



What next?

I have a sense that things have dipped a bit since Easter. Easter was something to look forward to. But after Easter, with the continuing coronavirus troubles, life can feel flat. It is a bit like being out of the North York Moors for a walk when the mist comes down. The beautiful landscape suddenly feels featureless. The landmarks we might have used to guide us are invisible.

I think we have a remedy before us in the feast of Pentecost, which is a few weeks away, on 31 May.

Sometimes people say 'I want more of the Spirit'. But that is not the right way round. It makes it sound as if the Spirit is available in portions, when God by His Spirit is always present. It would be better to say that we want the Spirit to have more of us. That's what makes the prayer 'Come Holy Spirit' such a



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good prayer. By it we are opening ourselves to His work.

People have likened the current times to one enormous Lent. We are giving up all kinds of things, suddenly, unexpectedly – and it hurts. It is striking how, in Luke 4 it is the Holy Spirit who leads Jesus into the wilderness, the same Holy Spirit who comes upon the disciples with tongues of fire in Acts 2. The Spirit will take us through tough places and places of joyful service.

Let's pray for the Spirit to have more of us in the weeks coming up to Pentecost. Let's pray that as we struggle, that He renew our faith and our lives. Let's

continue praying for St Barnabas as a fellowship, not only that God will sustain and protect this church but lead it forward beyond coronavirus deeper into the Spirit.

The church council are meeting to discuss how we take forward the 'Immeasurably More' process, based on Ephesians 3:20, whereby we seek God's call for us here. The main event on 28 March had to be postponed, but the process will continue in the coming months. Let's pray that that the Spirit has more of us, individually and as a church.

David Goodhew

St Barnabas Church Quiz

Join the St Barnabas Church Quiz, Saturday 9th May, 18:30-20:00.

A quiz for the entire household, join in to find out which is the smartest household in the St Barnabas Church family. The quiz will be held on Zoom, join using the meeting ID: 884 5520 7460. Email office@st-barnabas.net for the passworld.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as

well as full worship services from the Church. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as [Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer](#), updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England [weekly national online service](#)

Kay Dickson

Since Kay died I have received so many cards of condolence, expressing how much Kay meant to members of the congregation and how she coped with her illness, retaining her cheerful character and quiet Christian witness.

Reading the cards of condolence has been very emotional but also very comforting, knowing that so many people prayed and thought so much about her.

I do not have addresses for many of you so I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks for the love and prayerful support you have shown to us both.

David Dickson

From the Registers

Funerals at the Crematorium

12 March	Fred Nemeth
14th April	Kathleen Dickson
28th April	Jean Colgan



St Barnabas Church Office, 1A St Barnabas Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6JR
Phone: 01642 812622 E-mail: office@st-barnabas.net Website: www.st-barnabas.net