

Sunday 19th May 2024: Pentecost and Aldersgate Sunday

For use by the Central Norfolk Circuit at 10.30 am or other suitable time.



StF 152 H&P 578 'This is the day' by Anonymous

Opening Prayer

Think of the past week and say both 'thank you' and 'sorry' to our loving God.

Epistle set for today: Romans 8 v 22 – 27

StF 390 H&P 740 'My God! I know I feel thee mine' by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Reading from Acts set for Pentecost: Acts 2 v 1 – 21

To think about

Read the reading from Acts again – this time slowly and meditatively, imagine that you were there: maybe in the room with the disciples, maybe outside in the street, maybe further away. Note the sounds and sights and smells... how does it make you feel?

Message from a Circuit Friend

I wonder what the word Pentecost means to you. When I was a child, the word Pentecost only came in the Bible reading for the day. 'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.' (Acts 2:1 KJV) We called it Whit Sunday. It meant a new dress, the first new potatoes of the year, and an afternoon service for the Sunday School. It was followed by Whit Monday and a week off school. The day also meant the reading of what happened to those who were 'with one accord in one place'. What dramatic, scary moments they must have been for the disciples, to be described as a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire and the sudden urge to speak in languages that they didn't understand. The news spread and people from all over the known world came to see and hear what was going on. And they could hear and understand what was being said. People from all those places, the names of which can cause concern if you are the one appointed to read the story aloud, had come to Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost, the harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the festival of Passover.

Now that the Spring Bank Holiday has become divorced from the Church's Holy Day, many people don't know the story of the day when the Christian Church was born, even if it was some time before the name 'Christian' was adopted. How often are we, descendants of those disciples, with one accord in one place? How often are we so filled with God's Spirit that others need to come and find out what is going on? And how often are we able to speak with such passion for our Lord, that those who are 'strangers' to the Gospel hear and understand?

Pippa Cook (Local Preacher and member of Stibbard Methodist Church)

StF 395 H&P 295 'Spirit of the living God' by Daniel Iverson (1890 – 1977) (*use reflectively*)

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for our world... for the church... for our communities... for our families & friends...

Pray for the work of Christian Aid at the end of Christian Aid Week...

Offer to God your offertory for the week, and say the Lord's Prayer...

StF 345 H&P 216 'And can it be that I should gain' by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us, and all those we love, this day and always, Amen.

Wider News: Today is also marked as Aldersgate Sunday when the Methodist Church remembers the 'heart-warming' experience (one might say 'conversion') of John Wesley which took place in Aldersgate Street, London on 24th May 1738. On the 24th (Friday) you might like to sing 'And can it be' (details above) OR StF 610 'Best of all is God is with us' by Andrew Pratt, based on the final words of John Wesley before he died.