

# pentecost sunday

## Collect and readings for Pentecost

### 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.

### READINGS

The Acts of the Apostles (NT), chapter 2 verses 1-21  
Psalm 104, verses 25-35 (OT)  
First letter of Paul to the Corinthians (NT) chapter 12,  
verses 3b-13  
Gospel, John chapter 20 (NT) verses 19-23

## Malcolm Guite's Sonnet for Pentecost

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 and breathed and kindled into Earth.  
The Earth herself awakens to her maker,  
translated out of death and into 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.

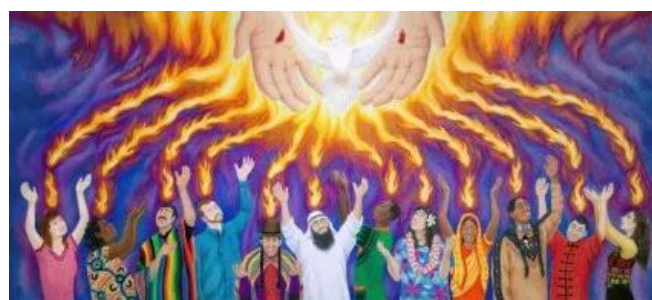


## Happy Birthday to the Church!



I don't mean St Mary's Church, or the churches of St Lawrence, Combe Florey, Cothelstone or Bagborough but The Church – God's Church throughout the world. Today is the birthday of The

Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in Jerusalem and gave them power, courage and authority to step outside the place where they were gathered and in hiding and shoved them out - out into the world at large. Not only that, but they were able to speak in such a way that those visitors to Jerusalem from all over the known world could understand what they were saying. It's very easy to judge people's behaviour; it's easy to sneer to protect ourselves from something which makes us uncomfortable and uneasy. In our reading from Acts the presumption was made that the disciples were drunk. How else could they behave in this way, without having consumed copious amounts of wine to release their inhibitions? It wasn't possible.



However, we know that for God nothing is impossible. The disciples had received what Jesus had promised them and Peter quotes the prophet Joel to them – reminding them of what was written in the Scriptures in which they professed to believe. It was easier for the crowd to presume the disciples to be drunk, because it suited them, but Peter was having none of it. I remember when I was training for ordination, and the thought of preaching was like a big black cloud on the horizon for me. I was dreading having to preach, being someone who shied away from speaking in public. Well, the laying on of hands by the Bishop at Ordination must have communicated the Holy Spirit, because when I eventually stood in a pulpit for the first time there was no stopping me.

I don't know where the words came from which I spoke; I don't know where the courage came from to get me up the pulpit steps; I don't know where the strength came from to stop shaking – although I have a fairly good idea. Sometimes when I'm preaching or just talking to someone either in person or on the phone, words come out of my mouth and I think 'Is that me talking? Where are all these words coming from, which I don't even have to think about as they just pour out?' Now, I'm not saying that we should all be ordained, or preach. I am a firm believer in ministering to people as Christians in the way in which we lead our lives and walk alongside those who need support, and lend a listening ear which is so important but often lacking these days. However, some of us are required to speak, to teach, and to instruct so – again – it's a case of the gifts of the Holy Spirit all working together to bring about a whole united body of people who are the Church.

Our psalm this Sunday is quite a lengthy one, and we read only a part of it. It's a great hymn of praise in which we acknowledge all that God has done and recognise his hand in all things. It acknowledges our dependence upon God, and that God rejoices in everything and we should reflect his glory along with all creation. The psalm ends by confirming that we will always praise God with our whole heart and being and that we may do his will and show forth his greatness and his love and compassion in the way we live our lives.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, which is our 2nd reading on this feast of Pentecost, Paul reminds us about the gifts of the Holy Spirit – that there many but that we are one body, united with our Christian brothers and sisters across the world wherever they may be. We do not all have the same gifts, but each relates to and is dependent upon the gift of someone else. The gifts all interlock and interweave, to make up one Church and all this is through the working of the Holy Spirit – like a wind which blows where it will, in all sorts of directions and while we can feel its presence we cannot see it.



