



St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh

WORSHIPPING AT HOME

Pentecost

Sunday 31st May 2020

WELCOME

. . . . to our Church at Home resources for this Sunday. We invite you all to stay connected with each other and the life of the Church Community, by using these Worship and Prayer resources at home.

Also, if you do have internet access, you will find a video version of a said Communion Service, with the sermon on the Church Website www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk and on the St Nicolas Church FaceBook page.

*This Week we continue to welcome Home
Worshippers from the Churches at Dunsfold and Hascombe –
it's a pleasure to have you join with us!*

For Families, there will also be live worship at 10am with Gabrielle Clarke available via WhatsApp and Zoom. If you want to join: *(this code is the same every week)* Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/148785166> or Meeting ID: 148-785-166

There is also an opportunity to join church friends for a **Virtual Afternoon Tea and Chat on Tuesdays at 4pm!** The Zoom joining code for this is ID: 804-694-233

PENTECOST

COLLECTS:

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.

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.
Amen.

FIRST 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.”

GOSPEL READING: *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.’

SERMON (Written by The Rector)

The ancient Celts, often referred to The Holy Spirit, not as a 'Gentle Dove', but as a '*Wild Goose*' because because they saw how the Holy Spirit had a tendency to disrupt and surprise. And they saw how it moved through the early church in an unexpected fashion, similar to the rather random actions of a wild goose!

One of my favourite spiritual books (and I daresay I've said this to you before) is called '*The God of Surprises*' by Roman Catholic Priest, Father Gerard Hughes.

As the title suggests, '*The God of Surprises*' is a book about finding God, and in particular about finding him the unexpected places of our lives, but it's also a book about forgiveness and it's a book about understanding that God is actually right inside each of us, and to many, this is the biggest surprise of all! There's a sense, too, in which it's also about healing and wholeness and it's about allowing God's Holy Spirit to have a free reign in every part of our lives.

Which means that it's a book about 'letting in' God's Holy Spirit – the very thing that I should be talking about today, as we celebrate Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Church.

In the readings we heard two very different accounts of God's Holy Spirit coming to the disciples – firstly we heard the events of

Pentecost as described by Luke, who wrote the Acts of the Apostles – and we heard a description of the powerful coming of the Spirit – the fulfilment of the promise that Jesus made to his disciples moments before his Ascension, when he said: *'You shall receive power'*!

But John, in the other reading, describes the coming of the Holy Spirit in quite a different way. His description was such a quiet and gentle account that you could easily miss it.

According to John, on that first Easter Day, in the evening, when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room and showed them his hands and his side, he breathed on them and said to them, *"Receive the Holy Spirit"*.

Perhaps, these two accounts, show us quite clearly the difference between the *'Wild Goose'* and the *'Gentle Dove'* understandings of God's Holy Spirit!

Another way of thinking about the 'Holy Spirit' is to think in terms of the *'Indwelling God'* – the belief that God is to be found deep down inside each of us – the understanding of Gerard Hughes, in his book which I referred to earlier. So, I find the image of Jesus 'breathing his spirit into his friends', a very powerful one. And if God himself is within each human being, then it would seem to be the most important thing in the world to learn how to 'tap into' the power which is already within us – power which can be used in all sorts of ways, for all sorts of different things!.

So, in John's account, the disciples received the '*Gentle Dove*' immediately after Jesus' resurrection but before his Ascension, while in Luke's much more spectacular and flamboyant account, the disciples had to wait for seven weeks before receiving the '*Wild Goose*', during which time Jesus was seen about on earth by many of his friends.

You may think it strange, that the lectionary compilers, and the bible itself, for that matter, give us two different, and so contradictory accounts of the same thing? But it's not so strange really if we think in terms of them both being part of the same great event. What is much stranger, I believe, is that we even talk about a '*Day of Pentecost*' at all! Because, when Jesus promised his disciples that they would '*...receive power...*', I don't believe that he was talking about a single event – rather, he was talking about something that would go on across the space of history – more in keeping with the promise he made to the disciples at the end of Matthew's Gospel, when he said: '*... I am with you always, even to the end of time.*'

If we live our lives in openness to the power of God's Spirit at work in us, then there is no '*Day of Pentecost*' because every day is Pentecost – our whole lives are a Pentecost!

Jesus is the Son of the God of Surprises, and the Holy Spirit is the active agent of his power, and as such is waiting to surprise each of us in some way or another, if only we are ready to allow him to come alive in our hearts and lives, and in our churches!

Which brings us to the heart of the matter – are we ready to let the Spirit come to life in us, or do we prefer to let Him lie dormant, or to keep Him securely locked up in a box which we have created for Him?

Because if we do let the Spirit out of the box, then the '*Wild Goose*' will be flying free, and we will need to be ready for the consequences, because the power which this will bring, will not come in the form of a gentle breeze or a flickering candle – no, this sort of power will be more like the power of the wind in a raging storm, or like the power of flames, ripping through a burning building! It will be a power which is both gentle and strong, both loving and firm, both destructive and creative.

