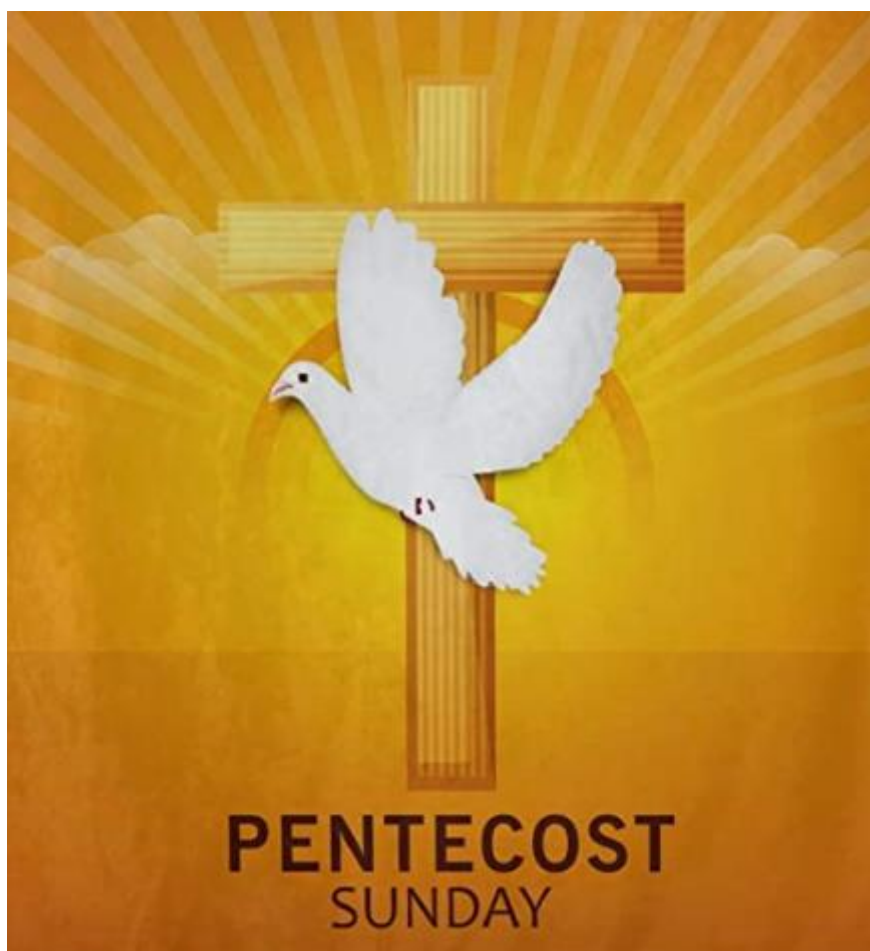


St. Mary's Church Cubbington



Sunday 23rd May
Pentecost

Sunday 23rd May

Greetings from the vicarage and I hope you are all keeping well. Has the next stage of the easing off from the lockdown encouraged you? As you know we are now allowed into cafés and restaurants and we can have a drink inside a pub! Sadly, these don't make any difference to me, even before I was ill, I didn't venture into them very often and at least for the foreseeable future I won't be going out for a meal or a pint.

I imagine for many of us the best outcome of the lifting of stage 3 restrictions is being able to meet with more people. I know for some of you it's been a very long time since you have seen members of your family and friends. We are after all sociable beings and it goes against our nature to be isolated. I hope you have the opportunity to do some catching up.

Today it is **Pentecost** a wonderful feast day when we remember and celebrate what happened to the apostles after Jesus had returned to His Father in Heaven. Before He left, He told them to wait in Jerusalem for His special gift of the Holy Spirit. On this particular day they were all together in a room and what appeared to be a violent wind burst in and filled the place, that must have been very scary, but not as scary as what happened next. What looked like flames appeared on each of the apostle's heads and they began to speak in different languages. For the full account you might like to read our second reading from the Book of Acts chapter 2 verses 1 – 21.

There are also many great paintings of this occasion, here are a few examples.