So, very positive and uplifting readings for God's church today, as we come to the end of the Easter Season. Next Sunday we acknowledge God as the Trinity: Father Son and Holy Spirit and I will share a few thoughts with you about that next time.

I am a great fan of Malcolm Guite's poetry, as some of you know and others will be coming to understand! I love his careful choice of words which just always seem to hit the nail on the head and express exactly what I struggle to put into words. In his sonnet, he reminds us of Earth, Fire and Water – we are made from the earth and we return to the earth, and the Holy Spirit is both fire and water and that combination is sufficient to evoke a response not just from Creation but from all of us – if we will stop and listen and share the Love which underpins and floods all that we do and all that we are and all that we say. This is a great sonnet to enthuse our hearts and our spirits with joy and excitement, confidence in God's presence everywhere and that God will provide through his Spirit all that we need to be his disciples, his Apostles in the world today. So, what words should be on our hearts and our lips today – 'Alleluia! Thank you!' And in response to Jesus' great commandment at the end of our reading from St John's Gospel, we can say 'We will accept your peace and your precious gift, and we will go wherever you send us.'

*Maureen*

### Maureen's Bible Knowledge Quiz

Please don't be put off by the heading for this section, because you imagine that you don't know anything about the Bible. I thought it might be enjoyable and interesting to offer you each week a short quiz, and to base it on the Bible to enable readers to gauge how much they know but also to introduce others to the Bible and offer a fun way of finding their way around it and learning about it.

I'm starting with just five questions, which I think are quite easy and I've even provided multiple choice answers! If this endeavour works well and people enjoy it, the questions may grow to a larger number in future editions and also become slightly more difficult and testing and without multiple choice! Answers to this quiz will be provided next time; no prizes I'm afraid – just the pleasure of taking part (which I'm told is always more important than winning!) and finding that your knowledge is increasing.

Q1: What was the name of the person who built an Ark, and saved his family and animals from the Flood? A) Abraham. B) Noah. C) Moses.



Q2: In which book of the Old Testament is the above story written? A) Exodus. B) Job. C) Genesis

Q3: Who spent the night in a den of lions? A) Samson. B) David. C) Daniel

Q4: What are the first 4 books of the New Testament collectively called? A) Pentateuch. B) Gospels. C) Epistles.

Q5: What is the last word at the end of the Bible? A) Amen. B) Goodbye. C) End

## A cut above from Michael Gale



Maureen's comments last week, the closure of barbers' shops during the lockdown, and the consequent problem of getting a haircut, remind me of the time I started to live in Spain. Where to go for a cut? Initially I found a shop at the edge of San Pedro. There were three barbers in a line busy cutting and only two customers waiting.

I soon had a place in the right-hand chair at the same time as a loud voiced man took the left end chair. He started a general conversation over a controversial local football match. My man – who was clearly a supporter of the opposite side – took objection to many comments, particularly when his back was turned, as he cut my left side.

So he moved to my right in order to face his opponent and have his say. He was sure his centre-forward had not charged the goalie illegally when scoring the winning goal. In reiterating this point the hair on my right side was nibbled shorter and shorter. Occasionally he nipped to my left side, turning his back disdainfully on the opposition's increasingly belligerent remarks. But in these brief intervals he could only take quick chunks out of my hair. The result was an unbalanced cut.

I didn't go back again.

*Michael*

*Another hair-raising cutting experience from Michael next week!*

## From Gavin and Maureen Lord

Hello everyone

These get better and better! This week a song all about 'Apps' from Canon Chris Bishop and his brother in law David Pickthall. Enjoy!



<https://youtu.be/H1cFjOGyUWU>

Best wishes

*Gavin & Maureen*

## Pentecost By Penny Gale

Holy Spirit – who comforts all,  
You save us when we often fall.  
We pray that you'll stay ever near,  
Then nothing in this world we'll fear.

Holy Spirit – Advocate,  
Support and help all those who wait  
For answers to their urgent prayers,  
You smooth their path and ease their cares.



Holy Spirit – Heavenly Dove,  
Sent to Earth to show God's love  
May we reflect this, and show care  
For those who heavy burdens bear.

Holy Spirit – Loving Guide,  
You're always with us, deep inside,  
Our close Companion, on 'The Way'  
To guide our footsteps, lest they stray.

