



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

19th May 2024

Pentecost

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Did you see the Northern Lights the other night? If you have a photograph of the aurora over the parishes that you would be happy for us to use in the magazine, please let me know. If (like the Rector) you were peacefully dreaming dreams through the whole amazing, once in a lifetime, never to be repeated spectacle, at least you can look at some nice pictures.

FOMO – fear of missing out – is widely supposed to be a very real contemporary issue. I don't know if Realisation That You Have Definitely Missed Out (RTYHDMO?) also qualifies, but there was a lot of it about last weekend. If we dreamers feel so strongly about a meteorological event, how do we respond to reading about the amazing events of Pentecost. The winds, flames and miracle of languages that we celebrate as the birthday of the Church have not been repeated. Those who were there were changed for ever – but what about us who missed out?

Mercifully, unlike geomagnetic storms, we still have a chance to join in with the miracle of Pentecost. The events of that day continue to affect us. We gather in worship as a church community because of Pentecost. We have the gifts to share our faith because of Pentecost. The flames of that day continue to burn in our hearts – and we don't have to miss out at all!

With every blessing, Anne
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PETER'S SERMON SOUNDS LIKE HE THINKS PENTECOST IS THE END OF THE WORLD, "IN THE LAST DAYS... THE SUN TURNED TO DARKNESS..."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THAT HAPPENED AT THE CRUCIFIXION.*



*LUKE 23:44-45



EVER SINCE THE RESURRECTION, WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE END TIMES.



JESUS REALLY KNOWS HOW TO STRETCH THINGS OUT!



ACTS 2:1-21

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THESE WORDS FROM JESUS ARE COMFORTING AND ANXIETY-INDUCING AT THE SAME TIME.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

JESUS IS PROMISING THE DAY OF PENTECOST.



THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL EQUIP THE DISCIPLES TO WITNESS AND STRENGTHEN THEM IN THE FACE OF VIOLENCE.



OKAY. NOW IT'S JUST ANXIETY!



JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4-15

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Family and Community News

Tuesday afternoons at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

A Request from the EcoChurch Team



If anyone has any gardening tools, big or small, watering cans, etc, that they no longer need, would you please consider donating them to the church, to help maintain the churchyard and flower beds?

Do you enjoy a spot of gardening, or are keen to support and encourage our wildlife? Could you spare an hour a week, or a morning or afternoon once a month, to help our land to flourish? If so, please let Anne, Peter or Sarah know.



We would like to create more seating areas outside for the community to enjoy; a place to chat, to pray, to contemplate and to watch God's creations. If anyone has, or knows, of any sturdy garden benches, chairs, tree trunk sections or logs we could have, or purchase for a small price, we would be very grateful.

Anne, Dafydd, Peter and Sarah

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 24th May, 14th June

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book the table)
Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

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|------|--------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|----------|
| Gill | James | Joan | Paul | Sheila | Ann W | Brenda B |
| Sue | Brooke | Christina | Betty | Mandy | | |

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------|-------------|----------|------|----------|
| Hazel.. | Marcia D.. | Peter. | Margaret N. | Margaret | Dean | Patricia |
| Clare | Marie E | | | | | |

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Canada - Most Revd Linda Nicholls.

Hereford: Pray for the communications team in our diocese in their work and in the support they provide to the local church. Pray we may share the good news of our faith within our local area and beyond in a professional and persuasive way. Give thanks for the ways in which the changes forced upon us in the Covid years have enhanced our ability to use a wider range of media in our outreach and communication, and in worship.

Porvoo: England: Guildford, Bishop Andrew Watson, Bishop Paul Davies; Denmark: Viborg, Bishop Henrik Stubkjær.

South Wye: Pray for those isolated at home by illness or infirmity.

The Wider View:

We pray for those who teach and learn foreign languages, especially as language studies are being cut in many schools. Learning a language is also to engage with a culture and tradition other than our own, and to expand both awareness and opportunity.

