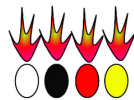
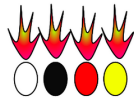
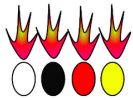


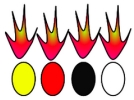
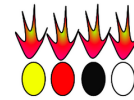
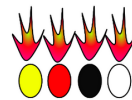
Connected

Sunday 28th May 2023

Pentecost



Pentecost



This Sunday is fifty days after Easter when we celebrate Pentecost, which is also known as Whit Sunday. At Pentecost, Christians commemorate the Holy Spirit coming down from heaven, filling the hearts of the gathered people in Jerusalem. Pentecost is one of the major feast days of the Christian calendar.

It wasn't an accident that so many faithful people were gathered together in Jerusalem that day. Jews and Christ-followers from the different regions were congregating in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot. Shavuot is a Jewish festival when the harvest is offered to God and when the community gratefully commemorated Moses receiving the law at Sinai. Something not dissimilar was happening again at Pentecost – God was equipping his people in Jerusalem as he did in Sinai.

A violent wind came from heaven and tongues of fire came to rest on the people gathered there. Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit which enabled them to speak in other languages. This is sometimes called speaking in tongues. Witnesses were perplexed and assumed they were drunk!



Before he died, Jesus promised his followers that he would not leave them as orphans (John 14:18) and, at Pentecost, this promise was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit descended. Jesus' death and resurrection coincided with Passover. So God's second great rescue (the redemption of human sin in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus) took place on the celebration of his first great rescue (from the Egyptians). The coming of the Spirit and the giving of the law to Moses were both occasions when God offered a new way of life to his followers. Now that we have the Holy Spirit, we have everything we need to live between Jesus' first coming and his second coming.

Living by God's purposes can be remarkably ordinary (unlike the first Pentecost) - doing your job with integrity and compassion, being a caring and patient parent, or showing welcome and kindness to new people at church.

Larissa

Sermon Snippets

Acts 2: 1-13

Christ Church

The Holy Spirit filling the Jews and Jesus' followers at Pentecost transformed the faith of those gathered on a personal level, but it also catalysed the church's development. This experience of deep communion between believers, when they were able to communicate in other languages, profoundly changed them.

They were united in their mission for Jesus, in spite of their different-ness and they were equipped by the Holy Spirit.

The crux of Sunday's sermon is that we need to continually receive God's Spirit and to be transformed by it.



Emmanuel

Pentecost marks the launch of Christ's followers into the world; to be His witnesses 'in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'. From that day to this, it remains our commission too, as His followers.

As we gather this Sunday, we celebrate together the fact that we never walk alone and we aren't asked to undertake this task in our own strength, but by the power and equipping of God's Spirit in us.

So, like those gathered in the upper room, let's come together this Pentecost Sunday with eager anticipation, with praise on our lips, and excitement for all the Lord is still commissioning and equipping us to do, as His witnesses 'in the all the world'.

What's On This Week

Monday 29th May

No Ladies Together this week

Tuesday 30th May

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel
The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 31st May

No Seedlings Toddler Group this week

Thursday 1st June

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre
Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

Saturday 3rd June

Open Garden from 2:30pm-5pm
(see programme for further details)

Notices

Church Office Closed

Please note that, during the week commencing 29th May, the office will be officially closed. It will still be manned at some point most days but not necessarily during 'normal office hours'.

Nicky Unavailable

Please note that Nicky will be unavailable from Monday 29th May til Thursday 1st June inclusive.

Verse For The Week

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14: 15-18

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page

Prayer Pointers

Sunday

Give thanks for the coming of the Holy Spirit amongst us. Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit in our church communities today.

Monday

Remember before God the children and teachers at PreSchool in Christ Church and our links with Christ Church School.

Tuesday

Pray for those who attend The Beacon, and for those who prepare food and share in the Christian talk afterwards. Pray for receptive hearts and minds.

Wednesday

Give thanks for the work of the Bible Society. Pray for Bible translators - that the Word of God may reach all languages and people groups around the world.

Thursday

Pray with the Church Mission Society for the troubled and suffering in our world; for the war-torn, those experiencing famine, states where there is political unrest, and places where the Christian Gospel meets with persecution.

Friday

Remember by name before God family members and friends who live abroad that we may not see very often. Pray that God will keep them in his tender care.

Saturday

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us commit to living and telling the story of Jesus; pray for conversations that build and lives that flow with the grace of God.

