

Tuesday 18th May 2021

Leviticus 23:15, 16 “ ‘From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord.’ “

Acts 2: 2-4 “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of flame that separated and came to rest on each of them. And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Pentecost in Greek means 50th. It marks 50 days since Easter Sunday. In the 1st century AD it was the time of the Feast of Weeks, a harvest festival. For the original apostles it was the day when the Holy Spirit came down upon them causing them to speak in many languages. It inspired them to set out to preach, heal and spread the good news about the resurrection that they had personally witnessed.

What must they have felt at that moment when there was a rushing wind and tongues of fire appeared on their heads? What would we have felt in that situation? Would we have had the courage as the apostles did to face ridicule, criticism, physical abuse and death for the sake of our belief?

That Holy Spirit must have been mighty powerful stuff but then it was God given. If we have faith and believe, perhaps we too will receive the Holy Spirit to encourage us to endure in the face of indifference, ignorance and competing theologies.