



## How do we live as Christians in the time of coronavirus?

Here are two scriptures that will help.

First, Jeremiah urged his people to 'seek the welfare of the city' (Jeremiah 29:7). In this time of uncertainty and much sickness, that means working to prevent disease spreading, to support those who are sick and who are caring for the sick. That, in turn, means listening carefully to official guidance and putting it into practice. It is easy to be critical, but the health services and government have a very difficult job. They need our support to fight this disease.

Second, scripture says innumerable times, 'fear not'. There is a great deal of fear around at the moment. The news and news websites and news-streams simply drip with anxiety. It is the calling of every Christian at this time 'to be a non-anxious presence' – as a friend of mine puts it. We'd be less than human if we

didn't feel afraid of coronavirus. But we can work at not transmitting that fear to everyone around us.

And we have solid reasons why we do not need to be afraid.

We serve a risen Lord. Our Lord Jesus is stronger than all that can come against us. We will face troubles, but ultimately we are safe in him.

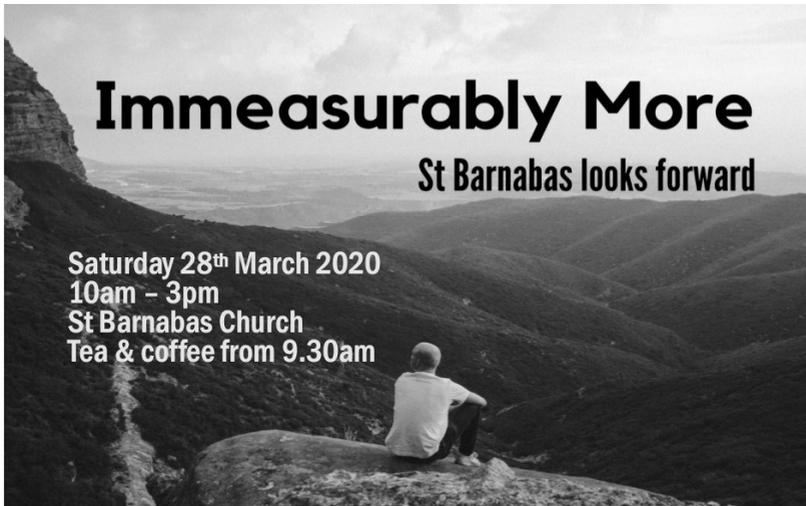
We can bring our worries to God in our prayers. Now, above all, is the time to 'ventilate upwards', to share our troubles with God, to cast our cares on him, for he will sustain us.

This life is not all there is. We needed to remember that fact before anyone ever spoke of

coronavirus. And the arrival of this new disease simply underlines that fact. This life is not all there is. Christians are working for and waiting for a kingdom that is to come

Seeking the welfare of the city and not being afraid go together. Resting in Christ, we can refuse to be swamped by anxiety, know his peace and share that peace with others. Whether we meet others in person, or by phone or via social media we can each be non-anxious presences and that truly will bless those around us as we ourselves are blessed by knowing the peace of the risen Christ.

David Goodhew



**Immeasurably More**  
**St Barnabas looks forward**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**10am - 3pm**  
**St Barnabas Church**  
**Tea & coffee from 9.30am**

# PCC in March



The PCC discussed plans for Immeasurably More and the Come and See mission, with the visit of Ace. David reported on plans for an 11.15 service team. There was a report from the Facilities Management Group and a discussion about setting up an IT task group.

The PCC approved the continuing reader ministry of John Ravalde and Ken Whiteway.

A black and white photograph of a piano keyboard, showing several keys in focus and others blurred in the background. The image is used as a background for the concert poster.

**SPRING CONCERT**  
**RICHMONDSHIRE ORCHESTRA**  
3pm Sunday 29th March 2020 at Richmond School  
Conducted by Peter Stallworthy

*with soloist Barbara White*

Ippolitov-Ivanov 'Procession of the Sardar'  
Shostakovitch 'Piano Concerto No.2'  
Rimsky-Korsakov 'Scheherazade'

*Tickets £12, accompanied children free*  
Visit [www.richmondshireorchestra.org.uk](http://www.richmondshireorchestra.org.uk) to purchase tickets.

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

9th February

Olivia Carol Mothersill

8th March

Matilda Alice Taylor



## Diary

Week beginning 15th March

Life groups meet

Monday 16th March

Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon

Monday 23rd March

Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon

Friday 27th March

Lydia Group meets, 2 pm in the Reid Room

Week beginning 29th March

Life group meet

Monday 30th March

Welcome Break meets, 10 am –12 noon

Friday 3rd April

First Friday, 5.30 pm in church

Maundy Thursday 9th April

Maundy Communion, 7,30 pm in church

Good Friday 10th April

Good Friday crafts, 10 am—12 noon in the church hall

An hour at the cross, 2 pm in church

Easter Sunday 12th April

8 am Holy Communion

9.30 am Holy Communion

11.15 am All Age Communion

6.30 pm Easter Praise