

NEWSLETTER

12th June 2025



Dear Everyone - Greetings.

Pentecost: What a joyous service we had for Pentecost. There was a real demonstration of the unity that was shown at the first Pentecost when all were gathered together in Jerusalem and received the Holy Spirit; the gift that Jesus promised. We may not have understood each other's languages but we heard and knew what was being proclaimed, said and sung by different members of our church family. "We may be many but we are all one body" was so effectively shown throughout the service. We came in to worship songs from Nigeria with percussion, that lifted our hearts and made us want to dance. We had, "The Lord's Prayer", in English, Yoruba and Ibo, and we all joined in with our own languages. We had the most joyous praise song from the Philippines sung by our Philippino members. Geoffrey and Donald accompanied the Pentecost hymns. Karan anointed each of us with oil, praying that the Holy Spirit would fill us with blessing. So now we come to the end of the Easter season, that has been a rich and full one for us all. We remembered the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem and as well as those listening to, and, to their surprise, understanding each other's languages. And here we were, 2000 years later. Receiving the Holy Spirit and the praises spoken and sung in a variety of languages, showing that, "while we are many and diverse, we are truly all one". Thank you to all who contributed.





Happy Birthday Keith:



It was Keith's turn to have Happy Birthday sung to him and prayers given to wish him health and happiness. Keith does so much in our church in many different ways, for which we are so grateful. We, of course, had a delicious birthday cake after the service (two in fact) which everyone enjoyed.

Pentecost – Bishop of Edmonton: Please read below a talk given by the Bishop of Edmonton, our bishop, who has written so powerfully about the meaning of Pentecost that I have included the whole text in full.

Wednesday Morning Coffee: As usual our coffee morning is from 10.30am-12noon; coffee, cake and a chat. Afterwards there is communion at 12noon. Do come and join in.

Listening and Learning, Bible Study: The date of this next session will be on Thursday 03rd July at 6.30pm.

Toddler Group: The Toddler group is going well. If anyone would like to help our volunteers, please talk to Kamran or Ifey. Thank you for those who help with it; the support you give is much appreciated.

Day Outing to St Alban's: This will take place on Saturday 21st June.



Invitation to Zehra Ellianna's 2nd Birthday Party: We are all invited by Zehra's parents to her Birthday Party on **Saturday 28th June from 3.00pm**. It will be held at Holy Cross and St Michael's Hall, Golders Green Road, NW11 8HL.



Invitation to a Crafts Event at The Inspire Centre St Judes, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb NW11 7AH, from, Dr Jeyda Korusoy. Jeyda has invited those of us who enjoy making different crafts to this event. www.heritagecommunitycrafts.org.uk You could bring your own materials or Crafts Materials are supplied. **Date: Thursday 26th June 2025. 6pm - 8pm. Entry: £3 Ages: 14+**

Annual Joint Service and Barbecue: will take place on **Sunday 20th July at 11.00am** (Please note the change of time). The morning service will be a joint one with our Asian Congregation of friends followed by the annual barbecue in the vicarage garden. This is always such an enjoyable event and great fun. Please put the date in your diaries and come along. Let us hope the sun shines and the rain stays away!

Pentecost - Malcolm Guite: Malcolm writes on his sonnet for Pentecost: (His sonnet is below)

"This is a sonnet reflecting on and celebrating the themes and readings of Pentecost. Throughout the cycle, and more widely, I have been reflecting on the traditional 'four elements' of earth, air, water and fire. I have been considering how each of them expresses and embodies different aspects of the Gospel and of God's goodness, as though the four elements were, in their own way, another four evangelists. In that context I was very struck by the way Scripture expresses the presence of the Holy Spirit through the three most dynamic of the four elements, the air, (a mighty rushing wind, but also the breath of the spirit) water, (the waters of baptism, the river of life, the fountain springing up to eternal life promised by Jesus) and of course fire, the tongues of flame at Pentecost. Three out of four ain't bad, but I was wondering, where is the fourth? Where is earth? And then I realised that we ourselves are earth, the 'Adam' made of the red clay, and we become living beings, fully alive, when the Holy Spirit, clothed in the three other elements comes upon us and becomes a part of who we are. So something of that reflection is embodied in the sonnet".

Pentecost Intercessions - Jenny's prayers reflected the theme of Pentecost, rejoicing in the "Day the Lord has made" from psalm 118. In her prayers she co-incidentally picked up some of the theme of Malcolm Guite's sonnet of the power of Water, Wind, Fire and Spirit. The full intercessions are below and ones that could, perhaps, help us in our daily prayers.



Pentecost: Modern Icon from Ukraine

Archbishop of Canterbury: Job Description Published: The Church of England is seeking a new Archbishop of Canterbury to replace Justin Welby who resigned in November. The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) is responsible for nominating the new Archbishop and aims to announce a nomination by autumn following public consultations involving over 11,000 people.

