

Good News Sheet



**ST PETER, SLINFOLD and
ST NICOLAS, ITCHINGFIELD
31st May. Whit Sunday- Pentecost Sunday**

**Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect

**The Spirit of truth lead us into all truth,
give us grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen us to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us and those we love, now and always. Amen.**

Bible readings

Acts 2:1-21

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.’

John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Reflection by Carol Shepherd

As you read this reflection, I pray for the Power of the Holy Spirit to touch us all in a way that truly sets us on fire to share the Good News of the Gospel story. We ourselves know it so well, but how well are we sharing it.

Jesus said ‘I will pour out my spirit on all people’. Not just one or two that he knows will speak up, but all people. He commissioned His disciples to go to the ends of the earth and they did what they could while they lived and thousand came to believe and they in turn shared the Good News.

What has happened to that message? Why are we living in a country that seems to have lost the excitement of being given the best gift ever from the Creator God, eternal life, shown in and through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. It is freely given to anyone who accepts Jesus as their own personal Saviour when they repent of their sins.

Do people not think they are sinners. Have we lost the ‘fear of the Lord?’. God is not a God who is to be feared because of His anger. He is a God of love, but to fear of what will happen if we don’t love as He loves us. There is a Judgement. It is a choice we have. To follow Jesus and have eternal life, or not follow Jesus and be damned to hell.

It’s a choice we have to make. Are we bold enough to share our faith in such a way that excites people and draws them towards Jesus? They have become uninterested in the Jesus story. Many don’t even know that the baby born at Christmas is the same man who died on the cross.

That is why today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised His followers that he would send the Advocate, the Helper once He had returned to His Father in heaven.

It came down on all of Jesus’ followers. About 120 of them were in the upper room as a mighty wind and tongues of fire. Many of them were given spiritual languages that reached the ears of Jews who came from other countries. The fact that thousands of Jews had travelled to Jerusalem for the celebration of Shavuot, 50 days after celebrating the Passover (the time Jesus was crucified) was not a coincidence. God’s timing is never coincidental.

The Israelites freedom from the Egyptian’s slavery became the **Passover** feast, and they celebrated their harvest 50 days later at **Shavuot**, Shavuot commemorates the anniversary of the day the entire nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. Biblically referred to as the Feast of Weeks. The fact that Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after his

resurrection, and the Holy Spirit came 10 days later shows that dates mean everything to God. Certainly not a coincidence.

The Holy Spirit turned frightened, unsure, ordinary, chosen men and women into powerful confident speakers. They were inspired to preach, teach and heal as the Spirit led them, even unto death for many of them. Jesus told them they would be hated because of Him. He was rejected. Even in the OT it predicts what would happen to Jesus.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? I am scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me... a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet...I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me .. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. .. All the ends of the earth will remember... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn. (Psalm 22, ca 1000 BC)

Life hasn't changed much in the world today. In some countries the faithful are still persecuted even unto death, but that seems to strengthen their faith and Christianity is growing there because the Holy Spirit has empowered them to 'go and preach the Gospel'

We are given the same power that the Holy Spirit gave them. The Holy Spirit isn't watered down. You can't water down God in any way. And we receive it as soon as we have given our lives over to Jesus. We are baptised in His name. Born of water and of the Spirit. New creations belonging to God. A Holy nation. 'All who are led by the Spirit are children of God, for we have received the Spirit that enables us to cry, 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit himself bears witness that we are children of God and if God's children, then heirs of God, therefore fellow heirs with Christ (Romans 2). Wow! That **is** something to get excited about.

As I said last week, our eternal life has already started. When Jesus was praying for His disciples he said "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"

It's not good works that will get us into heaven, everyone needs to make the choice; for Jesus or not for Jesus. We are guaranteed a place in heaven the moment we ask Jesus in to our lives and to guide us in the Way and the Truth and the Life. Jesus gave up His life so that we could have total forgiveness of our sins. He took them on His own beaten and battered body once and for all, died and was buried. The third day He rose again ascended into heaven. He sent the Holy Spirit as He promised to be our Advocate, our strength, our teacher our helper.

