

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Pentecost - 31st May 2020

Collect: Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive our Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 104.24-end

24 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

26 There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,



30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—

32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' (Acts 2.1-21)

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (7.37-39)

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.**

Reflection: 'Come and see! Come and be part of this - something amazing is going to happen!' Jesus is calling out in this gospel reading, pointing people forwards. Jesus is right there, in person, talking to people in flesh and blood, the Son of God walking among them. But *he is pointing ahead to something new*. Isn't that incredible? God was going to come and be with us in a new way, a closer, deeper way than ever before. Even when Jesus was with people, teaching and preaching, he was telling them that something new was on the horizon, that we would be able to have a new relationship with God, and that God's kingdom would come *on earth*. This is why Pentecost, the arrival of the Holy Spirit, is the birthday of the Church. It marks the beginning of a new way of being, like the opening chapter of a new book.

Before the coming of the Spirit, people had to keep a distance between themselves and God. There are many stories in the Old Testament (the parts of the Bible written before Jesus) of how rare and dangerous it was to encounter God's power. But the coming of Jesus changed everything. It closed that chapter, that way of being, and opened the door to a new relationship between us and God. So the arrival of the Spirit is incredible.

In our reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the Spirit comes with wind, fire, and the gift of languages. It's very dramatic, full of awe, wonder and power. It must have felt like one of those rare and dangerous moments! But with the Spirit's coming, that history of it being rare and dangerous to encounter God is ended. Instead, the power and glory of God is gifted to us, to dwell in our hearts, to be with us as we build God's kingdom on earth. The Spirit is God-with-us. The beginning of something new and amazing!

So today we celebrate all things made new: a new commandment, a new covenant, a new creation, a new church. The old has gone and the new has come. Because all that Jesus came to do and to teach us has been fulfilled. The Spirit has brought the light and love of God into our very own hearts and souls, and we will never be the same again. Our call now, is to remember Jesus' words, that '*out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water*'. For this is how we help God's kingdom to come on earth every day, to listen to the whispers of the Spirit, and to live in such a way that people look at us and see the blaze of the Spirit's fire within us, lighting us up like stars in the universe with the love of God, poured out like a river for all people.

- Rev Cat

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Alleluia! The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**Here are the words of two hymns you
may like to sing or pray this week:**



Holy Spirit, living Breath of God
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me
Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for Your purity.

Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
Holy Spirit, come abide within
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show Your power once again on earth
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

1 O Breath of life, come sweeping
through us,
Revive Your church with life and power.
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew
us,
And fit Your church to meet this hour.

2 O Breath of Love, come breathe with-
in us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your Church in every part!

3 O Wind of God, come bend us, break
us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

4 Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and ripe?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip Your church to spread the light.

Call this number → for free,
for a greeting from Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury! Then lis-
ten to hymns being sung, prayers, or
reflections. Give it a go, it's a lovely
way to worship from home!



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



Pentecost 31st May, 4pm - CATCHING THE FIRE

Pentecost worship for all, led by Bishops Martin and Mike, celebrating God's mission across the whole diocese. Online at <https://www.light-wave.org/catchingthefire>

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Sophie, Adam, Jenny and Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew Derrett, Peggy, Pat, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Julie, Samantha, Jill, Rex, Molly Johansen, Margaret Christian, Marion (Val's sister-in-law)

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Mike Harding, Emily & family (9 years old with cancer), Juliet Adams, Matthew Hare, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Pete Tancred (improving), Val's niece, Katie (cancer), Peter, Hazel Messenger (cancer, very ill), Jim, Richard (June's nephew), Sylvia Eley, Dougie, Robert (depression)

All who are affected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world: For the **International Rescue Committee and other aid agencies** working to curtail the spread of Covid19 in developing countries; **for all health care staff, esp. those in care homes.** For all who are living alone and self-isolating. All affected by domestic violence. Pray for our Schools, teachers & staff.

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss, among them: Gerry (BLT), Agnes Kronenberger, Dee (Parkview), Margaret Hewitt (friend of Audrey) **R.I.P.**



Birthdays this week:

June Baker (1st)

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation

(each week we will include a dozen names)

Simon (DoM), Ian & Helen Davey with Freddie & Frankie, Val (choir), Rebekah, Sylvia & Russell, Susan Dickerson, Amanda & Luke, Caren with Emma, William & Daniel

Online Church Services:

Sunday 31 May Pentecost - 10am
ZOOM Worship St Thomas

7pm: Ecumenical Celebration: LORD BLESS IPSWICH at <https://networksuffolk.online.church/>

Tuesday 2 June -6.00 pm LiveStream

**Meditation on facebook/
StThomasPilgrimCommunity
facebook/StThomasIpswich**

Wednesday 10 June:

**10 am Livestream Eucharist facebook/
StThomasIpswich**

Sunday Worship Video & other Worship resources on the church facebook page.

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

Church website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NWIPSWICH FOODBANK organised by the Big Local Trust:

Please drop non-perishable food at Castlehill Community Centre, Highfield Road on MONDAYS between 9.30 and 11.00am.

Contacts:

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Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly
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Cat's day off: Mondays

If you would like to chat, please do give us a ring:

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