



The United Benefice of St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall

31st May 2020

Today is the feast of Pentecost – Whitsunday – it marks that point when the Holy Spirit descended upon the church in tongues of fire. Jesus has returned to his Father in heaven but God is still present with the church – indeed more than present because the Holy Spirit inhabits each of its members and there are great signs and wonders that demonstrate this. All the apostles who had witnessed the risen Jesus in the flesh now are empowered to act for God through the power of His spirit dwelling within them.

On the one hand it is dramatic event: a mighty wind blows through the room, and tongues of fire descend upon the apostles. Not only this but they speak and are heard by everyone each in their native language. This moment sees the church looking out beyond that small group of disciples to become a growing band of apostles who are sent out to the world to change it one heart at a time.

That is the other side of this dramatic event, the deep and personal experience of God acting within each heart and soul. People often speak of this personal experience in terms of warmth felt within. It is that deeply felt sensation that God is alive and dwells within us uniting himself with us. On the one hand a dramatic and public demonstration of God's power whilst on the other an intimate and personal encounter with God.

In the communion service we say the words: ***The Lord is Here, His Spirit is with us.*** It is an affirmation that we the church are united by the gift of the Holy Spirit that works within each one of us. May we celebrate today the one Spirit into which we were baptized and which empowers the church and fills us with life and hope and peace,

Fr Richard

Please Pray for the Soul of
Brenda Garratt
†
May She Rest in Peace

Contacts

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