Dear friends,

It's not too long until this year reaches its halfway stage and also, we reach the equinox and witness the longest day! Time certainly 'marches on' and events are simply blurring into oblivion with the relentless invasion of the Covid-19 virus. I seem to be forever sending text messages to friends wishing them a 'happy birthday' whereas in the past, I'd have taken them for a meal... or a 'pint' at the very least! We're being robbed of our social conventions and life takes on an alarming 'sameness' with one day merging into the next. My life is usually marked out by a number of weekly events from meetings with people and groups to planning Sunday worship and dealing with Diocesan paperwork. I used to live by my diary but now, I hardly open it as one day is pretty much the same as the last!

On Sunday 31st May, the Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost... we used to call it 'Whit Sunday!' This was a day, very like any other, when the disciples gathered together in their 'meeting room' as they often did. They were bored and aimless as their 'leader' had left them but this time something was different. As they gathered together, a strange sensation came upon them and they were empowered to do things they never thought possible! So much so, that, as they were talking to the crowds in the street, others mocked them saying 'these men are full of new wine!' - they thought they were drunk as they were no longer recognised as the people they were. Out of their boredom and lack of direction, came an experience which changed them for ever. All their hopes and dreams which lay at the back of their minds suddenly became a reality! They were given a new vision of the world and of the part they could play in it. Life would never be the same again.

I think there's a need to look for the positive in the midst of our present crisis. Didn't someone once say, 'when life gives you lemons... make lemonade!' It's all too easy to bemoan our lot and to count the things we can no longer do. Look at the gifts we have been blessed with... the gifts of thought and reason; the gifts of creativity and imagination! It's amazing what the Disciples achieved with just
a bit of help and a new way of thinking. Their actions changed the world! With just a bit of effort, we too might think ‘outside the box’ and venture into the uncharted recesses of our minds. The world is still a glorious place and in spite of our present hardships, we too can be fruitful…. And make lemonade!

Frs Keith