

YOUR GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY

At St John's we are very grateful to all our congregation and visitors for their kind and generous donations to the church. These donations are crucial in ensuring we can continue to operate (we don't receive any funding from the diocese to cover the cost of running the church), and the suspension of services is likely to have a very significant impact on church finances. Further details on how you can support St. John's provided on previous pew sheets or from Caroline Gulliver (gulliverjc@aol.com).

EASY FUNDRAISING.

Another easy way to raise fund is to use the Easy Fundraising initiative. This allows you to do your online shopping as normal, whilst helping to raise funds for St John's Church. All you need to do is register as a user (for free) at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate St John's Church Lacey Green as your nominated beneficiary. Retailers include M&S, Vodafone, Amazon, John Lewis, Sports Direct, Boots and many more (4,000+). Easy to use. More details from Caroline Gulliver (gulliverjc@aol.com).

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Church of England guidance currently remains the same, with the church building being closed to worship on Sundays and other days of the week. Although our usual pattern of Sunday Services and mid-week gatherings must be put on hold, this does not mean that the Church of England has "shut up shop". We may not be able to worship together and pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people from our homes.

The Church of England is broadcasting services on-line, including on the Church of England and Diocese of Oxford web sites, both live and as recordings. As indicated in this pew sheet, for Pentecost, Canon Tony will be leading our first St. John's service on Zoom for Parishioners to join on 31st May, which will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost (or Whitsun in "old money"). Details in the covering email sending out this pew sheet and overleaf.

Where we are able, we can certainly offer practical care and support. Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another. *Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC*

Key Contacts:

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 31ST MAY 2020

**PENTECOST
(WHITSUN)**

FOCUS ON ... THE RIVER WITHIN

The acronym "WWJD?" became popular among Christians a few years ago, with a lot of Christian people, especially young people, wearing rubber wristbands inscribed with these four letters, WWJD, which stands for "What Would Jesus Do?" And is meant to prompt the wearer to think about a Christian response to any given situation by calling to mind what Jesus would do today if he found himself in the same circumstances.

In what are known as his "farewell discourses", Jesus said to his disciples that the Father will send the Spirit in his name. This Spirit, he says, will abide with you and be "in you" and will teach you. In the Book of Acts, on the Day of Pentecost, we see this come to fruition; the Holy Spirit rushes like the wind to rest upon and dwell within the followers of Jesus. Jewish believers "from every nation" are present, and Luke, the author of Acts, lists many of the nationalities in attendance. Peter, quoting the prophet Joel, makes it clear that women as well as men, slaves as well as free, those who are old as well as young, would have God's Spirit poured upon them, "upon all flesh".

So, it us with us today. The Spirit is sent by the Father, in Jesus' name, to dwell within us. Through the Spirit, the "River Within" – in the language that some Christian psychotherapists and spiritual guides have used, we are drawn closer to Jesus, and reminded of all that he said and did. Just as we see Peter transformed by the Spirit, the promise is that we, too, will be able to do great things. Enabled to grasp what Jesus have us do, we are empowered to accomplish God's work in the world.

Perhaps simply asking the question "What Would Jesus Do?" may seem a bit trite or even puerile. But the intention lying behind it is deeply spiritual; and by studying the Scriptures and by praying in the power of the Spirit, the river flowing within, we will indeed be shown the way that we should go.

Tony Bundock

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THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

To mark **PENTECOST**, we are holding our first St. John's service on Zoom. Use of Zoom has been trialled with a small group of people during the past two weeks. The service will be led by Canon Tony and start at 10:00. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: My Meeting

Time: May 31, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76078787281?pwd=Smxnc1BNNHZWY2tKQThuTVBkRG5VUT09>

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes on the pew sheet.)

Meeting ID: 760 7878 7281

Password: 9tL3cK



COLLECT FOR PENTECOST

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever., *Amen.*

READINGS FOR PENTECOST

Numbers Ch. 11 VV. 24 – 30.

Acts. Ch. 2 VV. 1 – 21.

John Ch. 20 VV. 19 – 23



PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(Pat Rushmere)

Lord of life, truth and grace. Bring all creation to delight in your peace.

Spirit of truth, come to your Church. Fill us with love for the Father and the Son, and in line with Christian teachings of faith, hope and love. Let us all be guided to help one another.

Spirit of truth, come to the nations. Lead those who govern, to build communities in which all may prosper; And bring a sense of community, togetherness and peace to all who are struggling in the world today.

Spirit of truth, come to our relationships. Move between us to strengthen the bonds which unite, and heal the wounds that divide; Shape us to flourish as heirs of your grace.

Spirit of truth come to all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. We pray for a world damaged by the Coronavirus pandemic. We pray for the safety and protection of all key workers, in the NHS and elsewhere, and for the children, the young people, the elderly and the vulnerable.

Spirit of truth, come to the darkness of death. Make light to dawn for those whose hearts are weighed down with grief, and give them comfort at this time.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

Weekly Prayer Notes

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS, Care Homes and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillippa King and Barnaby Woods.
- For the recently departed. May their souls rest in peace.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.
- For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- For our church community and our shared faith.