



**The Smestow Vale Team Ministry**  
**St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede**  
**Keeping in Touch with our Church Family**  
**Sunday 31st May**

**Pentecost**

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.

**Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 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 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.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall

dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved

*Acts 2: 1-21*

**John describes the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

*John 20:19-23*

**A Reflection for Pentecost from Susan Williams**

On Resurrection Day evening, Jesus comes among his frightened disciples in the upper room –and gives them his peace. He breathes the Holy Spirit into them as guide and comforter. Just as the Father sent Jesus, now Jesus sends them. With power and with authority, because they are told that if they forgive someone, the person will be forgiven. After all, forgiveness played such a huge part in the restoration of Peter after he denied Jesus.

But at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes with the unstoppable force of a violent wind to fill the room where the Apostles ('ones sent') are praying and waiting. As a tongue of fire rests on each one, they are immediately sent out. Peter is enabled by the Spirit to preach God's salvation to the vast Jerusalem crowd.

We need to be praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit's promptings. It may be that gently, we are simply asked to encourage and accompany someone. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, a friendly voice down the phone, can make such a difference. Others will be called to teach, preach, innovate, pioneer.... Either way, God will empower us with his Holy Spirit so that the mission of God the Holy Trinity is passed on to others. Rowan Williams said recently, "God's eternal purpose is for healing and life. Whatever we do is upheld by God, who can use all that is offered to him for the spread of human healing and the honouring of human dignity."

This is a time of great change and opportunity. Fuelled by Sacrament, word of God and prayer, as individuals and Church, we sing out "SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD FALL AFRESH ON ME"

### **Prayer During the Week**

**Please remember those who have asked for our prayers** Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Margaret Ward, Heather Gent, Jean, and Margaret Hatton

### **Those who have died recently and their families:**

Beryl Allen, Irene Hobbs, Janet Watkiss, Jacqueline Hinton, Beryl Simcox, Albert Harris and Emily Preece.

#### **Sunday**

Pray that people of all nationalities and cultures will learn of the power and love of God. (Acts 2: 9-11)

#### **Monday (Visitation)**

Pray that we may, even now, respond with joy to the presence of the Lord. (Luke 1: 44)

#### **Tuesday**

Pray for safety for pupils and staff at St Benedict's and others schools, planning to return this week.

#### **Wednesday**

As the lockdown eases a little more, pray for wisdom to remain safe from the virus.

#### **Thursday**

Pray that we may learn to use electronic communications wisely and safely.

#### **Friday**

Pray for all who have had to learn rapidly new ways of working.

#### **Saturday**

Continue to pray for the development and deployment of tests, treatments and vaccines.

### **Pentecost Altar Cloths**

We have received a new set of Pentecost altar cloths made by Croft Design in memory of Derek Martin.

The pulpit fall is the logo on today's Keeping in Touch sheet. We look forward to being able to dedicate them when we return to Church and Marjorie can join us.

Thank you Marjorie.

### **Sunday Worship**

Thank you to Preb Ben from Penn for all the help with last Sunday's service and to everyone who has made appreciative comments. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook this Sunday from 10.30am.

### **Share the Good News**

You are very welcome to share Keeping in Touch with others. If you know of anyone who would like it emailing to them direct please let Maxine know.

### **Sunday Worship for Pentecost**

**11.00am BBC 1**

Please join in prayer and worship on Sunday Morning The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Richard Jackson, leads a service for Pentecost Sunday from the city's historic cathedral, with hymns recorded by Songs of Praise in 2017.

### **Grapevine magazine June / July.**

The June / July issue of the magazine is going to be a digital only version again this month as we have been unable to print or deliver it again. We hope that we will be back to normal service for the next issue.

If anyone would like to receive a digital copy, or knows any friends who would like one, then please send your email address to:

office@stbenedictbiscop.org.uk  
or womwelch@hotmail.com

Requesting a copy of Grapevine.

Alternatively phone 01902 324111 and speak to Nigel.

