

**31 May
2020**

Pentecost



Welcome to
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and
St Nicholas' in Worth

*On the advice of the Archbishops of Canterbury
and York **all public worship is suspended**
until further notice.*

SERVICES TODAY

There will be no public worship today.

CHURCHES NOW CLOSED

There will no longer be access to either
St Barnabas' or St Nicholas'
until further notice.

ALL

Events and Meetings
are cancelled or postponed
until further notice.

See www.worthparish.org
For the latest information

Please send pew sheet notices to
pewsheet@worthparish.org or
phone 0300 111 8150

We are so used to thinking of Pentecost as a Christian festival that we forget it was a Jewish feast long before. Shavuot, celebrated both the harvest and the giving of the Torah to Moses; a time when all the people would come together to renew their relationship with God and one another, and were charged with leaving behind some of the gleanings of their harvest for the poor to collect.

In the centuries between the first celebration of that feast of plenty and the festival day we read about in Acts, Israel's fortunes rose and fell many times. King David's great reign and Solomon's grand temple were long since gone. It was Herod's Temple that Jesus' followers knew: far smaller and less impressive than its predecessor and Herod was no David or Solomon. No wonder so many were longing for the restoration of all that had been lost. Pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem. They came with their frustrations about their present situation, they came with their anxieties about the unknown future, they came with their longings for past glories and a renewed golden age. That Pentecost, they came.

And so did the Holy Spirit.

'Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where the disciples were sitting. And divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.'

The apostles experienced the presence of God both in power and intimacy. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and sent forth to proclaim the good news of God in Christ, to heal aching souls, to bear witness to divine, incomparable love.

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People responded... thousands of people responded. And that Pentecost, the day ended quite differently from how it had begun. The new believers demonstrated their new found faith by devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. They held all things in common, selling their possessions and sharing with one another. New members were added daily to their number. The Spirit had come and a new community was born. It was a very good beginning, a truly golden age.

And in this lies a problem for us.

It has been said the greatest obstacle to future success is past success. From our failures and mistakes we can learn, but our successes ... well, our successes can fool us into thinking that what worked then must be what will work always.

Pentecost was a great success. But the later introduction of newcomers in the company of believers created unexpected difficulties. Tensions began to surface. Some, like Barnabas, somehow bridged the gap and were accepted into the group. Others, like the Hellenists in Acts chapter six, were not. They were viewed with some suspicion. They had not been part of that golden age, didn't know the inside jokes, didn't fit in.

And yet, it is the newcomers, then as now, who are often most open to new possibilities, even as insiders long for times past. Following the success of Pentecost, the apostles actually held back, stayed where they were, did good work and built up their community but always in the shadow of the temple, always within the limits of their comfort zone. For the movement to grow beyond its Jewish roots, new leaders were needed, and a new base established, which was Antioch. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. Antioch, note, not Jerusalem. Antioch became the base for a new set of missionary endeavours that would reach beyond the boundaries of race and nationality. And the apostles sent out from that base would not be from among the original twelve but former outsiders, Barnabas and Paul.

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It began with Pentecost but it could not stop there. Because the good news is that the golden age is not sometime back then, whenever then was. No, the golden age is now, and every now yet to come, as we encounter the living Christ again and again in new and unexpected ways, in new and unexpected people.

Today we celebrate the birthday of the church; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit whose flames of love and rushing winds of joy and praise, enlivened and enabled the fledgling Christian community to have the confidence and courage to be, to be and to grow, to grow and to spread.

Come, Holy Spirit, inflame and enliven, anoint and comfort, cheer and sustain us, now and in the time to come.

Fr Michael

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**

Reading 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."

Psalm Psalm 104.26-end

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

These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to

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

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works - who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing



praise to my God while I have being. 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!

Reading 1 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.

Gospel 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.'

Post Communion

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**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

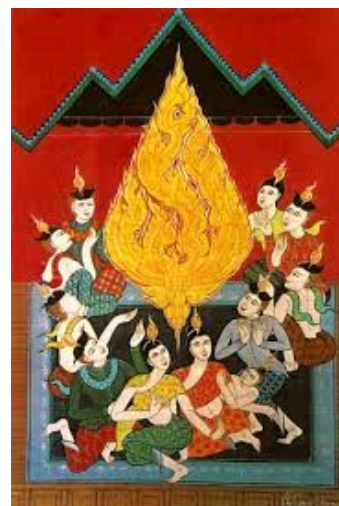
Sunday 7 June 2020
Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40.12-17,27-end Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13.11-end Matthew 28.16-20

Information about events at **Chichester Cathedral** and other resources can be found at: www.chichestercathedral.org

Festivals this week

Mon 1 Jun	The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth (F)
Wed 3 Jun	The Martyrs of Uganda 1885-87 and 1977 (C)
Thur 4 Jun	Petroc, Abbot of Padstow 6 th century (C)
Fri 5 Jun	Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Martyr 754 (LF)
Sat 6 Jun	Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood 1945 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	



DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Coronavirus, church – and YOU

You are invited to complete an online survey designed to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience of coronavirus and the lockdown, and what they think the future might hold. The survey should take 20-30 minutes and is at: tinyurl.com/ycsq9fy2
See *Church Times* 8 May 2020 p.2

Donations to Open House

I have spoken to Open House and they would be grateful for UHT milk, eggs and gravy. I am going to put the blue box outside the St Barnabas' vicarage door and so if people would like to donate items then I will deliver them. Other items for food parcels also gratefully received.
Revd Sarah

CONTACTS

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Registered Charity no. 1131090

We are sorry to announce the death of
David Milburn (Luke's dad)
who died on Tuesday
Rest in Peace, Rise in Glory



HE **BREATHED** ON THEM?
IS THAT EVEN **SAFE**?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT IS... IF IT'S
THE **BREATH** OF GOD!



JOHN 20:19-31

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