

# THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

31st May 2020 – Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

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Welcome to this week's *Sunday Supplement*. For those who can access it, a service of Holy Communion is available on our YouTube channel from 7am Sunday.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMSD6j4ngi9rCe7kzY66Xfw>

The video includes an opportunity to share in the prayer for Spiritual Communion which is set out on page 4 of the *Supplement*.

## READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:26-end

I Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

*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 MESSAGE

*Here is the text of Bishop Emma's sermon, which you can watch in our weekly video service.*

*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.*  
(Acts 2.1-4)

Language is important. Before I wore a dog collar, I taught and studied language. One of my early jobs was for a company that produced dictionaries! And one of the things I know from that is that words - language -

and the way we use it, forms and shapes the way we see the world around us. Some words give great insight into the cultures they emerge from.

For instance, did you know there is a Japanese word for the way sunlight filters through the leaves of the trees? Or that there's a Finnish word for the distance a reindeer can travel before needing a rest? Like the Italian word for being moved to tears by a good story, or the Swedish word for a third cup of coffee.

Language is powerful. You only have to take a brief look at the pages of the Bible to see how powerful language can be: God created the world by speaking it into being. Let there be ... he said. And there was. All through the Bible the Word of the Lord does things, not just says things:

Psalm 107: "He sent forth his word and healed them."

Psalm 147 "He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? He sends his word and melts them." (Sounds like Cumbrian weather!)

So God's words are powerful. And then God sent his own son Jesus he wasn't called The Idea, or the Concept or the Thought, but The Word made flesh.

Language does things, you see. Recently, around the commemorations for VE Day the BBC showed again one of my favourite films, *The Darkest Hour* about Winston Churchill, played by Gary Oldman, in his early days as Prime Minister during the second world war. In fact, it's a film all about words and the power of words to change the course of history. The film depicts Churchill wrestling with how to express things in his speeches in order to inspire and change the hearts of British people. One of my favourite moments is towards the end of the film when Churchill delivers his rousing 'we shall fight them on the beaches' speech in parliament after which Lord Halifax turns to his neighbour and says "he has mobilised the English language and sent it into battle'."

Through history language has been used to change the world, for both good and ill. Language has been used to identify people, to mark out boundaries, to oppress some and liberate others.

My family is from Wales. There was a time there in the 19th c. when it was forbidden to speak Welsh in schools. If you were caught doing so, a shaming sign was put around your neck saying "Welsh not" because English was seen as the 'proper' language for education. The negative effects of that policy continue in some parts of Wales even today. So language can destroy as well as build up, alienate as well as reconcile, tear down as well as gather up, mislead as well as inspire.

So I wonder what God was up to that first Pentecost when a sign of God's coming Holy Spirit was that people spoke in different languages? Let's think about it, those first disciples had been through a traumatic event - they'd seen Jesus crucified, and they'd rejoiced at his resurrection, they'd witnessed his ascension, and there they were - in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem - waiting until lockdown was lifted. And on that day all God's ancient prophecies were fulfilled and down came the fire of the Holy Spirit with a loud sound, which filled the entire house. Not surprisingly people gathered to see what was going on - well you would wouldn't you? They were people from all over the world and from different cultures, some of them visitors to the city who found themselves addressed in their own languages!

*"Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"*

There's a long list of the languages they suddenly began to speak, in Acts 2: the languages of the Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and converts; people from Crete and those who spoke Arabic. All of them said: "They're speaking our languages, describing God's deeds of power" Someone has said that the real miracle of Pentecost is not so much a miracle of speaking, but a miracle of hearing, that the Good News was heard and understood in the mother tongue of each one who gathered that day.

And from that point the Christians went out and spoke boldly about God's deeds. They saw him change and transform individual lives and communities, bringing hope, healing and wholeness.

But have you ever wondered why they spoke so many different languages? If you think about it, if God had just wanted the people gathered around to understand what was being said, why didn't he simply make everyone speak and understand the same language?

Why all the different languages? One of the things that Pentecost tells us is that the new community of the Spirit - that now we call the church - involves everyone and transcends barriers of race, nationality and language. Everyone hears God's works spoken of in their own language. That's significant. When God comes with his Holy Spirit to set the church on fire, he doesn't call us each to speak in the same way or with the same language or to do church in the same way, or to like the same things or be exactly the same as each other. The story of Pentecost tells us that everyone is welcome whatever language you speak, wherever you're from, whatever your story.

The church in Cumbria has not been closed for the past 8 weeks, but it has been different. There has been a multicoloured variety in the ways the church has expressed its faith - in online service, in dial up prayers, in videos and zoom meetings, in community- building and small acts of kindness, in neighbours caring for each other, and food banks providing for those who are struggling, in prayers and appreciation for key workers. In all these ways we have seen God at work.

