



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 31st May

Collect

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Today is Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate both the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. I hope you are able to join live via Zoom or phone at 10am. Joan is leading our service and we are including a birthday cake and/or candles or other lights as sign of our celebration.

Thank you again for all the caring, encouragement, fellowship and mutual support that St Johns continues to enjoy. We still await definitive announcements on what will happen to places of worship as the lock down is eased. Do keep safe and God bless you all.

Ken

PENTECOST SUNDAY SERVICE

Pentecost is often referred to as The Birthday of the Church, so we are all invited to bring a candle with us to our worship. There will be a point within the service for us all to light them together. Rev. Ken promises to have a cupcake with a birthday candle in it but you could have a tea light or any candle with you to light.

Joan Simon

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Don't forget you can keep in touch by joining the WhatsApp group, visiting our website and following us on Facebook. All your contributions to these groups during this time provide great encouragement to us all. For details of the website and where to find us on Facebook, please see the bottom of this page. To join the WhatsApp group, you will need a smartphone and to have installed WhatsApp. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

KEEPING IN TOUCH AND PRAYERS

Please don't forget to call if you need some help during this time or if you would like to add something to the prayer board.

Jean Tutton 020 8393 3687

SUNDAY SERVICES

Don't forget you can join us live on Sunday at 10am using this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86852818063>

For those of you who do not have access to the internet you can now join our Sunday Worship by phone.

Dial this phone number: 0203 051 2874

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID followed by # (hash).

Key in: 868 5281 8063#

You will be asked for a personal ID, just press # again and you will be connected to the Service.

If you want help with this speak to John Simon (phone 0775 187 4807).

John Simon

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING

Each Thursday, St John's will be hosting a coffee morning via Zoom. Please join us at 10:30am using this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83134817320>

The link will be the same each week.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

PROPOSED BLOCK OF FLATS – AN UPDATE

Here is an update on proposed block of flats to be built opposite the church. I have submitted an objection on behalf of St. John's church based on the parameters of local parking for users of the church / parish centre and the necessity for parking for Baptisms, weddings and funerals as well as the usual church services. I also included the fact that the flats would not include "affordable housing".

Janis Forder

TRAIDCRAFT HALF PRICE FOOD SALE

Special reductions to sell the stock, due to impending "sell by" dates.

Vanilla Fudge: 8 @ £0.75 each, best before end of August

Double Chocolate Chip Cookies: 2 @ £1.00 each, best before 17th June

Dry Pineapple: 2 @ £1.25 each, best before 11th June

Ginger Cookies: 6 @ £1.00 each, best before 6th June

Price includes contactless free delivery to your door!

Veronica and Michael Gittins

DIOCESE OF GUILDFORD PENTECOST SERVICE

Join the Diocese of Guildford on Sunday 31st May at 6pm from their virtual Pentecost Prayer Service. It's live and it's online – doing church differently during lockdown. They will have contributions from around the world, local churches and ecumenical partners local to the Diocese. Along with a dramatic and hilarious interpretation of the coming of the spirit in Acts as told as a video conference. Join the service at 6pm on 31st May on YouTube. Search for the Diocese of Guildford channel or use this link

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1IFS-d9qujAoB3-RWjiZLQ/featured>

St John's, Station Approach, Stoneleigh, Surrey, KT19 0QZ

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DAILY HOPE

There is a free phone line 0800 804 8044, for hymns, reflections and prayers, provided by Guildford diocese, especially for people without access to the internet. It is called Daily Hope.
Janis Forder

FOODBANK

Thank you everyone for your continued support. I hope you still have access to last weeks newsletter for the list of items which the Foodbank doesn't need .

They are short of these items this week if you are able to shop and deliver to the dump bins in the supermarkets. If you would prefer to deliver food can be dropped off at our warehouse in Ruxley,Lane Ewell. We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. They have boxes outside the centre so there are no problems with social distancing.

Urgent items needed: Tinned meat, Tinned potatoes, Custard, Hot chocolate, Long life sponge puddings, Fruit squash, Dog food, Tins of pasta/beans with sausages, Packets of dried pasta in sauce, Washing powder/capsules/ tablets, Washing up liquid, Single adult toothbrushes (we have lots of multi packs), Ladies deodorant, Sugar.

Polly Elder

Worship at Home for Pentecost

Introduction

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord

and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.

We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.

We have enjoyed his risen presence with us

and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow

and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time,

we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people,

through whom we make Christ known to the world.

Prayer

As we wait in silence,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
fill us with your Spirit.

Hymn: *Love Divine all Loves Excelling*

Confession

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world
and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from
our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

Song: *Holy Spirit Living Breath of God*

The Pentecost Reading

Acts 2: 1-13 read by Lynda White

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together
in one place.

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of
a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were
sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a
tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak
in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven
living in Jerusalem.

And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,
because each one heard them speaking in the native language
of each.

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who
are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us,
in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and
residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and
Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya

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belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs.

In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Reflection by Rev Ken Hobbs

Introduction

I remember a Times press cutting about an abstemious Welsh Baptist church- "The meeting will be gin with prayer!" It reminded me of a newspaper headline entitled Welsh Hamlet connected to the National Grid! Living for 10 years in the Surrey hills made us used to power outages!