A Job Description for this important position has been produced and, while I have not seen all of it, elements of it have been published in a variety of papers. It is interesting and heartening to see in the JD, that women are included. While women have been ordained in the Church of England for a number of years, there has never been a female in the top role, but, this could happen. We are told that, rather than applying, it is usual that candidates are “invited in” to the process.

Historically, candidates have been people who already have senior leadership roles in ministry in the Church or elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. They must be at least 30 years old, and generally younger than 70 years

I have trawled through what I can find and have put a number of key points that have been included for you to see. (Below) What do you think of them so far and, what would you like to see added.

With love and many good wishes – Sally



Holy Spirit Fall Afresh On Us – The Bishop of Edmonton

**“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability” Acts 2: 4**

Every year in our Christian calendar the Day of Pentecost reminds us of a new creation, another incarnation, with wind blowing and tongues of fire falling, and the amazing experience of speaking in different languages! God breaking into the whole creation to continue the work of building up a just and faithful community. Although the coming of the Holy Spirit is often associated with confusion and disorder, it also clearly demonstrates freedom and excitement. An extraordinary event indeed.

Unlike other events of God’s spirit in the Bible, which was reserved for few, the Pentecost experience is for everyone and not just a chosen few, which gave birth to the Church! The Holy Spirit was falling upon not just the disciples, gathered in a room, not just the holiest or the most faithful or the most learned, not just the believers, not just those who were with Jesus on the road or witnesses to his Resurrection, but all flesh, male and female, old and young, slave and free, everybody received the Holy Spirit, everybody was invited and included in this new birth of the Church. Pentecost was an experience of sacred solidarity, not a solitary mystical journey. It was a visible and communal eruption of God’s power. It is also important to observe the disciples; they did not perceive God’s doing in advance but discover as it happened and unfolded. Therein lies an important aspect of discipleship, it is not laid out in front of us as a blueprint, but we had to discover God’s plan as we follow the Spirit. Because of their openness the Holy Spirit was able to convert the small group of terrified disciples into a community of believers and empowered them to become the Church.

The Holy Spirit facilitates both continuity and creativity to the ministry of the disciples. Being relevant and open to the challenges of our times. Moreover, the importance and wonder of Pentecost could be fully understood only in the light of the arrest, humiliating trial, brutal execution and marvellous resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost comes to remind us that we have not been abandoned. The Pentecost also carries the memory of the biblical Jubilee Year, where freedom and new life is brought to the slave life.

I am reminded of the words of Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch for the World Council of Churches in 1968, ‘Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away, Christ stays in the past, The Gospel is a dead letter; church is simply an organisation; authority is a matter of domination; mission is a matter of propaganda; the liturgy no more than a reflection of Christians living a slave mentality. But with the Holy Spirit, God is with us, the universe is resurrected and groans with the birth pangs of the kingdom, the risen Christ is here, the Gospel is a living force, the Church is a communion in the life of the Trinity the body of the living Christ, authority is a service that liberates people, mission is Pentecost, the liturgy is memory and anticipation, and human action is God’s work in the world.”

How might we experience Pentecost today? The very first thing these Spirit-filled believers did was to move from the upper room to the streets and proclaim the good news to the people standing around in the street. The primary gift given by the Holy Spirit is the gift of witness. To experience Pentecost today is to actively engage with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This isn’t a passive event; it’s a divine empowerment that reshapes our lives, our communities, and our engagement with the world. The Spirit works in us personally, but for a communal purpose: to equip the Church to be a powerful witness. Just as fire does, the Holy Spirit ignites our spirit, warms our hearts, purifies our lives, lights our path, and enables life to flourish.

This empowerment by the Holy Spirit has a specific purpose: to enable us to be authentic and compelling witnesses of Jesus Christ in a world that is hurting and aching for healing. The courage that stems from the Holy Spirit is not a mere absence of fear, but the profound conviction to speak and act in alignment with the truth of the Gospel, even when it is unpopular or costly. The power given by the Spirit is a dynamic, life-

altering energy that fuelled the early Church. It is the power to love unconditionally, to forgive offensively, to persevere through trial, and to see lives genuinely transformed.

Dear Sisters and brothers, the Holy Spirit enables our witness to be more than just words; our lives themselves become a testament to the reality of Christ. Our role as witnesses is directed outward, toward a world fractured by division, shadowed by anxiety, and marked by loneliness and injustice. In the face of this brokenness, a silent faith is insufficient. The Holy Spirit compels us to step into these places of pain, not with easy answers, but with a presence that reflects the compassion of Jesus.

May God the Holy Spirit fall upon us afresh and set our hearts and lives on flame.

The feast of Pentecost 2025

Pentecost- Malcolm Guite: Pentecost



A Pentecost Banner at St. Michael 's Bartley Green

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 out and breathed and kindled into earth.
 The earth herself awakens to her maker
 And is translated out of death to 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.

