

# *In & around the Benefice....*

*31st May | Day of Pentecost*

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[www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk](http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk)

*Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown*

<http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/worship/worship-during-the-lockdown>



## **Reflection for Pentecost**

Come Holy Spirit, come.

As the clergy in the parishes, Janet and I are learning a very new way to do church. However, there are those in our villages working tirelessly for their neighbours and community. The volunteers, the village champions, those delivering food parcels and prescriptions, those helping with gardening and shopping. Taking in parcels and those supporting our local hospitals and care homes, those isolating to protect themselves and their families, those continuing to go to work, you are the 'church' today. That smile and cheery wave, that phone call and elongated chat over the fence, are all answers to that commandment Jesus gave us to 'Love our neighbour'.

Nonetheless, Janet and I and the ministry team are starting to get the hang of this new digital world and invite anyone and everyone to the following opportunities to connect as church once more:

**Sunday** We have recorded seven services that are available on YouTube, one each week since Easter Sunday, and we will continue to develop these. Do look out for a 'visit' from Bishop Donald this week.

Live Online coffee morning from 11.00am.

**Tuesday** Live Online prayer group 3.30pm

**Wednesday** Live Online weekday coffee morning 10.30am, Live Online Benefice Choir meeting 7.30pm

**Thursday** Live Online After School Club (this week only) 3.30pm

**Friday** Live Online Messy Church (this week only) 3.30pm

Deborah produces a great children's activity newsletter each month.

Most people who can receive an email can zoom into an online group. It costs you nothing and is relatively easy to do. We can talk you through the whole process in a few moments, don't be worried to try something new, we are all doing this together.

*Come Holy Spirit and give us courage to try something new....*

Please do contact Janet or me if you would like to join any of these groups, we are here to help...

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### **Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including the NHS, council workers, teachers in schools offering childcare for those who work in key jobs.
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe.
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Mhairi Boyde, Anne Blackmore, Bishop John and his wife Elizabeth
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Julie Quilter, Jennifer Barry-Murray and all who grieve at this time

## The 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**

## First Reading

*Acts 2 : 1-21*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*John 7: 37-39*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing in the temple, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Prayer

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us  
your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and  
nation the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Pentecost (a poem by Malcolm Guite)

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers