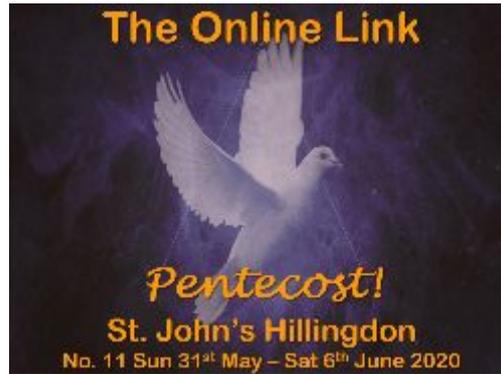


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Your Sunday Service Link (10.30 am):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481452808>

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One of the many things I am sure I will remember when I look back on this 'coronavirus time' is the memory of going shopping!

I'm not a great shopper at the best of times although I am learning to be a more patient shopper. Amongst many things I am sure I will remember is the queuing, the marker tape on the floor, the 2m signs and the cashiers behind screens. The masks too!

I was very surprised by the lack of queuing I had to do when shopping today! I managed to walk straight into HSBC bank without having to wait and there was also no queue at Boots in town, at Morrison's in Yiewsley nor at Tesco Express near the hospital. The largest queues were at Sainsbury's in Uxbridge and Tesco at Yiewsley, so I gave them a miss! I also noticed no one queuing to get into Aldi in Yiewsley. Of course, one of the problems with a long queue or travelling around is if you need the loo! Where do you go and do you want to venture into a public loo anyway, even if open? Dare you risk touching any surfaces?!!

What are some of the things that characterise this time for you, and what do you think some of your memories will be looking back? Please do take a photo or two of something that typifies 'lockdown life' for you, and email in for our collection.



Join us as we Adventure with the Early Church

We are just about to start a series on Acts! Join us in the adventure!

I want to encourage you to get into this book. Do follow the readings and the teaching every week and look at the resources we have been putting together on our website. This includes resources for 'beginners' who are new to this book and there will also materials for those who may have some understanding and experience already.

The resources include a children's video (!) which is great for adults, especially if you want to start simply and simply start! There is also a summary video and other resources, which will be added to. We want everyone not only to gain some knowledge, but also to be able to have 'epiphany' moments where we can see how the Book of Acts is speaking to us (to **you!**) personally and how we can apply insights to our lives,

[Click here](#) to visit resources, which will be available always via the 'Book of Acts' tab on our website.

Pentecost Art and Craft Competition! We are encouraging children, and all ages, to come up with a drawing or painting, or a craft, on the theme of Pentecost. Please do email in a picture of what you come up with!

Keep loving and praying in God's name,
Love,
Alan



Christmas. Easter. **Pentecost!**

As believers we need to more naturally and intentionally recognise and celebrate Pentecost without it being a 'second thought' add-on! Christmas, Easter and Pentecost are all so important in the Christian story and to our faith. In the 'secular' world Christmas and Easter are fairly well recognised and understood as key points in the Christian faith. Not so with Pentecost. We need to do something about that!

"Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us."

Robert Baer

For believers and for those who are searching and wanting to grow, understanding what Pentecost is about can be helpful and important. Of course it is more than just head knowledge that is important and we need to appropriate, by faith, a personal experience of Pentecost! In summary, Pentecost is about the **indwelling** and **empowering** of God's Holy Spirit.

i.e. **indwelling & empowering!**

Many also refer to the events at Pentecost as the birth of the church.

Pentecost has its origins in Judaism like many of our Christian traditions. The Feast of Pentecost is the Festival of Weeks which is one of the three main feasts celebrated in the Jewish year. This occurs 50 days after Passover. It was during the Passover that Jesus was handed over to be crucified. '50' is in the English word 'Pentecost' which comes from the Greek word 'pentekostos', which means 'fifty.'

There were 40 days between Easter and Jesus' Ascension which we celebrated on Ascension Day last Thursday. Just before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his disciples "wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about." (Acts 1:4). The disciples waited for a further 10 days when the Festival of Weeks began.

So we get 50 days in total. It was at the Festival of Weeks that the gift that Jesus had promised came down from heaven upon the apostles. The gift was, of course, the Holy Spirit that came upon them and filled them. They experienced an **indwelling** as the tongues of fire descended. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2: 3,4)

The disciples were enabled to speak in languages they hadn't before studied or learnt. This was due to the **empowering** of the Holy Spirit.

So, on Pentecost, the disciples experienced an **indwelling** and an **empowering**!

Following those events Peter then gives an amazing sermon that cuts to people's hearts and 3000 become believers and are baptised. The believers then share their lives together and **so is born the first true Christian church**. It is not long before the number of men who believe number 5000 (Acts 4:4).

People in those days went to the temple in order to make their sacrifices and to worship God. God's presence was in the temple. Now things had significantly changed! Now the Holy temple, God's presence, had come to live inside human beings by **indwelling** internally there. God's Spirit had come to reside in the human spirit. God's presence is no longer something that believers need to seek externally; the temple is internal!

