

News and Prayer Update for 31st May (Day of Pentecost)

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need To Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Link for this week's service: <https://youtu.be/KeHJoTAm8>

Hymn: Spirit of God Unseen as the Wind (Margaret V. Old 1932 – 2001)

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Without Your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.

Music: Skye Boat Song Traditional arr. Alastair Durden

READINGS FOR DAY OF PENTECOST

Psalm: Psalm 104: 26-end

²⁶ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁷ There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
²⁸ There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
²⁹ All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
³⁰ When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
³¹ When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
³² When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
³⁴ He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
³⁵ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
³⁶ So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
³⁷ Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.

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Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia.

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New Testament Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

- ¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- ² 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.
- ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
- ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
- ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
- ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.
- ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?'
- ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?'
- ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,
- ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'
- ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'
- ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'
- ¹⁴ 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.
- ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.
- ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
- ¹⁷ "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.
- ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
- ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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Gospel Reading: John 7: 37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,

³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

If I was ever asked to compile a list of my top ten favourite films, 'A Matter of Life and Death' would be guaranteed a place. Starring David Niven and Kim Hunter, written, directed and produced by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger and premiered in 1946, its story of a romance between an British airman and an American servicewoman was intended as a morale booster and an antidote to the resentment felt by some people at the presence of American soldiers in this country in the run up to D Day. The film takes place in two realms, on earth and in another reality, a sort of afterlife although it is not described as heaven. The earth is in glorious lush technicolour, the afterlife in monochrome. The earth is full of emotion, fear, love, hope. The afterlife is legalistic and rule orientated. The transitions between the two are startling and a triumph of cinematography.

Today the church around the world celebrates Pentecost, sometimes called Whit Sunday, recalling the day around 2000 years ago when God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. Jesus had returned to his Father in heaven, but before he went promised his disciples that he would not leave them comfortless. The Holy Spirit, when he came, would assure them of Jesus presence and empower them to be his witnesses in the world. Now it would be ridiculous to even attempt to describe the time Jesus spent with his disciples as a monochrome experience, it must have been one of the most stimulating and lively times they had ever known. Jesus respected the law with all its rules and regulations, but objected to the way in which the religious authorities interpreted it, making it a heavy burden. The description in Acts of that first day of Pentecost presents us with a truly technicolour vision with the rushing wind and tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit empowered those first followers of Jesus to proclaim the gospel and they became an unstoppable force. They experienced the Holy Spirit as a powerful living presence, and to paraphrase the words of Jesus in our Gospel, rivers of living water flowed from their hearts. The Holy Spirit also broke down the barriers that society had erected between its members, barriers every bit as formidable as the Berlin Wall would be 2000 years later. The Holy Spirit ensured that people of every nationality, social and economic class were united in one family.

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The Holy Spirit is certainly not monochrome, and those who believe in Jesus, and as a consequence receive the gift of the Spirit, will never live monochrome lives. They will live technicolour lives and know life in all its fullness. On us, who have been baptised into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Spirit rests.

Collects for Day of Pentecost:

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.

HYMN: Breathe on me Breathe of God (Edwin Hatch 1835-1889)

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved
and do as you would do.
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God;
fulfil my heart's desire,
until this earthly part of me
glows with your heavenly fire.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

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New! Something for 12 to 16 year olds.

Sunday 31st May 2020 – **Pentecost**

What is Pentecost? What does it mean? Follow the link to find out more.

<https://youtu.be/Fpr7uf0Qxzg>

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Things to do:

- **Listen** to these songs on Youtube. They are more modern than we usually have in church even at the Storytelling Service. Warning – they are very different!

Soul Survivor: Everyday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TazHzAZzdUY>

May the Fragrance of Jesus Fill This Place

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIUsGfXo8Ww>

Soul Survivor: Come Holy Spirit.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtEwhW52_rU

- Baking has proved to be a popular activity during lockdown. Why not make a cake to celebrate Pentecost - the birthday of the church?
- If you enjoyed this? Not quite sure? There will be more next week. Join me again to find out more.
- We could do with a name for this group/activity. Any ideas?