If there is no God and eternal life, what have we got to lose by choosing Jesus, but if there is and the right choice hasn't been made?.....

Let us pray,

The disciples were waiting, unsure what would happen to them. We are unsure what will happen in this lockdown. Father, we thank you that we don't have to struggle in our own strength. Thank you for the Holy Spirit that empowers us to be your disciples in this day and age. We have a peace, joy, hope and Your love to share, help us do just that, so that others come to know you and choose life in Jesus Name. Amen

Intercessions by June Barling

Heavenly Father, we thank you today for the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We thank you that the frightened disciples rose in confidence and power to preach, heal, and do signs and wonders in the Name of Jesus. We thank you that this same power is available for us and all who believe today. Please fill us and all your Church, who call on you today, that we may rise up in confidence to declare the truth of the Gospel, to preach, heal and see signs and wonders in our day. Lord we pray that we, your people, will live to see revival in our villages and in our land. We pray this to your Glory, Amen

Father, we pray for your worldwide church on this the Birthday of your church on earth.

We pray for our Bishop, for Rev Sandra, Rev Rosemary, and Carol and all our church workers, that you will anoint them with your Holy Spirit that they will fulfil the work you give them to do in Your strength and not their own. Please heal and refresh them when they are weary and encourage them in their work. Please show us all how to live in this new normal with the covid virus!

Lord we ask for your grace and strength for all those who are on the front-line working in our hospitals and care-homes. Please keep them safe. We ask you Lord that a vaccine will be found very soon so that the vulnerable will be kept safe and no more will die of this dreadful disease. Please give wisdom to our Government and leaders to guide us out of lockdown with wisdom and care.

We do pray for our children as they return to school. We pray for them and for the teachers that you will keep them all safe and give them joy in being together again

We pray for all who have been bereaved recently in our parish and we lift up all who are sick in mind and body. Please bring comfort and healing and hope for the future.

We lift up all these prayers in the Name of Jesus....Amen

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

**All who have recently been bereaved, and especially:
the families and friends of Gladys Baldwin, Margaret Stainer, Eric Irving and Peter Sharp.
Audrey Newman, Marion Nicol-Parfremment.**

Those who are sick, and all who care for them, remembering:

Pamela Campbell	Peggy Johnson	Lucy Dalrymple	Bob Rae
Matt	Ian McBean	Jacqueline Dacey	Heather
Alex	Anna Holmes	Jane Busby	Becky
Linda Howard	Doreen Hewitt	Barbara	Sarah
Molly Bonsor	Louis Venni	Christine Lister	Martin
Diana Metson	Frances Aldridge	David Glaister	Michael Barling
David Bourn	Ashlyn	Ann Godfrey	Geoff Fuller
Madge	Chris Godfrey	Hazel	Jagan Asthana
Jenny	Sally	Helen	Adrian Skeates
Daniel Hobbs	Sarah Noon		

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

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.

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,

make us perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us and those we love, now and always. Amen.

Notices

Foodbank contributions are much needed, at present they are asking particularly for Tinned Potatoes, instant mashed potato and sponge puddings. Please drop donations to The Rectory and they will be picked up from there.

Lifespring Kids LIVE – Sundays @9am Lifespring church is streaming a kids service every Sunday for children of primary school age (+/- a couple of years). This is a live and interactive show full of fun, laughs, quizzes and featuring a pre-recorded video lesson from the Bible. At the moment we are working through a series of messages to help children & families navigate lockdown, exploring topics such as anger, trust, revenge, love, generosity and more! The show is accessible for children to enjoy whether they normally attend a church or not and is a great way for families who wouldn't normally engage with church to do so. We also provide follow-up resources via our website each week to help parents and children talk about and apply the teaching as a family. You can watch past shows on our Facebook & YouTube channels and if families in your church would like to tune in, all are welcome!

