

ALL SAINTS' NOTICE BOARD

PRAYER REQUEST

Carole is visiting hospital on Friday 21st for her pre-operation tests. Please pray for her at this time, and for all the many NHS staff she will be meeting to manage her condition.

FUNERAL

The funeral of Mrs Maisie Hinchliffe Webley took place on Thursday 20th May. Please pray for her family and friends at this time.

FUNERAL

The funeral of Mrs. June Bolton will take place on Friday 28th May in All Saints'. Please keep June and her family and friends in your prayers this week.

A big thank you to the Garden Gang

for all their work and effort in the churchyard.

This week the cherry tree blossom has been swept away and summer bedding plants have been planted. It is looking lovely. Thank you to Colin for varnishing the gate and getting it looking smart again.

ROTAS

Church life is beginning to get back to normal (sorry, but there is still no congregational singing, indoors OR out). We need help to run the services:- sidespersons, readers, intercessors, cleaners, servers, linen washers (and ironers), and someone to sit at the computer (and stream the services). If you can help, please speak to one of the church wardens, in church or phone Leslye 0113 281 2488. Thank you.



SUNDAY 23rd MAY 2021

PENTECOST

Holy Communion

Readings Acts 2.1-21; John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15

Collect

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



SUNDAY 30th MAY

TRINITY SUNDAY

We will be celebrating outside at St Philip's Scholes.
10 o'clock start.

Letter from Andy
Saturday 22 May 2021

Dear all

Happy birthday to you; happy birthday to you; happy birthday, dear Church; happy birthday to you!

Pentecost, which occurs tomorrow, is seen as the birth of the Church. It was the point at which the group of disciples went from cowering, frightened, praying and waiting huddles in an upper room to being confident, assertive proclaimers of the Word in multiple languages as the Spirit enabled them.

But there's the key, 'As the Spirit enabled them'.

At this point it's worth looking at a couple of the symbols of Pentecost to see what they can tell us about the Holy Spirit and his involvement in the Church's life, and in our lives. The symbols I like most are the wind and the multiple languages.

In Hebrew the word for both wind and God's spirit is the same, *Ruach*. In Genesis, God breathes his spirit (*Ruach*) into man to give him life, so every person on earth has the spirit of God in them, giving them life. But more than that, right at the beginning of Genesis the wind from God sweeps over the dark, formless waters of the deep. This Spirit of God is there in the world giving meaning and creating life right from the beginning of all things.

So if the spirit of God is there in all things and in all people, what's the point of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples? The difference is between smelling good food and eating a whole meal of it. Recently when I've been for a walk, I'll smell a barbecue in a neighbour's garden. I know it's there and know what it tastes like, but it doesn't nourish me. In order to get the nourishment I've got to go and make a barbecue myself, cook the meat and then eat it. It requires some effort on my part.

Pentecost reminds us that we need to be yearning and waiting for the Holy Spirit to make a difference in our lives – just as the disciples spent 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost waiting and praying for the helper to come – before a difference can be made in our lives and in our churches. The

wind is a reminder that with the enabling of the Spirit of God, we are like a kite that can fly higher and higher, not on our own strength, but in the strength of God.

The multiple languages offers us a different message, one of enabling community within difference. The Church is a combination of many different people, each from their own background: black, white, male, female, gay, straight, young, old. Each comes with their own baggage and joys, their own beliefs and expectations. As humans, we can never satisfy all of these expectations, but in the spirit of God we can learn from each other's views, joys and sadnesses, and see God in each other.

The Trinity, which we will celebrate next week, reminds us that God is ONE and God is THREE. Both singular and multiple. United, yet diverse. And the Church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is stronger when it recognises and enables love to flourish in and through the diversity.

Happy birthday, Church, I'll eat a slice of cake on your behalf!

Blessings,

Andy

Telephone services

There is a dial-in prayer service (c.30 mins) at 6pm on Sundays. The services allow people to speak and listen, to be anonymous or to take part. To join these calls, dial 0330 336 0036 and enter the PIN 716 416.

Calls can be made from either a landline or mobile and are at a local rate from your service provider. Call Alan Stanley on 0113 281 2769 if you need help.

There are weekly prayers and chat, on **Wednesdays at 11am;**
join by Zoom – click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87348030764>
and key the Meeting ID 873 4803 0764 (if requested), or

join by phone – dial 0203 051 2874 and then enter the Meeting ID 873 4803 0764.