PRAYER:

Monday - pray for the neighbours either side of you focusing on those who still have to shield themselves, and physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Tuesday - pray for everyone who lives on your road and where appropriate your street champion

Wednesday - pray for your village/immediate area/the Parish Council

Thursday - pray for your local church, the PCC and your role in your churches mission.

Friday - pray for the United Benefice, the team of clergy and licensed ministers and all who are helping to provide the services and contacts.

Saturday - pray for the church throughout the world and its role: in helping those who are suffering and in need; and telling of God's love.

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NOTICES

Zoom Meetings to help us meet remotely when unable to be together

You can register for free at Zoom.us.

You then just need to click on the links given below to join the meetings. Follow the instructions on screen. Don't forget to enable video and audio when prompted.

Contact Patricia for more details if you wish on 01565 830595

or email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

❖ **Sunday Morning Coffee**

Beginning this Sunday morning and for the next four weeks, there will be a Zoom Coffee meeting starting at 11.00am, but you can join us after that when you are ready. Make your drink, get your biscuits, and click on the link below to join us for coffee and a catch up:

Topic: Sunday Morning Coffee

Time: 11:00am May 24th 2020 (and May 31st, June 7th and Jun 14th)

Meeting ID: 891 5975 2706

Password: 863826

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89159752706?pwd=TTB6M2ZlbEIPZndhaDVKNW9Za1JaZz09>

❖ **Midweek Morning Prayer**

Beginning this Wednesday morning for the next four weeks there will be a Zoom Morning Prayer Service at 9.30am. Bring your copy of the Worship at Home booklet.

Topic: Midweek Morning Prayer

Time: 9.30am May 27th 2020 (and June 3rd, June 10th and June 17th)

Meeting ID: 890 6475 1565

Password: 334926

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89064751565?pwd=WWpmQSs3ei9WcTNJWDRSbkFYOTErQT09>

❖ **Coffee and Chat**

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am.

Topic: Coffee and Chat

Time: 11.00 am each Wednesday.

Meeting ID: 777 1980 5127

Password: 2v8UVT

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77719805127?pwd=VTFEWmdWNVBwdStKemxxRUIBK2dwQT09>

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Magazine

This is now available. Please look for it coming into your inbox.
If you or anyone you know are not online please let us know so that we can get a hard copy to you or anyone else you may know of.

41st Bishop of Chester

Our new Diocesan Bishop will be the Right Reverend Mark Tanner who is currently the Bishop of Berwick-Upon-Tweed in the Diocese of Newcastle.

There is a lot of information on the Diocesan Website:
[www.https://chester.anglican.org](https://chester.anglican.org) and you can listen to Bishop Mark there and some people from this diocese welcoming him to Chester. Bishop Mark was ordained in Chester Cathedral and was a curate in this diocese before going on to other posts.

Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let her know.

Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755559; Mobile 07918 981 723;
Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

Thank You

The Treasurers would like to thank all those who have sent in an offering. This is very helpful as we still have to pay the bills for each of our churches even though we are not able to use the buildings at the moment.

The best way to give is by direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. Better still, if you are able, because your income is not affected, please set up a monthly direct debit.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137
St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969
Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717
St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

If your income has been affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.

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Morning and Night Prayer

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday (Wednesday 9.30am) and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Monday 1st June: Psalm 85; 1 Samuel 2: 1-10; Mark 3: 31 – end

Tuesday 2nd June: Psalm 132; Joshua Chapter 2; Luke 9: 28-36

Wednesday 3rd June: Psalm 119: 153-end; Joshua Chapter 3; Luke 9: 37-50

Thursday 4th June: Psalm 143; Joshua 4: 1- 5: 1; Luke 9: 51 – end

Friday 5th June: Psalm 142; Joshua 5: 2-end; Luke 10: 1-16

Saturday 6th June: Psalm 147; Joshua 6: 1-20; Luke 10: 17-24

Night Prayer from the Day of Pentecost to All Saints Day

This Collect can be used at Night Prayer on any day throughout the year.

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Psalms

Sunday: Psalm 104: 1, 21-33; 134

Monday: Psalm 4

Tuesday: Psalm 143

Wednesday: Psalm 31: 1-5 [19-end]

Thursday: Psalm 16

Friday: Psalm 139: 1-18

Saturday: Psalm 91 (this is the one in the Worship at Home Booklet)