



June 2019

Dear Friends,

The 9th June will be Pentecost Sunday, also known as Whit Sunday when Christians celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The book of Acts, in the Bible gives an account of the events of that day. The first Christians are together in one place and a noise like a violent wind fills the house. What seems to be tongues of fire settle on the disciples and they start speaking other languages. Then, Jews who'd come from many different countries for the Feast of Pentecost realised they were hearing words in their own languages. "What does this mean?" they asked and it was Peter who gave them an answer. It was after hearing this that no less than 3000 people became Christians that day. They welcomed Peter's message about the promise of forgiveness through Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, and they were baptised.

Peter was once so scared that he'd denied knowing Jesus three times but now he could speak fearlessly about Jesus. He was a changed man. The first Christians discovered that the Holy Spirit gave them the power to change too, the power to become more like Jesus Christ himself, to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are known as 'The fruit of the Spirit'. They also discovered that there was more. They discovered the gifts of the Spirit. Some are more spectacular than others but all are important. There are gifts like prophecy, tongues and healing; gifts like teaching, leadership and generosity; gifts like giving, hospitality and administration. There are many more gifts of the Spirit and they're all given to build up the church, to help us serve God and serve others.

Over the last nine months, I've seen the Holy Spirit at work in the people of our community and I've seen them putting their God-given gifts to use in supporting the church after the theft of the led from the church roof. Since that devastating incident we have had numerous fundraising events - with more to follow; we have installed a roof alarm and in May a temporary felt roof covering. We are very grateful to our Methodist brothers and sisters for allowing us to share their church but I'm very pleased to announce that from June we will be back worshipping within St. Peter and St. Clare.

We still have quite a long way to go to raise the money required to put a permanent roof covering on the church but on Pentecost Sunday we will have a special service of thanksgiving to celebrate our return to the church and say 'Thank you' to our Methodist friends - All are Welcome.

Pentecost Sunday isn't just a celebration of something that happened 2000 years ago but something that's at the heart of the life of the church today. The Holy Spirit comes to enable Christians to play their part in the life of the church and in our wider community. Each one of us is given different gifts by Him but they are given for the same purpose - to enable us to serve God and to serve others. The great evangelist, Billy Graham, once wrote "We are no longer waiting for the Holy Spirit - He is waiting for us." He is waiting for us to invite him to fill us and to keep on being filled so that we can serve God and serve others.

Every blessing to you this Pentecost.

Rev'd Nicki