

The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Script!*



Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them ‘a Comforter’. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so, they waited – on Him, and for Him.

They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ’s body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

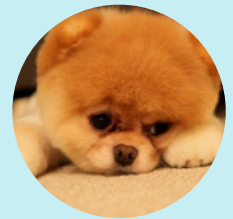
Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

THIS WEEK



MI
KA
DO

**Gilbert and
Sullivan**



Sad Pooch

Because this week
nothing was sent in!



**Rectory
Revelation**
Best Men!

Bible Readings

Acts 2:1-21 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’ **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,

PRAYER FOR TODAY

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.**



18

Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19

I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20

The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21

And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



John 20:19-23 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Jesus appears to his disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ **22** And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’ only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the heavenly Lover’s engagement ring given to us. – Michael Green

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people. – A W Tozer

Is not the Church the very cork on which the world remains afloat? – William Hendriksen

There is one thing we cannot imitate; we cannot imitate being full of the Holy Spirit. – Oswald Chambers

In one sense, Pentecost can never happen again. In another sense, it may always be happening, since we live in the age of the Spirit. – Arthur Skevington Wood

Reflection - by Helen

Wind, fire and Spirit Wind

Wind

I can remember walking to the top of Ingleborough (2,372 ft, 2nd highest mountain in England) when I was 11 years old. It was a lovely day when we set off, but by the time we reached the peak the visibility was very poor. The wind was blowing so hard that at one point I lay into the wind with my arms outstretched trusting that the sheer power would hold me up. It did and for long enough for my step father to take a photo.

During the hurricane in 1987 I was living in Felixstowe, homes lost roofs, trees were uprooted and blocked roads, there was no electricity to the whole town for 3 days. Wind can be incredibly destructive. It also cools us down in high temperatures, it moves the air around so it does not stagnate. The wind also moves around the world taking the rain clouds with it so harvests are hydrated.

Fire

Fire fighters were called out to a fire on Hatfield Moors on 17th May, you may have smelt the burning or seen the smoke, especially if you drove along the road near Lindholme. The fire fighters were still trying to put the fire out a week later. Wildfires are incredibly difficult to deal with, they destroy property and damage the environment. Yet without fire we would have no electricity, no cars, no planes, tools, machines, BBQ's. They would not have happened without the power of fire.

Spirit

On the day of Pentecost, the feast of weeks, crowds had gathered in Jerusalem. They were celebrating the first crops to be harvested in the year. It was a time of thankfulness, of renewing worship in the synagogue. People were coming together in happiness and joy, a time of plenty. As the apostles were together in prayer out of nowhere comes a wind. This was no cooling breeze but a wind full of power gusting around buildings and making everyone sit up and take notice.

And then came the fire, tongues of fire, visible, hot, touching each of the apostles. Scary. Wondrous. Awesome. This was the Holy Spirit infusing them and changing their ability to communicate, giving each man the power to speak to others about the marvels of God.

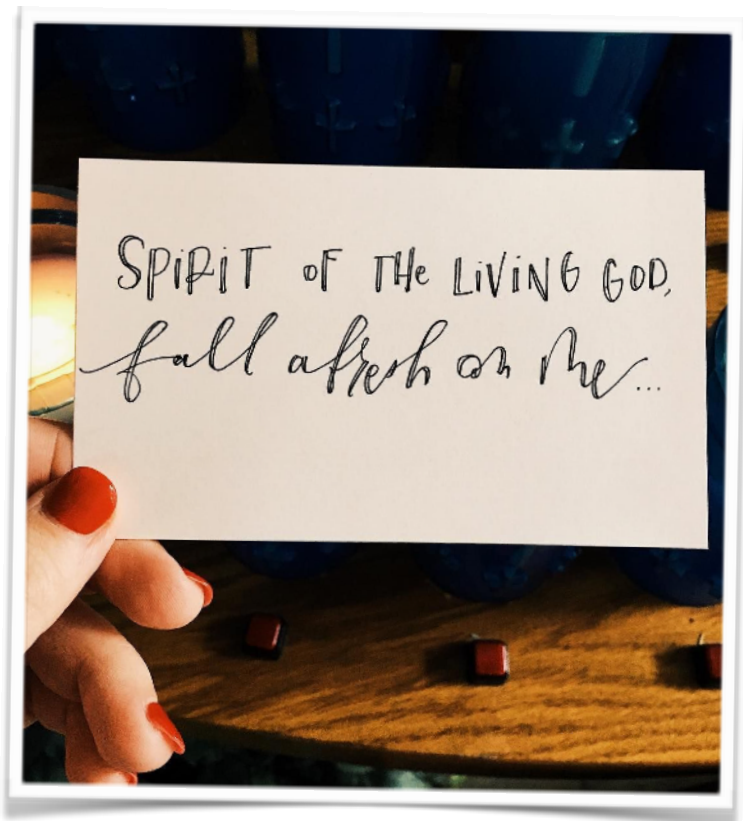
The Spirit does not come quietly or gently into the Apostles lives, it is not a gentle nudge or cooling breeze whispering that everything is going to be alright and easy. No. And if like those men that day you accept the Spirit into your life just remember the power of the wind and fire. The transformation can be dramatic. With the Holy Spirit working within us, if we allow it to, just think what we could achieve.