Holy Spirit – One of Three  
In the Holy Trinity,  
With the Father and the Son  
You love us all, till life is done.

*These verses could be sung to the tune of 'Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep'.*

## Splashing news from the Church Centre!



I'm delighted to inform you that Wessex Water have now connected up the new supply pipe to the water main in West Street. Our plumber will be completing the final connections within the Centre on Tuesday this week and this should finally resolve the longstanding problems with low flow rate within the building.

*Adrian*

**Psalm 100 – a new tune by Pam Layley**

Dear All,

It's lovely to read the contributions provided by so many of you each week and I feel rather lazy having left it so long. However, I have been trying to learn the words of Psalm 100 – one of my favourites, but memory for words is not what it used to be! So – I decided to write a little tune to help me. It's very simple, as I'm no Composer, but I thought you might be amused. If it can't be downloaded, I can put a copy through your letterbox – should you want one!  
Pam

Psalm 100 (NIV version)

Show for joy <sup>to</sup> the Lord all the earth, Wor-ship the Lord with glad-ness;  
Come be-fore Him with joy-ful songs, Know that the Lord is God. It is  
He who made us and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pas-ture.  
En-ter His gates with thanks-gi-ving and His courts with praise.  
Give thanks to Him and praise His name for He Lord is good  
And His love en-dures for e-ver, His faithfulness con-tinues throughout all gener-ations

## Our Prayers

Mighty God, as we are gathered together, not physically but spiritually, joined in hope and in faith, we ask you to minister to our needs. Send the Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

*Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer*

Holy God, we pray for our church leaders, that they will be guided in their ministry by the influence of the Holy Spirit and that the Church, in the power of the Spirit, may make the Gospel understandable to people of every race, language, and culture. That the Holy Spirit of Peace may unite and reconcile the peoples and nations of the earth, bringing an end to war, hatred and discrimination.

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer*

Faithful God, we pray for our Benefice communities, that each of us, in these strange times, will be open to the opportunities to give of our individual talents enabling each church to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church. We pray that each baptised Christian may develop more fully his or her response to all the gifts which the Spirit bestows for the service of the Body of Christ,

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer*

Father God we pray for your world and its peoples with all their needs, questions and longings. So often we struggle to understand the reasons behind things like the Corona Virus; and yet we know that in the midst of such events your love is shown in the acts of bravery, selflessness and compassion which we are seeing all around us especially by our health services and those in the wider community who continue to serve our needs.

We pray for all who suffer and for those who are tasked with providing the medical and community support and, eventually, in the long task of rebuilding all that is lost.

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer*

Loving God, we pray for all those who are sick; guide them and strengthen them through their illness. We pray also for those who care for the sick, those engaged in the caring professions and for family members who look after loved ones. Today we pray especially for: Peter, John, Gwen, Joan, Bobby, Lucinda, Norma, Marissa, Roger and Wendy and for all others known to us.

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer*

Merciful God, we pray for all those who have died: give them a place at your banquet in heaven. May the Holy Spirit, who purifies us of sin and raises the dead, bring all our departed loved ones into the fullness of your presence.

*Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer*

Everlasting God, on this Day of Pentecost, we rejoice in the wonderful gift of your Spirit. Send him again into our hearts, into our lives, and into our world.

*Merciful father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

## Spike's column



Hello everyone!

Here I am with some more top tips about how to make the most of the lockdown.

As we all have more time it is an ideal opportunity to catch up on all those books we have been meaning to read. The books behind me are mostly about art but my favourite is an excellent one about penguins written by someone called Ursula Franklin. I like it because it has lots of pictures!

It's been several weeks since we all stocked up at the start of the lockdown, so you may be running low on some things. I have been checking the cupboards for supplies and have just received my re-order of Felix! YAY!!!

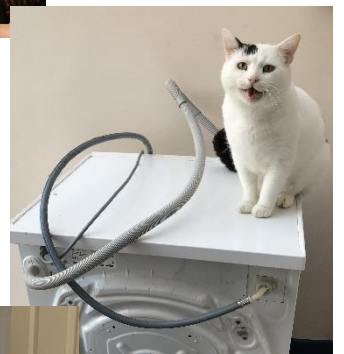


Whilst it's nice to have lots of time it's easy to let things slip. I've had to have a discreet word in Mrs Human's shell-like to remind her of her responsibilities, as you can see below!



