

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Pentecost

28 May 2023

Although there are several references to the Holy Spirit in both the Old Testament and the Gospels, it is on the day of Pentecost that we witness the full energy of the Spirit, an energy that continues to unfold throughout the book of Acts, powerfully changing lives and marking the birth of the Christian church. It was the powerful wind of the Spirit that drove Saul and his companions on their missionary journeys, taking the Gospel to 'the ends of the earth.' It was the fire of the Spirit that transformed the simple disciples and empowered them to preach with eloquence, courage and authority.

The dramatic events that occurred at Pentecost may be far removed from the experience of most of us today, but the same Holy Spirit that was released upon the church then, is alive and active now. So let us not only remember Pentecost as something that happened in the past, but let us seek fresh inspiration in how we relate to the world around, to facilitate much needed change, and to fulfil God's calling in our lives.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Pentecost (28 May 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Roger Edmonston & Eileen Caple

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Readers: Vicky Peattie & Paul Goldfinch; Intercessor: Mark Parker

Hymns: 238, 258, 242, 236, 252, 260

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)* *The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth*

Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Romans 12: 9-16; Luke 1: 39-49

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church)*

Readings: James 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-end

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Pentecost (in church)*

Next Sunday: Trinity Sunday (4 June 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

11.15 Family Praise

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The 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. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer:

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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."

I Corinthians 12: 3b-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

John 20: 19-23

When it was evening on that day, 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.'

A thought: Sunday 28th May 2023 Pentecost Sunday (John 20. 19-23)

Today is the birthday of the Church. What is the Church? The Church is basically that community and complex of communities spread all over the world which is continuing the visible presence of God and his work by living openly in the Spirit of Jesus and offering its experience of knowing Christ to the world. "

The disciples on the first Pentecost Sunday locked themselves away, terrified of the authorities coming to take them away as collaborators with the recently executed Jesus. Suddenly the same Jesus is there among them. "Peace with you," is his greeting. It is both a wish and a statement. Where Jesus is there is peace. The presence of Jesus in our lives always brings peace and removes our anxieties and fears.

He shows them his hands and side to prove it is himself: the one who died on the cross and the one who is now alive. Then he gives them their mission: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Their mission and his are exactly the same. Our mission and his are exactly the same. He then breathes on them. As God breathed on the earth and created the first human being. In Christ, we become a new creation. The breathing also symbolises the Spirit of God and of Jesus. So he says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The disciples are now the Body of Christ, the ongoing visible presence of Christ in the world and this is our call.

A prayer for this time of Vacancy:

Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Liz Graydon,, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall, Tina Owens

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Jeremy Cutler, Jonathan Rowe, Mary Todd, Harvey Meares

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 28th James Hall, 29th John Fielder, Nancy Halsall, John Weir, 30th Audrey Ducker, Mabel Davies, Jo Lambert, Betty Cobley, 31st Klara Graf, 1st Dorothy Moore, Florence Cuxson, Norma Keen, Betty Woods, Andrew Thurgood, 2nd Anthony Allanson, 3rd Gwyneth Webster