What took place on that first Pentecost was just a foretaste of what all believers of all time could receive. The Holy Spirit is one part of the Holy Trinity. It is God with us because the Spirit can be with each of us everywhere and all at the same time. To do God's work we need more than just our own strength. God knows this so he offers to each of us the gift of His Holy Spirit which is His strength and His guidance. When we call upon God and ask Him for the gift He breathes into each of us the Holy Spirit which brings us alive making us able to do so much more.

The first followers of Jesus weren't called Christians. That came later. They were called followers of the way (Acts 24:14). As we slowly come out of what has been an unprecedented time in all of our lives it is worth remembering that we are not alone, even if we have missed our family and friends. The Christian faith is a way of life and Jesus told His friends on the night before He died, "I am the way".

Jesus showed us what humanity can be like when we live it in God's way. His kindness, generosity, goodness and forgiveness are from God. This is what God is like and He welcomes everyone.

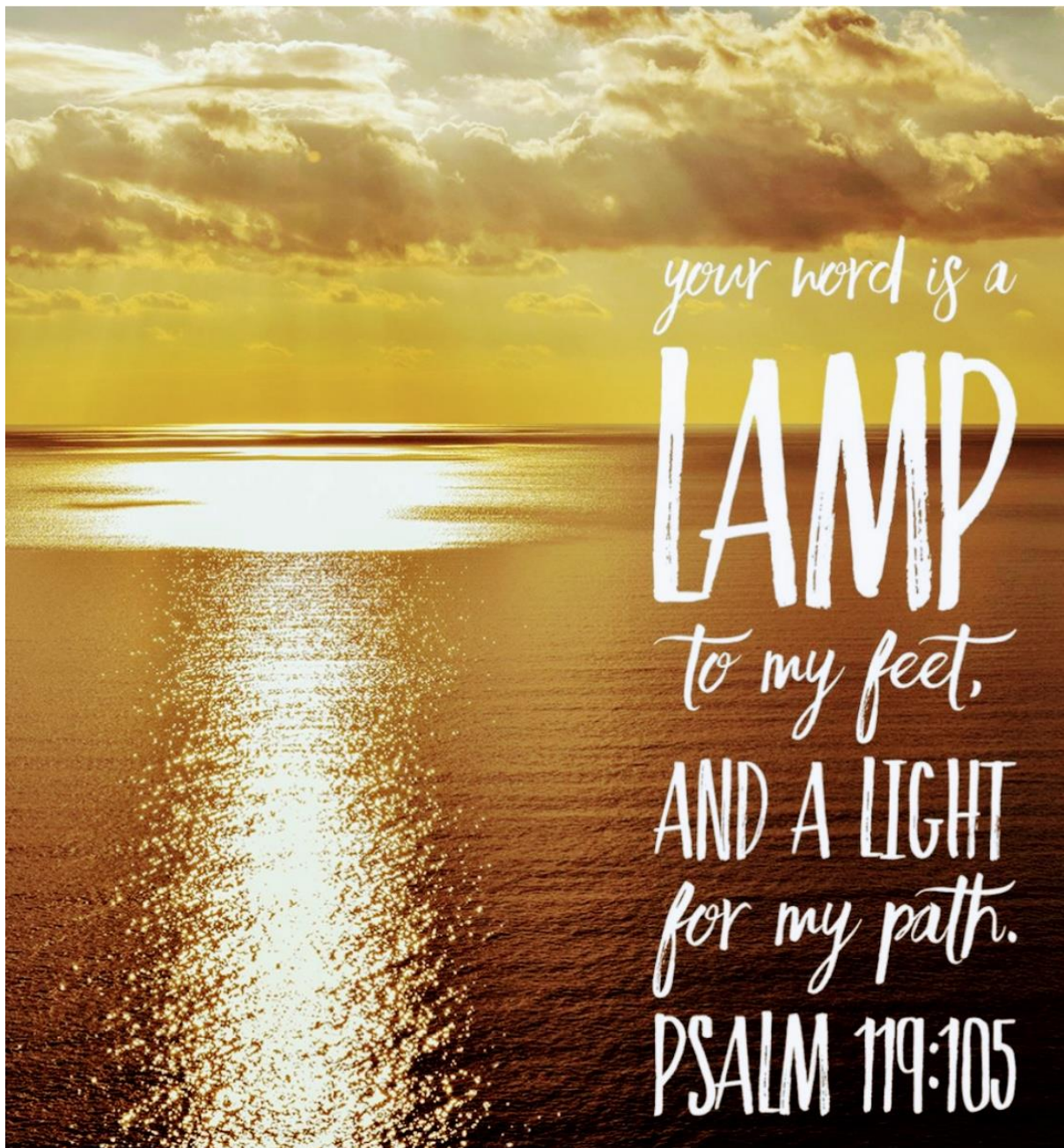
Life can be hard at times and we don't know what is ahead of us. And faced with difficulty and uncertainty God doesn't give us a rule book or even a map. He sends a companion to walk with us, Jesus in the form of the Holy Spirit. He is the way and not just for us, but for every person. The apostles after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit were filled with the passion and excitement to go out and spread the Good News. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us once again with that passion and excitement to also go out and tell others just what a wonderful life they can also have by getting to know Jesus and receiving His comforter, the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