How long is it since you pulled out your appliances to clean behind them? I encouraged Mr Human to do ours and you would be amazed what we found!

Finally, may I remind you that this Sunday is Pentecost? A good way to mark this is to light a candle to represent the Holy Spirit. I have quite a lot here to light!



See you next week!

Love from  
*Spike xxx*

## From David Smart



This is a time when we find ourselves forced to wait. Waiting doesn't come easily when we don't have a timescale. The old ways aren't possible and we can't picture yet what the new may look like the other side of lockdown. How do we live and cope in the meantime?

We are instructed to keep the church locked up together with the churchyard and to suspend all work such as grass cutting etc. But the Holy Spirit is not in lockdown and God's creation continues to flourish. Apple, pear and plum blossoms have been and gone, the fruit is set and the grass continues to grow.

Whilst on a walk around the locked church the other day I met an elderly gentleman who was clearly in some distress and wanted to enter the church. Having explained why he could not do that we went together to sit on a seat in the extension. We talked a lot and prayed together and it turns out that he and his wife had only been in the village a few weeks when his wife died of a heart attack. The rest is another story but during our talks, and we have had several since, he asked how we coped with maintaining St Mary's

The grass was still growing and plans had been made to cut it and he asked, having been in the jungles, did we know what was in there?

After he had left the thought occurred to me that no, we didn't know, and I decided to carry out a survey before cutting.

At the moment there are some 24 identified grass species alone with names like Yorkshire Fog, Cocksfoot, Crested Dogs Tail, and one for Spike, Smaller Cats Tail (right).



Clearly the Creators "quiz" proved very useful and uplifting and makes us wonder even more about the world around us and what it contains for our delight.

So the next time you say you are bored with lockdown go out into the garden and count the weeds, yes weeds, but before you remove them, try and identify what God has given you first. It's great fun, possibly one for the children and you can learn together?... And don't forget to say thank you to the maker!

Keep safe.

*David*

## From Katherine Lyddon



Katherine warmly invites you to daily prayers using the Zoom meeting facility, starting at 2.00pm daily, Monday to Saturday.

**Please note the details for joining the meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/94873333863?pwd=NXhybG5MbKNTQaUzTeGdNL3J4SUNVdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 7333 3863

Password: welcome

Dial in 0208 080 6591

Meeting ID: 948 7333 3863

Password: 712229



**Church without Walls** is a 45-60 minutes interactive worship including songs, confession, readings, prayers and of course 'notices'. Everything is displayed on screen but it helps if you can bring your own bible, cross and candle to light. We have households of one, two and many joining. Everyone is welcome. Every Sunday at 10.00am.

**Please note the details for joining the meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/840868823?pwd=eE81dDlBc2xGdDkYVdCTZzpt2RoZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 868 823

Password: welcome

Dial in 0203 481 5237

Meeting ID: 840 868 823

Password: 440846

*From Revd. Selina Garner.*

"The Wellington Team of Churches has put together an alternative service for Pentecost. It is an outdoor service and includes filming outside and above many of our village Churches, as well as a river confession, some favourite hymns to join in with, some amazing art from Fiona to reflect upon, a sung prayer from Rev Tim, some outdoor prayers for the Holy Spirit to Come (sent in by people from our team), some sharing from our new Village Chaplain Tracey, from Christine our Team and Mission Administrator and from John Young our Missional Music Director. We break bread together to pray for the broken world and as we drink wine or juice we will ask the Holy Spirit to fill us up.

The online outdoor Pentecost service is now available on the Wellington Team Churches YouTube Channel by clicking the link below:

[https://youtu.be/K1HSDw6JR\\_A](https://youtu.be/K1HSDw6JR_A)

I pray you can find a way to remember the first Pentecost and to pray together for the Holy Spirit to fill her church again and this service might be helpful. Meanwhile may you be filled with the Holy Spirit and streams of living waters..."