



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:

Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit
And Serve the World

In Contact

PENTECOST

The Gift of the Spirit Acts 2: 1-21

31st May

Birthdays- do you like them?

Some of us want a big celebration every year; some just want to mark the significant ones; and others would rather forget them. It has been hard for us to see birthday plans lost through the Covid-19 pandemic.



Pentecost is the birthday of the Church for on this day 3000 people joined the followers of Jesus who had been only around 150 before this.

All this happened because God gave a gift- the promised Holy Spirit. This was foretold by the prophet Joel who wrote of events over 700 years before Jesus.

How do people give us gifts? Sometimes we have hinted about what we would like but the best are the unexpected, thoughtful gifts given by someone we love.

When God gave the Spirit, although expected, it was still a surprise. It came dramatically with wind and fire and the disciples speaking languages they had never learnt. The symbolism behind this is the reversal of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11. 1-9). God demonstrates his power. Fire was the symbol of God's presence guiding the Israelites in the wilderness.

Wind represents the breath of God through which He created everything, but it comes here as a "violent wind" (Acts 2.2) to remind us just how powerful the gift giver is. And this gift was to each of them (Acts 2.3) but as Peter points out in verses 17 & 18 quoting from Joel, it was for everyone- regardless of gender, age or status.

What was the gift for? On the day of Pentecost, it was to give the disciples boldness to speak about God's deeds of power (v.11) and particularly for Peter to stand up and proclaim that Jesus, who was crucified, had been raised and that God had made him both Lord and Messiah (Acts 2.33). The Spirit helps us today to do the same- to help others know that there is salvation for those who call on the name of Jesus (v.21). He gives us power to be witnesses but also helps us to be more like Jesus by growing the fruit of the Spirit in us (Galatians 5. 22-23) and He equips the church with supernatural gifts (1 Corinthians 12. 1-11, Romans 12. 6-8, & Ephesians 4. 11-12).

The gift of the Holy Spirit is to us all right now- not just for the early church. He is a gift from God and **God gives good gifts** to those who ask Him (see Matthew 7.11 & Luke 11.13). So we need to ask for this gift and then open it and use it. It is not to be left in the package.

And we need to keep on asking for this gift so that we might be constantly refilled with His Spirit to be more like Jesus, and boldly witness in our world today that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah.



Parish Office Tel: 0161 432 4606 E-mail: admin@stmargaretsburnage.org.uk

Rector Matt Calladine Tel: 0161 432 1844

Bible Verse for 2020:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Ephesians 1: 17



Daily Hope is a free phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

Timetable for a Children and Families Worker

Early June– advertise the post and receive applications.

Early July– shortlist and interview (most probably online).

September– new person starts, depending on how things develop with the pandemic.

Please hold this process in your prayers. Days of prayer will be announced at a later date.

Parish Centre Cleaner

The PCC are looking to hire a cleaner on a 'contract for services' basis for the Parish Centre.

Interested candidates should contact Ruth Miller Tel: 0161 225 9732 for more details.

Mission Representatives

The PCC are looking for two people to act as mission representatives for: The Boaz Trust and The Message Trust. This primarily involves being a point of first contact to receive and pass on regular updates to the PCC and the congregation. Please contact Matt for more details.

May 31st to June 6th Please Pray for:

- ♦ People living in Brookway Close & Burnage Lane (Green End to Barcroft Road).
- ♦ Holy Spirit to be at work in power in us.
- ♦ Fear over school reopening for parents, teachers and staff.
- ♦ Helpful supervision of Duke by Matt on Wednesday by Zoom.
- ♦ Inspiration for Celebration team planning Father's Day service.
- ♦ University students doing online exams.
- ♦ Christian interim president of Bolivia, Janine Annez, as the pandemic worsens.
- ♦ Continuing provision of food parcels to the poor & needy in India by IEM.
- ♦ God to be at work in the right person to become our Children & Families Worker.

Television & Radio this week:

BBC 1: 11am Sunday Worship– Pentecost led by the Bishop of Hereford
11.30am Sunday Morning Stories. This week- stories of hope with Rev. Kate Bottley
1.15pm Songs of Praise looks at Pentecost with, Rev. Kate Bottley

BBC Radio 4: 8.10am Sunday Worship: Stephen Gibson leads an Elim Pentecostal service from City Church Cardiff in which Dominic and Catherine de Souza reflect on Pentecost during lockdown.

TV FreeView- Channel 725 (or DAB Digital Radio):

Premier Christian Radio - Big Sunday Worship from 10am.

TV Freeview Channel 65 – TBN UK: Sunday worship at 11.30am.

Sunday Evening 8 o'clock: Light a candle and break bread when others from our St. Margaret's family are doing the same.



Help is available if you need it: **Call 0800 234 6123**



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