Jesus Christ makes it very clear that the Spirit is with us to enable us to carry on and work in His name. we can use the elemental power to keep spreading the marvels of God.

Peace be with you. Amen

PRAYING

A prayer for all our Church Family. God Bless Sybil.



In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne
The Son of God who ever cares

Who walks with us, we're not alone.
Though flood and pestilence should come
He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.

By Megan Carter

A Prayer for Pentecost

Father, as much as we want needs met
and prayers answered, we want you!
Fill us — satisfy us with Your presence.
Holy Spirit, breathe freshly upon your Word each day.
Give us an undying passion for Jesus.
Help us to tarry before you in our secret place.
Baptise us in the fire of Your holiness!
Break our hearts over what breaks Yours.
May the things that delight You, delight us.
For then ... we will have the desires of our heart.
Holy Spirit, fall! Fall on my brothers. Fall on my sisters.
Breathe on us all afresh.
Like a mighty wind, light the fire again!
Come magnify the Son in us — today, tomorrow, for always!
Show the Saviour to the world through our lives!
We want to take Your Good News in Your power
to a lost and dying world.
In Jesus' mighty, precious, holy name, Amen! So be it!

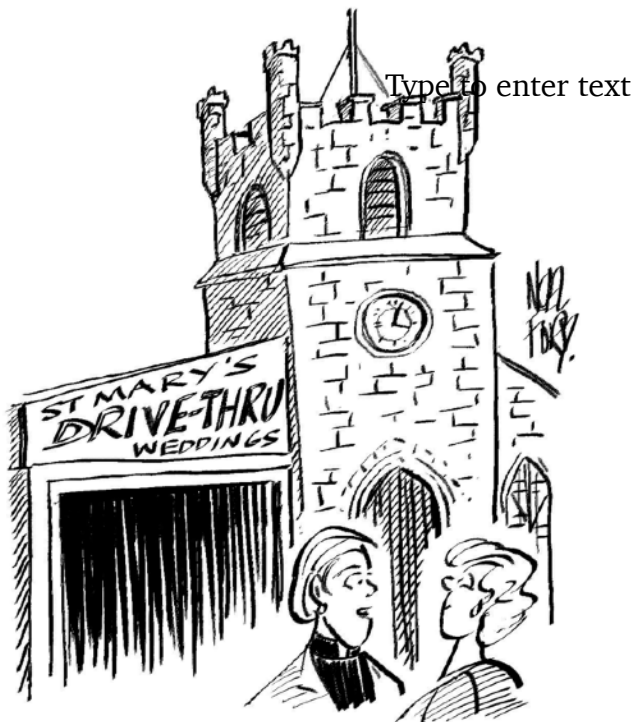
We worship at St Sofa's now
Since Covid came to stay
We don't dress up or do our hair
But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap
A Zoom with his IT
And so we sit down ev'ry week
And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty
With praise she does not ring;
But still her people gather round
To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing
Yet it has helped us see
The church is NOT a building
But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton



If MacDonaldis can reopen their drive
through, so can we!

I wonder what the birds make of it all?

Titwillow (With apologies to WS Gilbert)

On a tree by a river sat little Tom Tit
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.
His mate fluttered in and beside him did sit,
Singing 'willow, titwillow, titwillow'.
"Oh, where are the people?" bewildered, he
cried,
"Tis many a day since a soul I have spied"
"I think," said his wife, "they're all staying inside!"
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow".

"I do like the quiet, I do like the peace!
"Oh, willow, titwillow, titwillow,
"But find myself wondering why did they cease
"Singing willow, titwillow, titwillow?"
"The people in hundreds of cars they all came
"Especially when there was no sign of much rain,
"The weather's so nice, it seems such a shame!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

"I think I can tell you!"
- she'd a smile on her
beak,
Singing willow,
titwillow, titwillow,
"For I saw some
people last Saturday
week,
"Singing willow,
titwillow, titwillow,
"They stood in a group, they were flying a kite,
"Along came a police car with lights flashing
bright,
"It seems the Old Bill gave those people a fright!
"Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow!"

A buzzard, above them, then uttered his 'mew'
Oh willow, titwillow, titwillow.
As quick as they could off to safety they flew,

Fred fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and soon began to snore. Neil stopped and impatiently motioned to the lady behind Fred to wake him up. The lady said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep!"

