



Preparing for Immeasurably More

Paul, in Ephesians 3: 20 said this:

'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.'

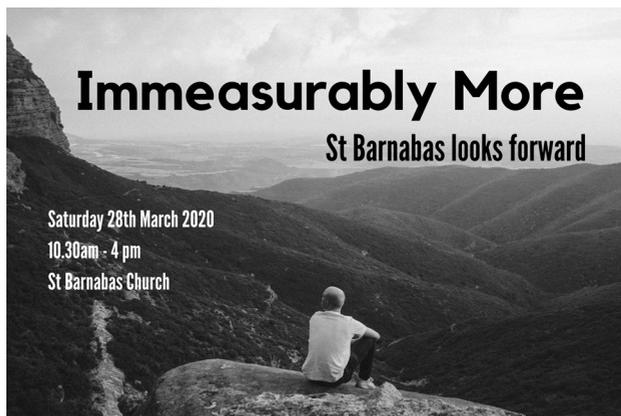
This verse provides the title for a key event in the life of St Barnabas – *'Immeasurably More: St Barnabas Looks Forward'* - Saturday 28 March 2020, 10.30 am to 4 pm. Saturday 28 March is a day when we gather as a church family to listen to God and each other. Out of that day we'll plan for St Barnabas in the next few years. I strongly encourage you to put 28th March in the diary. Please be there if you possibly can.

How do we prepare for 28 March? There are two key ways by which we can prepare: first, spiritual preparation; second, by listening to our community.

Spiritual Preparation:

This is anchored in scripture and between January and March we'll be digging into the gospel of Luke and its sequel, the book of Acts. Through Luke and Acts we'll explore the kingdom that Jesus sought to bring in and the work of the community he founded, the church. Here is rich spiritual nutrition which we'll need as we ponder the future. The question for St Barnabas is not whether we have 'good ideas', but whether they are 'God ideas'. Luke and Acts will help us hugely as we seek to discern that.

Beyond that we need to get praying. That means both the current rhythms of prayer that we have as individuals and as a church (and, if you don't currently make the prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 7 am and Saturdays at 9 am, how about trying to get to them in the next couple of months?). But there will also be some special events – more on this shortly.



Listening to our Community

We are seeking God's will for a specific place – the parish in which St Barnabas is set, but also the town of Middlesbrough. Jesus and the early church acted differently depending on the different needs and possibilities of different places. So we need to listen hard to the wider community. What are Linthorpe and Middlesbrough like now? What are the trends we can observe which will work themselves out in the future? We can't just assume we know. Nor can we just listen to people who are like us and whom we like.

There will be a range of ways we'll be doing this, but let me mention one in particular. On Saturday 25th January, may I

invite you to do a 'Tees-Walk': a walk from St Barnabas to the mouth of the Tees, following the Teesdale Way, on Saturday 25th January. 'Tees-walk' is something for those who enjoy a hike, but it is also a way to prepare for 'Immeasurably More'. It will start with bacon butties at church at 9 am and finish on the beach at the mouth of the Tees. It's a chance to explore Teesside as we prepare for 'Immeasurably More'. The distance is about 14 miles. All are welcome for the whole, or part of the walk. And

if you are not feeling that energetic, feel free simply to walk along the Linthorpe Road into town.

The point of 'Tees-walk' is that it allows us to walk across much of the parish of which we're part and the wider region. By doing this, we'll see its possibilities and its needs. This is a great way in which we can listen to the community in which we're praying for God's kingdom to come.

David Goodhew

Church Office

From Monday 13th January the church office will be open Monday—Thursday, 10 am—12 noon.

From the Registers

Baptism at St Barnabas

8th December Chimharida Jayce Nwabueze

Wedding at St Barnabas

7th December Aaron Jamie Middleton and Jayne Rebecca Hunt

Funerals at St Barnabas

18th December Audrey Knott

2nd January Colin Jeal

Funeral at the Crematorium

10th December William Robinson



Visit from Rachel

our link mission partner working in South-East Asia

Rachel will be visiting us in just a few weeks time. There will be plenty of opportunities to hear about her work and pray for her including:



- Wednesday 29th January - 9:30am Communion Service
- Saturday 1st February - 10am-11:30am Coffee Morning and Prayer Meeting
- Sunday 2nd February - 9:30am, 11:15am and 6:30pm - Rachel will speak about her work in South-East Asia and be commissioned for the new work she will be doing on her return

Ceilidh

There will be a ceilidh with Barney's Band on Saturday 1st February, 7—10 pm for those aged 11 and over. Tickets will be available soon.



Diary

Sunday 12th January	Try Church Sunday
Week beginning 12th January	Life groups meet
Monday 13th January	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Monday 20th January	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Monday 27th January	Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon
Saturday 1st February	Ceilidh, 7—10 pm in the church hall

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