Pentecost Intercessions - Jenny

Jenny's prayers reflected the theme of Pentecost, rejoicing in the "Day the Lord has made"

"As we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, let's begin our prayers with some wonderful celebratory words from Psalm 118:

This is the day the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it

I'm going to say that again. Please join me in saying the words 'We will rejoice and be glad in it'

Let's pray, My starting point is some prayers from the Community of Aidan and Hilda, which is based on the Holy island of Lindisfarne.*

In the beginning O God
Your Spirit swept over the chaos of the cosmos
Like a wild wind, and creation was born.
In the deep and unsettled waters of our lives and our lands today
Let there be new birthings of your almighty Spirit.

We pray for the world: at the end of each phrase, please join me in saying '**Pour your lifegiving Spirit.** We'll then have a short pause so we can each offer our own silent prayers prompted by what we've just heard.

Creator God: Over regions of the world devastated by war and conflict

Pour your lifegiving Spirit....

Over communities destroyed by natural disasters

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

Over our government, local and regional authorities

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

Over our businesses and enterprises, our schools and colleges

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

Over neighbourhoods struggling with crime and deprivation

Pour your lifegiving Spirit

Over tired and broken families

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

Over the lonely, the sick and the bereaved

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

Over those struggling with addictions, and those feeling abandoned or left out

Pour your lifegiving Spirit.....

And we pray for ourselves, this church family and all your people

Spirit of the living God

Anoint our creativity, ideas and energy
So that even the smallest tasks may bring you honour.
When we are confused, guide us
When we are weary, energise us
When we are burned out, infuse us.

Spirit of the living God
May our souls be free to roam your boundless stretches of space.
May we soar high like the eagle
See horizons as yet undreamed of
Glow with fires of compassion
Flow with streams of creativity.

Spirit of the living God

Come like fire and warm our hearts
Come like wind and refresh our limbs
Come like water and revive our souls
Come like the earth and nourish our being.

Amen

The Celtic Prayer Book, volume 1: Prayer Rhythms, Ray Simpson (published by Kevin Mayhew, 2003)



Archbishop of Canterbury: Aspects of the Job Description

The job description includes:

The candidate must have "utmost integrity", be able to address issues affecting vulnerable people, who is able to speak honestly" about issues and injustices in the church;

To be a "servant leader who shows compassion towards the disadvantaged and marginalised";

The chosen candidate should possess theological depth, be a, a strong communicator with people of all ages and backgrounds;

They should show compassion, and offer a Christian perspective on various dialogues, while also supporting the ministry of both women and men;

The chosen person must be someone who is happy to ordain and consecrate women and men and "will unequivocally affirm and support the ministry of both, and may themselves be male or female";

They must also be "unapologetic about offering a Christian perspective to local, national and international dialogue";

The new Archbishop must navigate divisive issues such as same-sex marriage, embracing diverse views within the Church, and constructively engaging in ongoing discussions about blessing services for same-sex couples. but also someone who can "embrace" both those who support and oppose same-sex marriage in the church;

The chosen person must also have "worked and will continue to work constructively" around ongoing discussions around blessings services for same-sex couples, and "embrace" both those who support and others who oppose same-sex marriage in the Church;

The person "will recognise with honesty the complexity of the current situation and the strongly held, but different, convictions present in the dioceses as in the Church of England more widely".

How We Are

As always, we send our love and prayers to all those who are sick. Please continue to pray for them that they gain in strength and good health; that God's healing hands may be upon them. Pray also for those who are grieving because of the loss of a loved one. We remember and pray for Sheila Grodzinsky's husband, Peter, and her children Sacha and Natasha and her grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

Please continue to pray for Keith, and for Myfanwy; for Anita Houghton, Chuba Agbim, Eunice Adiele, Gideon Onwutalu, Sir Edmund Onochie, Rose Ochwada.

We hold all the above in our hearts that they may be filled with God's healing love.

Please continue to let us know of family members and friends who are sick and would welcome our prayers, either by WhatsApp, email, Kamran@gg-pc.co.uk or by phone, 020 8455 1873

Topic: Church Wardens' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8585545365?pwd=em85aDF5ZmJ5ZkVlb0x0aDhY2paUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 554 5365

Passcode: J4FbKf

Reader:

Intercession:

Hospitality:

Eucharist Minister:

AV Desk:

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Revd Kamran Bhatti Office Tel: 020 8455 1873 Website: www.gg-pc.co.uk

GGPC ROTA

Date	Bible Passage	Readers	Intercessor	Refreshments	Eucharistic Minister	AV Desk	Duty Managers	Service leader
15/06/25	2 Chronicles 7:1-10	Nwennaka	Nehar	Bilan	Daniel/Ezim	Ruth	Tim	Nehar
22/06/25	Nehemiah 1:1-10	Sim	Alexis	Naila	Sally/Tony	Onyeka	Alaiza	
29/06/25	Psalm 34:15-20	Andrew	Kai	Cynthia/C hinwe	Tim/Naila	Shaniv	Florence	Alexis
06/07/25	TBC	Elizabeth	Nwando	Nora	Ifeyinwe/Onyeka	Daniel	Synthia	
13/07/25	TBC	Sohail	Tony	Bilan	Nehar/ Nwadi	Ruth	Shaniv	Jenny