Rectory Revelation

Best Men Can Be 'Kinder' Surprising

So, continuing with the wedding theme again this week.

So many weddings...so many best men...and in some cases there were many of them - 7 best men is the current record for me! It worked well until they passed the rings down the row, only for the last one in line to drop them!



Best men usually adopt what I call *'the free kick'* stance. Which usually means that as the service progresses they begin to sway back and forth, until they are asked for the ring. At which point they do what I call *'psedo panic'*, where they pat every pocket as they look for the ring(s).

Of course, sometimes the rings are carried in by a child in a box or tied to a cushion. On one occasion though the panicking best man couldn't untie the knot, so scissors were eventually produced from the vestry.

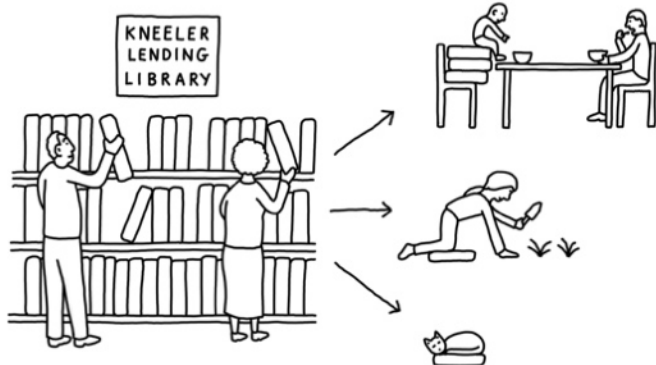
A colleague had the rings delivered by a bird of prey which swooped in from the back of church, others have had their pet dog bring them to the front.

However my personal favourite was when the best man passed me a Kinder Surprise egg. He had meticulously removed the foil wrapping, cut through the chocolate with a modelling knife, parted the chocolate egg, opened the plastic capsule, and replaced the toy with the wedding rings. The put the whole thing back together again. Points for ingenuity, but points deducted for getting chocolate on my surplice!

I mentioned birds of prey above. One couple at Finningley some years ago asked if they could release doves after the wedding, I presumed outside...nope, they meant inside church. They couldn't understand my reluctance until I mentioned the possibility of bird droppings on the couple and guests, and if they would be climbing ladders to retrieve the birds from their lofty perch in the beams!

THE KNEELERS
HOW THEY ARE BEING USED DURING THE PANDEMIC

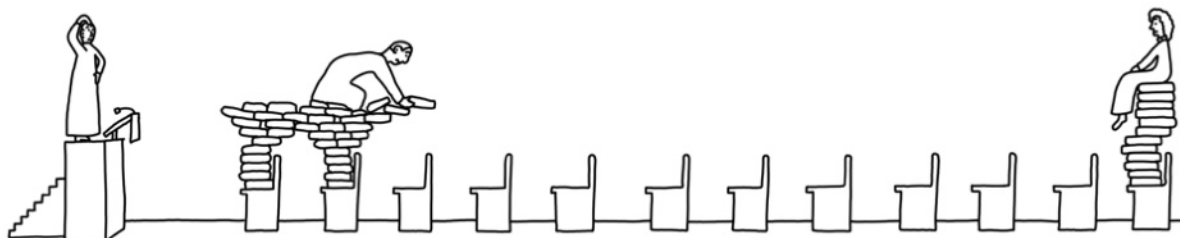
SOME WERE LENT OUT BEFORE THE START OF LOCKDOWN



A FEW WERE PILFERED
(VERY TRICKY TO DETECT)



THE CLERGY USE THE REMAINDER FOR (SOCIALLY-DISTANCED) TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES



Pens by RedWood at the Rectory

All the pens are now finished. If you would like to arrange collection then please let me know, and if you haven't paid yet, then it would be greatly appreciated. I made over 150 pens, just a few more than the 15 or 20 I expected! After costs I'll be able to donate £1000, which is amazing.

It's just my hobby, and as things begin to return to normal, then I expect to not have so much free time. However, I have a few more projects to raise money.

I can make from scratch; fridge magnets and key rings with my drawing of Finningley Church on them, and they will cost £4.50 each.

In addition, thanks to Mark, I have some of the pine flooring blocks from St Oswald's, which were removed for the reordering. I will be cleaning the bitumin off them, slicing them up and sanding them. They will then be laser engraved with either a Christmas front, or a verse from Psalm 23, and the rear will explain where they were from along with a picture of church - pictures below. These will be £10.00 each and strictly limited to a run of just 75. Let me know if you would like one.

If anyone has a good picture of St Saviour's, I'm very happy to produce some magnets and keyrings, I just need a good image to draw and convert.

Hopefully, I'll also be able to produce some Christmas nativity decorations that can be personalised too.



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Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555