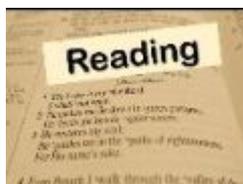
All of this is fascinating and interesting. But we don't leave it there. There are many personal messages for us living in the here and now! Of prime importance is that the Holy Spirit that **indwelled** and **empowered** the believers then is available to **indwell** and **empower** us personally today. This isn't an optional extra, it isn't something to be feared, it is an amazing gift from God! What a privilege to be united with our Holy God through the Holy Spirit that can live inside of us. The Bible tells us the our Heavenly Father will give us this gift if we ask: "how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

For those of us who have already received (or believe that they have) we need a refreshing encounter. We need to be filled again and again for we are leaky vessels. There is always more, don't think you have arrived!

How will you know when you have the **indwelling** and **empowering** of the Spirit?

You will know! Praise God!

Thank God for his gift of the Spirit! Don't miss out on the gift!



Acts 2:1-13

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."



Tunisia

Praise God that the North African church is growing! In Tunisia, for example, which had only around 80 believers in 1998, and 1500 by 2015, in the last two years an estimated 800 new believers have been added to the church. "I believe there will be a new explosion of growth in North Africa," says a local believer. "People are seeking. I personally am connected to at least eight people searching." Ask God to continue to build His church.

Arabian Peninsula

Pray for those who mentor and disciple new believers across the Arabian Peninsula. Pray that they will find ways to continue to connect with those who have no other support, and strengthen them with the love of Jesus.

Iran

Remember Iranian believers who are in prison or are being monitored by the authorities. Pray that the peace of Jesus would prevail in their hearts and for confidence that God the Father is near, no matter how stressful their situation.

In our Locality

Pray for two named ministers/priests known to you:

- Pray for wisdom as the minister attends to the administrative duties of the church.
- Pray that the minister will be refreshed in mind and spirit through the study of God's Word and prayer.

- Pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and anointing upon the ministers in preparing messages each week

Pray for those who have lost loved ones during this time.

For Yourself

Pray for your own spiritual growth and that God will lead you each day to those he wants you to minister to, whether that is to serve others or to pray for them.



Whenever Brian and I are out for a walk, we inevitably cross the River Pinn at some point. Within St John's parish, and if you are on foot, it is possible to cross the river in 6 different places or 7 times if you are a member of the Golf Club in Vine Lane.

The Pinn is an ancient rivulet, at one time also known as Ruislip Brook and is nearly twelve miles long. It rises on Harrow Weald Common and flows down through Pinner, Old Eastcote, Ruislip and Ickenham. From there it crosses Hillingdon House Farm Sports grounds and then on through St Andrew's Park to Brunel University. It then runs through Pield Heath to join the Frays at Yiewsley. The Frays joins the Colne southwest of Drayton Mill. The Colne in turn flows into the Thames near Isleworth.

I have read that at one time the Pinn was a good fishing stream, but work has been done in recent times to prevent flooding the surrounding areas and it is now much narrower and more shallow. It is also fed by numerous drainage outfalls which carry rainwater to the river. When we moved to Hillingdon in 1985, there were floods most winters at the junction of Hercies Road and Honey Hill, but we never see that nowadays.

At the moment in this hot spell of weather, the water is a very shallow stream of clear water trickling along, but after a spell of heavy rain it changes dramatically into a fast flowing deep muddy torrent and we always make a point of taking a walk to the Pinn when it's in full spate.

There is something very tranquil about walking alongside a flowing stream and I thoroughly recommend it. Details of walks by the Pinn can be found online:

<https://archive.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/8718/Celandine-walks>

Christine



Part of The River Pinn



St. John's Invests in a more Eco friendly way!

The capital from the sale of the old school hall (where 'Cheeky Chums now is in Royal Lane) is invested. The Trustees of the Hillingdon Old School trust and the PCC of St. John's Church have now reinvested a good proportion of the capital into a new 'Climate Stewardship Fund' that has been set up by our investment company 'Epworths'.

This is what Epworths have said, "UK charities told us they wanted an equity fund that would help save the planet while still aiming for good long term returns. So together we created one."

Alan

Sounds of Nature

The crunch of snapping twigs underfoot, birdsong from above, rustling of trees.

In the breeze. Woodland sounds have been shown to have a direct impact on our wellbeing, making us more relaxed, less stressed and less anxious.

A new study commissioned by the National Trust explored how soaking up the sounds of the natural world affects people, and found it relaxes us more than if we listen to a voiced meditation app, and in the tests, reduced feelings of stress and anxiety by over a fifth.

In a poll of the Nation's favourite sounds these were the results. Do you have a favourite?

- 1 Birdsong
- 2 A running stream
- 3 Wind rustling tree leaves
- 4 Silence
- 5 Twigs snapping underfoot
- 6 Animal noises
- 7 Wind whistling through trees
- 8 Rain falling on leaves
- 9 Conkers hitting the ground
- 10 Squelching mud

Christine R



Happy Birthday

Anna Walters a resident at Parkfield House will be 100 on 2nd June. Anna and her daughter always come to the larger services at St John's.

Thank you

Celebrating the wonderful people at St John's with thanks to, Kay for lending the "some like it hot" DVD to Parkfield. Lynn, Caroline, Peter, Lynda, Roger and Jenny, for giving colouring books and magazines to the Parkfield residents.

Launch of New Climate Stewardship Investment Fund

Please see this news under 'Eco News' above

For those who have no internet access, the Daily Hope free phone line is available 24 hours a day

on **0800 804 8044**

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