

Pentecost
Sunday, 5th June 2022

Dear All,

Revd Jax is away from the office today to celebrate her 60th birthday but Alan Disher, LLM Emeritus, has very kindly written a piece on Pentecost for me to send out in place of Revd Jax' regular letter.

PENTECOST

That first Pentecost was certainly dramatic although, in fact, *there was no wind*- just the sound of a mighty wind, heard even by those outside. Nor were there any flames of fire but flickering lights, looking like flames, that divided and rested on each person in the house. The crowd outside heard the great sound but would not have seen the lights.

Nevertheless, that first Day of Pentecost was certainly dramatic, unforgettable and life changing. We might wonder why, on that particular day, all the disciples were gathered together in one place. The most likely reason was that this was a special day for all Jews. Shavuot comes 50 days after the second night of the very first Passover in Egypt when the Israelite firstborn were protected from the angel of death by the blood of a Lamb smeared on the doors of their homes; 50 days later they celebrated their liberation from the living death of slavery in Egypt, to freedom through the power of God. Likewise, this first Pentecost took place 50 days after Jesus overcame death by the power of his resurrection and opened the way to true freedom, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life with him in the Kingdom of God.

The immediate effect on anybody in the area was to discover that they could understand everything that those around them were speaking – people whose language was completely unknown to them. (It was as if the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel, described in Genesis 11 v1 was becoming reversed - albeit temporarily).

The crowd was confused, *but Peter wasn't!* He took this great opportunity head-on, powerfully proclaiming Jesus as the resurrected Messiah and challenging them to repent and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Christ. The impact of his sermon was inspiring: God's continuing presence was vividly seen by the response of the believers. "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

God has not changed. Why did the response of his people change so soon?

Allan Disher, LLM Emeritus

Collect Prayer for 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.

John 14: 8-17

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14: 25-27

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



On 6 February 2022, the seventieth anniversary of her accession, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

Today is also Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church when God poured out his Spirit, equipping the early believers with power to go out and spread the good news through their teaching and healing ministry. Perhaps it is not chance that we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Pentecost Sunday, an important time in the church year.

Her Majesty has a strong faith and it is through God's strength and with the help of his Holy Spirit that she has served faithfully over so many years and continues to do so.



I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service... But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

Princess Elizabeth, 21 April 1947

Prayers for Her Majesty the Queen

Gracious God, we give you thanks
For the reign of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
And for the example of loving and faithful service
Which she has shown among us.
Help us to follow her example of dedication
And to commit our lives to you and to one another,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
We give you thanks for your servant Elizabeth our Queen.
May she ever be provided with all she may need
For her ministry among us,
Strengthened to meet every demand
Which her office may make,
And in all things nourished by your word and example,
Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign,
World without end.
Amen.

Coronation Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted)

Lord of our lives and Father of all,
Let our thanksgiving prove itself in service
To you and to our Queen, our country and one another,
For your Name's sake.
Amen.

Prayer of Dedication, from the Silver Jubilee Year

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
Bless our sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,
And all who are in authority under her;
That they may order all things
In wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
To the honour and glory of your name
And the good of your Church and people;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever,
Amen.

O God, who providest for thy people by thy power,
And rulest over them in love:
Vouchsafe so to bless thy Servant our Queen,
That under her this nation may be wisely governed,
And thy Church may serve thee in all godly quietness;
And grant that she, being devoted to thee with her whole heart,
And persevering in good works unto the end,
May, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,
Ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>5th June Pentecost / Whit Sunday / Platinum Jubilee</i>	Morning Prayer - for Her Majesty The Queen	Holy Communion		9.15am - Prayers for Her Majesty The Queen	
<i>12th June Trinity Sunday</i>	11am - Trinity Sunday Open-Air Benefice Service followed by BYO Benefice Picnic (Northwood Park)				
<i>19th June</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm - Peace & Wholeness	8am - Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>22nd June</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>26th June</i>	Thanksgiving Service for the Fete (<i>in the Fete Marquee</i>)		Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) <i>PLUS</i> 6pm – Spring Meditations