Give thanks at Pentecost that the Church is born in the fire of the Spirit, and pray that we, like the first Apostles, may live out and share our faith in Christ with a fervour and joy that is infectious.

Sunday is also National Children's Day: pray for all that ensures children have a healthy and safe childhood, and that their rights and freedoms are protected.

Born and educated in York, Alcuin, commemorated on Monday, was active as an adviser and also as a liturgist at the court of Charlemagne. His day prompts prayer for those who develop liturgical resources within today's Church, to enable and encourage worship that is the best we can offer.

Helena's day, on Tuesday, prompts prayer for all places of pilgrimage and devotion, and for all who lead pilgrimages, retreats and quiet days. Tuesday is also the World Day for Cultural Diversity. It celebrates both the richness of the world's cultures and the importance of intercultural dialogue in the cause of peace and sustainable development. Give thanks for the variety of faith and culture within the human family, and pray we may not allow differences to become barriers.

World Turtle Day on Friday prompts prayer for all who are working to reduce the pollution of our oceans. Turtles are particularly vulnerable to plastic pollution, as well as to climate change, rising sea levels, and human activity on nesting beaches. Friday also commemorates John and Charles Wesley. Give thanks for their stories of faith, and pray for the work and witness of Methodism both locally and as part of the world Church.

Saturday remembers the Venerable Bede, monk, scholar and historian. Give thanks for all who research and record our history. Pray for the work of skin clinics and specialists, and in particular for their work with skin cancers. Pray for all who experience melanomas, basal cell carcinomas, and other forms of skin cancer.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 19th May

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Holy Communion at St. Peter's

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- Conversation Under Trees

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Pentecost Sunday

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for Pentecost

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings for Pentecost

Ezekial 37: 1-14

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works -

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Acts 2: 1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² 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. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "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. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

²⁶ 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Bible Study based on Acts 2: 1-21

Bible notes

The outpouring of God's Spirit promised by Jesus (Acts 1:5,8) in fulfilment of prophecy from Joel (2:28-32, quoted in Acts 2:17-21) to John the Baptist (Luke 3:16), takes place at Pentecost. By Jesus' time Pentecost celebrated the Mosaic covenant and the giving of the law on Sinai (Mishnah Megillah 2:3). Hearing their cry, the Lord came down to deliver the people from Egypt and to give them the law at Mount Sinai, but warned them to keep their distance and not to ascend the mountain when it was wrapped in smoke, signifying the divine presence. At Pentecost, the Lord comes down again to deliver Jesus' disciples from their failure and fear, but this time the wind of God's presence fills them, and the fire is among them and upon them, as the Spirit writes the law on their hearts. God had promised, 'I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest' (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Similarly, Peter here describes what is happening with the words of Joel, affirming that the Spirit is being poured out on 'all flesh', female and male, young and old, slave and free. Pillars of cloud and fire led the people of Israel through the wilderness towards the Promised Land, but now the wind and fire of the Spirit empowers Jesus' apostles to witness to his resurrection, '...when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea... and to the ends of the earth' (1:8).

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* On our Christian journey we meet all kinds of people, people with different ways of expressing the Christian faith. This can cause us to be anxious and perplexed, especially if we are convinced we are always correct! We can sometimes retreat into our comfort zones and let this prevent us from extending a welcome to others. The disciples had to look ahead and contemplate where an opening of their minds and hearts might take them. What challenges are our church or community facing? Can we widen our tent to include others?



Questions for reflection

- What does the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost mean to you? How does it impact your life?
- In what ways does your church building accommodate those with access needs?
- In what ways does your church community welcome all people? What could it do better?

Sudoku (Easier!)

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Wordsearch based on Ezekial 37: 1-14

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HAND
 LIVE
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BONES
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SKIN
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 ANSWERED

BROUGHT
 RATTLING
 MORTAL

LYING
 VALLEY
 FLESH

BREATH
 HEAR
 HOPE

SPIRIT
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