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Something Else Sunday [slot 4]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion [slot 5]</i>

Wednesday 22nd July 10am Midweek Fellowship: St Barnabas

Sunday 26th July

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 3 OF 8 Psalm 23 and Luke 1.68–79

SONG: Poetry in Scripture gives faith a voice through image, rhythm, and metaphor rather than logic, history and argument. It interprets experience in the light of God's character, expressing trust, lament, praise, and hope. Its symbolic language forms the worshipping imagination, providing words for faith in joy, struggle, and uncertainty.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Communion [slot 6]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion [slot 7]</i>

Wednesday 29th July 10am *Communion: St Barnabas [slot 8]*

Sunday 2nd August

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 4 OF 8 Ecclesiastes 3.1–8 and Matthew 6.25–34

WISDOM: Wisdom literature differs from poetry and song by reflecting on experience rather than giving it voice. Often using poetic language, wisdom observes life's rhythms, limits, and uncertainties. Its aim is discernment: helping readers recognise the patterns through which faithful living becomes possible.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Communion [slot 9]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion [slot 10]</i>

Wednesday 5th August 10am *Communion: St Barnabas RM*

Sunday 9th August

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 5 OF 8 Jeremiah 7.1–19 and Matthew 3.7–12

PROPHECY: Prophetic literature speaks with God's voice to confront a community that has lost its way. Unlike wisdom, which reflects, or poetry, which prays, prophecy interrupts. Its urgent speech calls people back to justice, repentance, and covenant loyalty, warning of judgement while holding out the possibility of renewal.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Communion [slot 11]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>SES or Communion [slot 12]</i>

Weds 12th August 10am *Communion: St Barnabas [slot 13]*

Sunday 16th August

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 6 OF 8 Joshua 24.1–28 and John 20.26–31; 21.24–25

HISTORY: When Bible writers compile histories, they are shaping remembered events into a theological narrative rather than producing neutral chronicle. Their concern is how God's dealings are understood and handed on, not modern standards of factual reconstruction. Remembering the past enables the community to recognise God's continuing action and to understand its own identity within that story.

10am St Barnabas	<i>SES or Communion [slot 14]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion [slot 15]</i>

Weds 19th August 10am Midweek Fellowship: St Barnabas

Saturday 22nd August 2pm Wedding: St Barnabas SN

Sunday 23rd August

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 7 OF 8 Exodus 34.6–7 and John 1.1–18

TEACHING: Doctrine can appear inside story, poetry, wisdom, or prophecy, but it isn't the same as any of them. It pauses whatever form it sits within to say, plainly and directly, the truths that matter about who God is and what God does. These moments give the community the clear understanding it needs to recognise and speak of God faithfully.

10am St Barnabas	<i>Communion [slot 16]</i>
11.15 St Wulstans	<i>Communion [slot 17]</i>

Weds 26th August 10am Communion: St Barnabas [slot 18]

Saturday 29th August 2pm Wedding: St Barnabas SN

Sunday 30th August

READING BETWEEN THE LINES 8 OF 8 Isaiah 6.1–8 and Rev 21.1–5 and Luke 21:25–28

VISION: Apocalyptic writing belongs with the other forms because it, too, listens — not for plot, clarity, or instruction, but for hope. Where story, poetry, wisdom, and prophecy speak into the present, vision lifts the gaze beyond it, using symbol and revelation to show what God's future makes possible now. It completes the set by stretching the imagination of faith so the community can live its present life in light of God's promised renewal.

10.30 St Barnabas	<i>Communion: RM & team for all our congregations</i>
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Weds 2nd September 10am Communion: St Barnabas RM