Revd. Sandra has copies of the Christian Newspaper 'Heart', please let her know if you would like a copy.

The Slinfold Magazine is available on the website www.stpeterslinfold.co.uk

THY KINGDOM COME (21ST - 31ST MAY 2020)

At a time when so many people around the world are turning to prayer for the first time, we can pray for them, our nation, community, churches, families and friends and ourselves to meet with Jesus and find new life and new hope.



DIGITAL FAMILY PRAYER ADVENTURE MAP

The Family Prayer Adventure Map can be downloaded and printed at home (A4 size) and works with an augmented reality app whether printed in colour or black and white.

St Mary's has 70 of the A3 versions of the map available to anyone who would like them – please contact Fiona Prentice, Families & Children's Worker: families@stmaryshorsham.org.uk

www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/digital-family-prayer-adventure-map

Daily Hope National phone line for hymns and prayers. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple 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 of England at the end of a telephone line. Call on: **0800 804 8044**

FEGANS RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND PARENTS The Fegans Digital Family Hub <https://www.fegans.org.uk/family-hub/> has a whole host of online resources to support parents during these tricky times, including a free **Parenting in a Pandemic** email course <https://www.fegans.org.uk/parenting-in-a-pandemic/> Additionally, **Fegans Parent Support Workers** are ready to answer questions from mums and dads with problems or concerns, all for free

on <https://www.dad.info/forum/parent-support> In response to the pandemic, Fegans is also offering **online therapy for children** (year 7 and above) via video conferencing, and using the same technology to deliver **1-1 parent support** too. More information can be found at https://www.fegans.org.uk/online_counselling_teenagers/ and self-referrals can be made by emailing info@fegans.org.uk.

Daily videos are being communicated across the diocese each day on their social media channels and web site. You may find them comforting and encouraging at this time. They can all be found to watch again on the link below. The daily videos will continue through Eastertide and up to and including Ascension Day and Pentecost. All the videos can be watched again here <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/videos/>

ALSO We are launching a simple statement for people to take into hospital with them. Some people will need it printed by a friend, neighbour or parish priest.

We advise that every household should have one of these statements ready for use.

This statement will explicitly declare a person's Christian faith, and request access to a Church of England chaplain while in hospital.

A template for this statement is available on the Diocesan website

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/> or Revd. Sandra can supply one for you.

While we are unable to worship in church there are other alternatives for prayer: the following link will direct you to services of Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer in which you will be joining with people all over the world.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Churches together in England are offering prayers for this ongoing situation, along with Christians all over our nation and our world at this time. A range of prayer resources are being collated within this article:

[https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=568755&utm_source=CTBI+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=204985aeae-CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter+March2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e94acb8d57-204985aeae-508071405&ct=t\(CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter-March2020\)](https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=568755&utm_source=CTBI+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=204985aeae-CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter+March2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e94acb8d57-204985aeae-508071405&ct=t(CTBI+Monthly+Newsletter-March2020))

Please do contact Revd. Sandra if you need to talk or require assistance.

Tel: 01403 790197 or email sandra.richard@tiscali.co.uk Sandra's day off is Friday

Revd. Rosemary can be contacted on 01403 264396

or email r.a.cattell@btinternet.com Rosemary's day off is Monday

This document is also available on the websites, if you know anyone who might want a copy, please print one off and drop it through their door, or let Revd. Sandra know.

Some more Good News

Sandra will be 'in charge' and back in the chair from this week. Although not sure for a 2-3 weeks if she is going to need Chemo, at least it hadn't spread. Thank you all for supporting her in prayer, which I hope you will continue to do. And thank you for your comments and support for myself Miriam and Robin while she has been recovering.

Happy Church Birthday to you all.

With love in Christ Jesus, Carol x'