Such power, has been spread throughout the world since order came from chaos – the power which moved across the face of the waters at the beginning of creation, is the same power which rested on Christ at his Baptism, the same power which raised Him from the dead, the same power which came to the disciples in the act of Pentecost, and it's the same power which brings life and health and strength to the living Church of today.

So, the challenge to all of us is this: that we let the Goose go free, that we step out of our comfort zones, and open ourselves up to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit - to renewal, to invigoration, to new life for our churches and for ourselves. This power, is power which will guide, strengthen, sustain, rebuke, uphold, and do all the other things which Christ's Church needs it to do!

And then, we will also discover the '*Gentle Dove*' and find ourselves filled with his peace and his love, his forgiveness and his power and his healing, to put our broken lives and world back together, so that our whole lives may become a daily outpouring of the Holy Spirit – a living Pentecost! Amen.

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.

PRAYERS:

Prayer about the Coronavirus:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love,
and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

For those who are ill:

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers:

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Weekly Prayers of Intercession

Church and Christian Ministry:

- For the work of the Children's Society, and all who work in caring for children through the church
- For our Archdeacon (Paul Davies) and the Area Deans of the Diocese

- For all who work in the Ministry of Healing and Reconciliation (especially for the work of the Acorn Trust)

National and World Affairs:

- For all affected by Coronavirus, and for the Governments across the world, seeking to find ways of combatting the virus
- For our own Prime Minister and Government
- For all scientists working to produce effective drugs and vaccines

Community and Family:

- For those who live in Restwell Avenue
- For all whose jobs have been put at risk and those already unemployed
- For all those who continue to work in public service, especially for NHS staff, police, fire and rescue, paramedics, and shop workers, keeping us well, safe and fed

The Sick and those in Need:

- For Robin Burnett, Mike Ford, Stella Goldsmith, Tony Kenison, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Marion Tomkins, Mac Walker, Angela Wild, Henry Young
(And from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Sandra Baxter-Brown, Sami Bennewith, Judy Bolt, Sue Bowden, Sally Davis, Sue and Dennis Evans, Jenny Glover, Peter Hutley, Dru Ridley, Sally

Rivett, Sue Simper, Lorna Thompson, Jackie Williams, Paul Wiltshire, Christine Woof, Amanda, Francesca, Hugh)

The Departed:

- All we have known and loved (*And especially, from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Jeremy Ayden*)

NOTICES:

Emotional Support Helpline: 01483 901493 – Lines are open 11-3 Monday to Friday if you would like to chat to a friendly helpful voice!

Traidcraft *NEW THIS WEEK***:** As lockdown eases, Sue Knight is able to offer Traidcraft goods for sale. Traidcraft has continued to trade during this time and has picked up more online customers. It will be more important than ever to help the poorest farmers in the world in the future. So, if you are missing the Ginger biscuits, chocolate tea or coffee, she is open for business. She has all her stock boxes on shelving in her garage so would be able to sell from there by appointment or would be willing to deliver to Cranleigh on receipt of an order. She will have catalogues or you can go on line at traidcraftshop.co.uk to see the whole range and if she has to order it in, this usually takes about a week. You can pay for any orders by BACS or she will accept cheques. Sue will also be writing in July's magazine about the situation in Uganda but she was able to send £100 from the Traidcraft account to the appeal for money for food

launched by the Guildford Mukono link . So please consider supplementing your larder, and call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

Plants: Although the Rectory Fete has been postponed, Win Bracking continues to grow plants for the annual plant stall. We are hoping that Win can have a plant sale at the bottom of the Rectory Drive, keeping to all the Covid-19 rules, in the near future. *So watch this space.* Meanwhile she is continuing to sell a few plants from her house (If interested please phone Win on 275573)

St Nicolas Church: Whilst the Church building remains closed, please keep praying at home, and be assured that the Church is still very much in business and seeking to support those who need our love and care. You can still keep in touch in the following ways

The Rector: 01483 800655 or email

roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Parish Office: 01483 273620 or email

elise@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Young People's Minister: 07427 748408

gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Church Website:

www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

and on FaceBook

If you need help or would like to Volunteer: There is now a central point of contact set up by the Parish Council for anyone who needs any sort of help. **The number is 0300 200 1008** (but note that at times you may need to leave a number for someone to get back to you). This number can also be used by those who would like to volunteer to help in any way!

Meals from Rowleys *NEW UPDATE THIS WEEK***:** Please note that Rowleys do NOT provide lunches at the weekend, but only from Monday to Friday. They do provide a roast on Wednesdays only. Apologies for the previous inaccurate information. Orders to Gary or Tina on 277155. Their office is open 9am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

Tim Clifford Hill: Our New Curate, Tim, was due to be ordained Deacon on the 5th July, but due to the Social Distancing issues, the ordinations have been postponed until (hopefully) October 10th. However, he will be licensed as a Lay Minister on July 1st and will, in that capacity, be able to start doing most of the things that he would have done as an Ordained Curate. Tim and Alexandra and young Henry have already moved into the Curate's house this week – please pray for them.