But now, as we begin to think in due course about opening up our church buildings and shooing away the pigeons and cranking up the church organs and dusting off the bells, I would love to see our church keep hold of the variety and creativity we've found in these days, and the connections we have made between church and home, sacred and secular, spirituality and everyday life. Acts 2 tells us the earliest churches met in homes and in the public worship spaces - and both are important.

So, this Pentecost, let's receive again, the Holy Spirit of God who Jesus has breathed on us while we've been in lockdown.

We need that Holy Spirit - to fill all our our communications, and to help us to speak boldly of the Good News of Jesus - in Carlisle and Kendal and Barrow and Workington and in the Lakes and on our streets, and in our towns and villages and our communities and to the ends of the earth. And to do that we will need the language each of us speaks. Possibly not Mesopotamian, Judean, and Cappadocian (although you never know!), or Welsh or French (although maybe), but the languages of city and country, the language of commerce and of law, the language of politics, teaching and medicine, the language of care homes and farming and tourism, the language of administration, parenting, the languages of music, sport and industry. We need everyone - and all of our

languages and ways of speaking so that everyone will hear of the marvellous deeds of God who lives and loves and sends and equips and comforts and heals.

When God promises "I will pour out my Spirit on all people", this is not just a trickle on a few people. God wants to open the floodgates of heaven upon all of us. God will empower us and give us what we need. More than we need. So let's ask God to fill us again today with his Spirit's fire, and let's live differently tomorrow because of it.

Rise up, church in Cumbria. You have been filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit of God to speak boldly, in many tongues, about God's marvellous deeds. What began at Pentecost continues - here - today. God calls us to join with him in mobilising all of our different lives, fired and inspired by the power of the Holy Spirit to change the world - one life at a time.

I invite you wherever you are to put out your hands a pray that ancient prayer: 'Come Holy Spirit'.

Come Holy Spirit of God. Fill your church - in Cumbria and beyond - with your power from on high. Amen.

## NOTICES

If you need help that you can't get elsewhere, no matter what your age or circumstances, you can email [duddoncommunity@outlook.com](mailto:duddoncommunity@outlook.com) In Kirkby, you can phone Stephen Tudway (01229) 715259 or Linda Dean (01229) 889630. In Broughton and the valleys you can phone Stephen Tudway (01229) 715259 or Selwyn Wright (01229) 716797.

## CLOSING 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.*

# CORRECT PROCEDURES

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS AN...

### ACCIDENT



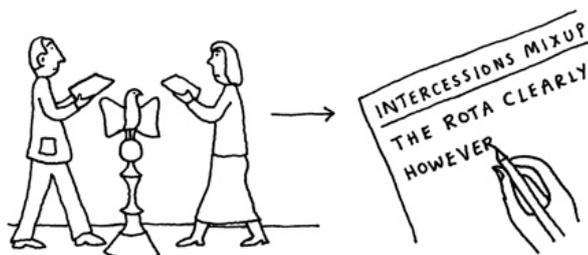
WRITE IT IN THE 'ACCIDENTS' BOOK

### INCIDENT



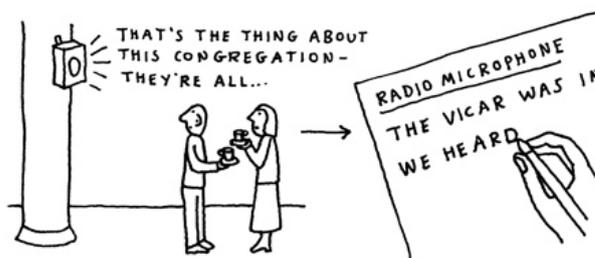
WRITE IT IN THE 'INCIDENTS' BOOK

### AWKWARD SCENARIO



WRITE IT IN THE 'AWKWARD SCENARIOS' BOOK

### EMBARRASSING MOMENT



WRITE IT IN THE 'EMBARRASSING MOMENTS' BOOK

# AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*You may wish to set aside a space for prayer in front of a cross and/or candle, in a part of the house which is calm and comfortable and perhaps decorated for Easter.*

*The Act of Spiritual Communion is best used at the time of normal church services, or as a personal response after listening to a broadcast or livestreamed service.*

*Guidance appears in italics. You may wish to say aloud the words in bold type.*

## Introduction

*Begin by making the sign of the cross and thinking of those who might otherwise be sitting around you in church.*



**In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Reflection

*What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.*

**O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name,  
Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Word of God

*Read one or more passages of scripture, perhaps the readings set for the day. Today's readings can be found listed earlier in this Sunday Supplement. You may wish to read the sermon.*

## Prayer

*Begin with the Collect. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to the needs of the world, our community, family and friends and to the prayers you ought to offer for them.*

*Spend time in silence to reflect on the issues raised in the readings or the sermon and apply them to your own life.*

*End with the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven... or**

**Our Father in heaven...**

## Prayer for Communion

*This prayer may also be used at the appropriate point while watching a live or recorded service of Holy Communion.*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.**

*(After the prayer of St Richard of Chichester)*

## Closing prayers

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty:  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

*Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'*

**The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life. Amen.**