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day Off - Tuesday)
t: (01934) 709343
e: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk

Rev. Larissa Trust (Day Off - Tuesday)
t: 07379 754372
e: curate@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)
t: (01934) 641016
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

Coffee after the Service...

Save the date
Weston Church Fest
15th July 2023

An all day event for all ages held at three Weston churches:
Christ Church, St Peter's and Locking Castle



More details to follow

Katrina Sodzi &
Sam Mills'
Wedding



You are warmly invited to join us for our wedding ceremony: Monday 29th May at 11am (at Christ Church)

The service will also be live-streamed for anyone who is unable to attend in person:

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/katrina-sam/>

Quiet Day for Pentecost

Thursday 8th June
10am-3pm



with Sister Ann Morris
at Uphill Methodist Church Retreat Centre
(Uphill Road South BS23 4SD)

Cost £10 - which includes lunch and hot drinks

For more details talk to:
Meg Hill at Emmanuel or
Sue Cannock at Christ Church

What is the Bible about?

Can I trust what the Bible says?



Explore the displays, compare the translations, discover new life histories.

There are a few surprises tucked away come see what you can find.

Launching our new
BIBLE EXHIBITION

At

Life, 13 The Centre,
W-s-M BS23 1UW

OPENING
SAT MAY 27TH
10 am - 3 PM

With refreshments.

See, hear, touch, read and smell! Bibles and prayer books from 1675 to ones hot off the press.

Why is the Bible still printed today?

For more information please call us on 07717 323890

Request from John...

Does anyone have any of the following which they can donate to Christ Church:

(1) non-plastic garden pots?



(2) any plants in their garden no longer wanted?

(3) any plants in their garden from which cuttings can be taken?



If so, please speak to John Hinchliffe.

Many thanks!

More coffee anyone...

Christ Church School Appeal

The Diocese is running “leaver days” at Bath Abbey to help children prepare for this and to know that our God “goes with them”.

The cost per child is £16.50. Would you like to sponsor a child or two to make this possible? Or just give a general donation towards the overall cost.

You can give via this link:

<https://pay.sumup.io/b2c/QGKOH2D6>

Or, alternatively, please speak to David (our Treasurer) if you would like to donate.

Thank you.

Tom



Locking Castle Church
Ladies Day
Saturday 3rd June
10-3pm
'Refreshment in the Spirit'
with guest speaker
Caroline Deakin
Please see Rosemary Burden for more details on reburden23@gmail.com
£10 each. Bring a packed lunch



Venue: Locking Castle Church,
Bransby Way,
BS24 7BW (01934 519888)
Contact: Rosemary Burden
(reburden23@gmail.com) or Emily
Cumberbatch (07905 516624)
to reserve a space.

Wells Cathedral Slavery Conference

This conference caught my attention against the background of the report on institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police and the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

The conference followed a huge amount of preparatory work by the Cathedral, the University of Exeter and the Somerset African Caribbean Network as well as museums in Wells and Antigua & Barbuda.

Speakers talked about the trans-Atlantic slave trade; in particular 10 million Africans enslaved in the Caribbean. Rev Dr Carlton Turner from Jamaica talked about how Christian theology was distorted and used to support the subjugation of black people in the past. We also heard from Joy Lawrence, an historian in Antigua, who told us of conditions on plantations and highlighted that hundreds of years of inadequate diet and inhumane conditions have altered the DNA of the African population in the Caribbean so that they now have a very high incidence of hypertension and diabetes.

You may ask ‘what is the connection to Wells?’. It lies in three families: the Trevelyans, Dickinsons, and Todways; absentee owners in Granada, Jamaica, and Antigua respectively. With their profits they leased land from the Cathedral which was in financial difficulties in the 18th Century. Donations followed to the Cathedral and other institutions and, gradually, members of these families began to populate the Cathedral Chapter. Some of our bishops benefitted from this but others were involved in campaigning for abolition. Even when slavery was made illegal, the plantation owners were given compensation by the government whilst freed slaves got nothing.

How do we respond to such an overwhelming history? Rev Turner called for a stance where we ‘raise consciousness, deepen better connections, and ensure a different future’. I think that this conference contributes to such aims. Joy Lawrence talked about reparations in line with historical payments, for example from Germany to Israel after World War II. She made a case for the need amongst African Caribbean communities to develop education and healthcare and to encourage cultural awareness. She mentioned that the Trevelyan family has already voluntarily made apologies and donations concerning the actions of their ancestors, from whom they have inherited a privileged lifestyle.

Such a legacy is not solved by one conference, or one family’s acknowledgement, but a process has started which we can hope and pray will be replicated and on-going into the future.

Bev