GDPR: If you have not completed a GDPR contact form we will be unable to contact you at all, so if this is you, please complete one as a matter of urgency. You will find them on the website. If you have received your news sheet by post and still have not completed a GDPR Form please contact the Rector on 01483 800655 or Elise on 01483 273620

MORE RESOURCES:

THE LORD'S PRAYER – A MEDITATION *(Written by Paul Jenkins)*

Our Father in heaven

God above us and beyond us

Yet ever present with us

You created us and renew us each day

Heavenly Father...

Hallowed be your name

We offer you our thanks and praise

We worship and adore you...

Your kingdom come

You are the way, and the truth and the life

Come, Lord of my life

Come, Lord of the world...

Your will be done

Teach us to follow your way

To believe in your truth, and to embrace your life...

On earth as in heaven

May we recognise your presence today

And experience a foretaste of the life to come...

Give us today our daily bread

Bread for the body, bread for the soul

May all who are hungry be fed...

Forgive us our sins

Our unkind thoughts, words and actions

Our own sins and the sins of the world...

As we forgive those who sin against us

‘Father forgive them, for they know not what they do’...
Help us to overcome evil with good
Lead us not into temptation
Keep us from turning away from you
and pleasing ourselves...
But deliver us from evil
Defend us from the power of evil
Help us to choose what is good...
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever
Lord of the universe,
We worship and adore you...

Pentecost (A Sonnet by Malcolm Guite)

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

*****SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK***: A Pentecost Message from Paul Davies (Archdeacon of Surrey):**

‘When the day of Pentecost came, they were all in one place’ (Acts 2:1). The opening verse of the story of Pentecost is a painful reminder of the place in which we find ourselves. Being together at Pentecost is more than the church celebrating its birthday; it’s a fundamental expression of pneumatology (that’s the doctrine of the Holy Spirit!) which teaches and reminds us that the Holy Spirit is a gift which is given to the whole church community. I take comfort in knowing that the same Spirit who was able to unite people of different languages on the first Pentecost will be able to unite people of different locations this Pentecost.

Whilst the Holy Spirit is a gift to the whole church, we can also rejoice in this precious gift of God to each one of us.

One of the blessings of lockdown for me has been the gift of a garden. I’ve noticed new life and colour emerge in a way which I never have before. The story of our salvation begins and ends in a garden. And between Eden and Paradise, there are some other significant gardens too. Alas, gardens don’t feature at Pentecost. The colours, however, in mine at present remind me of the gifts that we receive through the Holy Spirit on this birthday of the church: the ruby red rose reminds me of the ‘tongues of fire that separated and came to rest’ on each of the disciples at Pentecost, pouring upon them the inestimable love

of the Godhead; the wild white wisteria recalls the Prayer Book name for this feast – Whitsunday – which reminds me of the work of the Spirit in baptism in cleansing us from sin by washing us white in the blood of the lamb; the poised purple peonies remind me of the royal status that is conferred upon us through water and the Spirit as we are reborn as children of the King of Kings - who sends his Spirit to comfort and protect us; and the glistening green growth in the trees and hedgerows remind me of the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – which grow abundantly in the Kingdom of God.

One of my favourite [non-Welsh] saints is St Seraphim of Sarov. He was born in the 18th century and is one of the most renowned saints of Russia. He said that ‘the principle aim of the Christian is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit’. Let’s all pray this Pentecost, dispersed though we may be, that we may daily increase in the Holy Spirit more and more for it only through the Spirit that we can become a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

In addition to our own resources, here are a few things that you may like to take note of:

- DAILY HOPE The Church of England has set up a Telephone Worship Service with Hymns, Reflections and Prayers – the content changes every day and it is totally FREE TO CALL on 0800 804 8044

- Diocese of Guildford Website (Resources for children and adults) www.cofeguildford.org.uk/
- Guildford Cathedral Website www.guildford-cathedral.org where you will find a lot of worship resources.
- Bible Society Website (Resources for children and adults) www.biblesociety.org.uk/
- Premier Christian Radio www.radio.net/s/premierchristian
- CMS Website www.churchmissionsociety.org/
- Cranleigh Community Radio weekly broadcast available each week from Friday morning. Visit www.destinationcranleigh.net/radio

Please send notices for next week to Margie Nursey at 1, Elm Cottages, Smithwood Common (01483 273693) notices@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk by **7pm on Tuesday**

NEXT WEEK

. . . . our Sunday worship will be prepared by Revd Ian Maslin

If you know of anybody who would like to receive a printed communication like this each week, please call us on one of the numbers above!