Pentecost is a special celebration- linked to the coming and power of God's Spirit Here are a few notes on the context of our reading from Acts 2

(a) Historical

Pentecost was a Jewish celebration 50 days after the Passover (Good Friday for us) It was a feast of ingathering- an early Harvest festival

It Attracted a large population of worshippers to Jerusalem from Israel and the surrounding countries. The disciples were a group of about 120 men and women who had gathered in Jerusalem. They had followed the instructions of Jesus both before and after his resurrection

Acts 1.4 "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my father promised."

(b) Spiritual

The Promise of the Spirit is central to Jesus' teaching and to the experience of the early church and for Christians He is not an "it" or a "ghost". Every NT reference to him is as a **He** This is not a statement of gender but a statement of personhood.

Jesus used the word comforter or counsellor in John 16- the Greek word is PARACLETE- literally an alongsider or helper The presence of the Holy Spirit in the world, the church and in the life of every believer is part of the inherited promise that we have from Christ himself. He is not here in that sense but by His Spirit he is with us now.

The events described in Acts 2 mark the spectacular outpouring of the Holy Spirit which effectively kick started the church- hence the idea of the birthday of the church The Spirit's activity has been continuous in history- sometimes spectacular- the Wesleys, The Great Awakening in North America ; Wales in 2004; East Africa in 1930's, The Hebrides in 1948; South America in the 80's and 90's and so on. Sometimes His work has often been quiet and unobtrusive.

For things to work such as computers, tablets smart phones Dysons, etc, they need to be plugged into a Power Source. Pentecost is about birthdays and it is about power sources.

We need a Power Source and here are three from the first part of Acts.

1. The Power of the Word

Cn you imagine a world without words? What a cold, dark silent world it would be? Most people have never heard of Eddie

Braben- and yet 27 million people in the UK used to listen to his words and laugh because he was the script writer for Morecombe and Wise!

The Christian message is that God is there and He is not silent . We worship a talking God! God has spoken.

Through **Jesus- the living word** and **the Scriptures the written word** Trusting that word is important On this particular day Peter preaches, at some length from Scripture. Using the Old Testament and the recent events in the life of Jesus he explains powerfully to them what is going on.

We find in v 37 They hear and they listen and they are challenged. They say What must we do? We cannot sit on the fence and view the whole Gospel from some detached point in the cosmos. The Word demands our attention and later in v 40 we read "with many other **words** he warned them"

The pen is mightier than the sword!- This may be statement about propaganda but it is true of the Christian Good News that launched itself on the world on Pentecost Day!

2. The Power of the Spirit

The spirit is dramatically manifested in an audible and tangible and visual sense- they heard the sound of the rushing wind, felt its touch and saw the flames and understood the languages

In Acts 1.8 Jesus said "**You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.....**" like throwing a pebble in a pond, the ripples spread outwards

On Boxing Day 2004 a relatively tiny shift in the tectonic plate boundary off the coast of Indonesia would have global consequences. The geographical term tsunami entered the English language.

Pentecost was a tiny event tucked away from the main centres of power in the Roman world, but it was like the epicentre of a spiritual earthquake and the shock waves travel through history to this day

The word used for power is DUNAMIS- "Dynamite"- explosive and earth shattering changes that transformed Individuals and communities Our western secular materialistic culture needs to open itself up to the life changing transformation – together we can make a difference!

3. The Power of The Church

The church grew both numerically and spiritually 120; 3000; 5000; a great multitude- eventually it would span the world! Today some 2 Billion of us!

Three features in Acts are worth noting with a Greek word attached!

Church= "Ecclesia"- not a building but an assembly of people- the building is important but as we are currently discovering it is not essential!- Within that worshipping community people will find their place- it is a place to belong and a place to believe .A place where the fruit of the Spirit is found!

Church= "Koinonia"- having everything in common-

Acts is full of the things the early church did together

Church = "Martus"= witness

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We read that with great power the church bore witness to Jesus Christ” That witness, although empowered by the Spirit, came at a cost. The word witness comes from a word meaning martyr

My video reflection this week includes the dramatic story of the martyrdom of 5 young Americans in the jungles of Ecuador in 1956 One of those men Jim Elliot wrote this in his journal “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” and added “Lord make me ignitable; deliver me from the dread asbestos of other things!”

Conclusion:

As we celebrate today there is a reminder to plug into the power source and get connected and let us not short circuit the work of the Spirit within us
Let us allow Him (the Holy Spirit) to make Jesus known to us and you and I will discover what Jesus meant when he said “**I have come that you may have life- life in all its fullness!**”

A Song from Sarah: *Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me*

Intercessions led by Margaret Hobbs

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from
evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Lighting of Candles as we celebrate the ‘Birthday of the Church’

Jesus said: ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ *Matthew 28.19,20*

Let us light our candles as a sign that we are to carry the light of God’s love to others through his Spirit within us.

(candles are lit)

Final song: *Shine Jesus Shine.*

We think of loved ones from whom we are parted by the lockdown.

(Candles are blown out)

Blessing:

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into us the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came
among us,
make us joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Book of Remembrance: Grace Constable

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