Loving God, when I'm feeling lost or lonely
or afraid or uncertain of the way ahead,
be my guide, a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
And today help me to be a good companion to
all those who I meet.

Amen.



Gift Aid



As you know the church claims a considerable amount of money from the government in the form of Gift Aid. It has been sometime since many people filled in their declaration form and so before I submit a claim, I would like to be sure that the people I am claiming on behalf of are still taxpayers. Therefore, over the next few weeks when you come to church would you please fill in a new form confirming that you are still a taxpayer.

Many thanks.

Revd. Graham.

Pentecost Whit Sunday and our readings are



Acts 2: 1-21

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were

sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

and the Gospel reading is

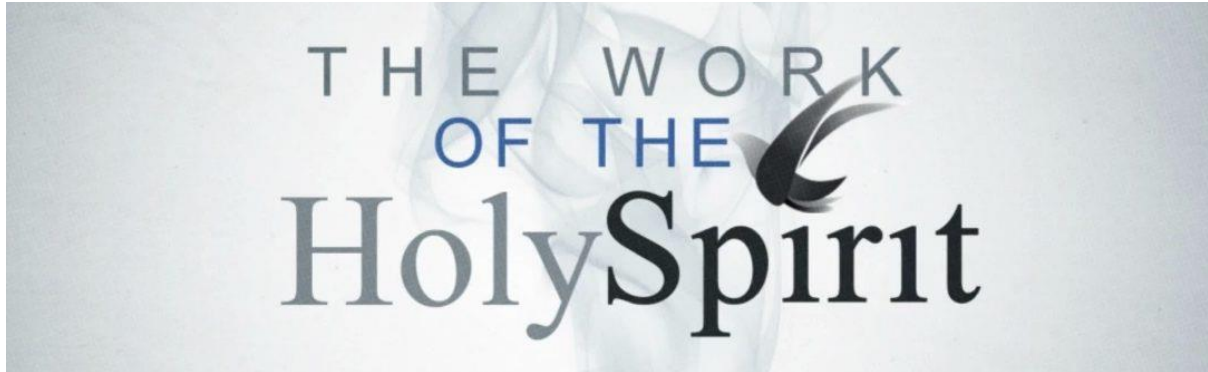


John 15: 26-27 & 16: 4-15

²⁶ “When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴ I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit



⁵ Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. ⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

God grant me:

The Spirit of Wisdom

that I may despise the perishable things of this world
and aspire only after the things that are eternal

The Spirit of Understanding

to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth

The Spirit of Counsel

that I may ever choose the surest way
of pleasing God and gaining heaven

The Spirit of Fortitude

that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome
with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation

The Spirit of Knowledge

that I may know God and know myself

The Spirit of Piety

that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable

and The Spirit of Fear

that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God
and may dread in any way to displease Him. Amen.



Collect

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.

Amen.

SUNDAY 23rd May



Altar Flowers:
Sandra JACKSON

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### **Service Today 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Invitation only

**10.00am: Book of Common Prayer**

**11.00am: Interment of ashes for the  
late Audrey PELHAM**

### **Service for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Invitation only

**10.00am: All Age Service**

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