

Newsletter

(08) Sunday 28 May to Saturday 10 June 2017

PENTECOST issue



'When the day of Pentecost came they were all together in one place'. (Acts 2:1)

It is precious to be 'all together in one place' to celebrate the life of someone who has died.

In recent weeks we have had an unprecedented number of funerals of dearly beloved and hard-working church members, several of whom seemed fit and well only weeks ago. We need the promise of Revelation 21:4 because our eyes have been filled with tears.

I wonder whether this is how the disciples gathered on the Day of Pentecost? So often we focus upon the excitement and wonder of it all, and yet – what was happening before the Spirit came? There is something about people gathering for a funeral that echoes what was happening on that day. No doubt at Pentecost the disciples were gathered together part in disbelief, and only part in hope - seeking comfort from each other, in the wake of being 'left' by Jesus for a second time.

I wonder what they spoke about as they waited? Did they reminisce? Or did they talk about the strange instruction He had left them as he ascended: to wait in Jerusalem for 'the promise of the Father', to be 'baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now' (Acts 1:4)?

What do we talk about after a funeral? Memories of the past, or of Jesus' promise of a better place (John 14:3)? And what does God wants of us now, after the 'pruning' that our community has experienced in recent weeks?

How are we to fulfil our Mission Statement with fewer 'workers'? Are we to gather 'in one place', that we might in due course reap the benefits of daring to believe that if we do we, too, will receive the promise of the Father? - *Revd Lisa*

REGULAR SERVICES

Sundays: St Paul's 10am (HC: 4 June)
St Andrew's 11am (HC: 28 May: 11 June)
[7.30-8.30pm Christian Meditation at 15 Moorside Road, M7 3PJ]

Wednesdays: St Paul's HC 10am
St Andrew's prayers 2pm

Mon, Tues, Weds: Prayers, St Paul's 9am

Bible Readings

28 May Ps 68:1-10, Acts 1:6-14, Mk 9:2-8

31 May Ps 113. Luke 1:39-49.

4 June Ps 104:26-35, Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23.

7 June Ps 25:1-8. Mark 12:18-27

DIARY DATES

Mon 29 May Bank Holiday Whit Walk in Manchester: Meet at Cathedral Square at 9.45am to start walking to Albert Square at 10am. After an open air service there there will be a walk of witness back to the Cathedral.

Tues 30 May There will be a Deanery Prayer Walk with our Suffragan Bishop Mark Ashcroft, around part of Salford Deanery during the morning. He hopes to be accompanied by people from the parishes. If you could spend some time walking with him please join at the points below: 10am Media City tram stop – walk to St. Clement's, Ordsall.
10.40am Leave for Salford University.
11.15am Arrive at Salford University.
11.45am Arrive at St. Philips Church.
12.20pm Arrive The Ascension, Broughton.

Sat 10 June from 2pm, Worldwide Church of God, meeting at St. Andrew's

Sun 4 June from 1pm Bring & Share lunch at the Phoenix Centre in St. Mary's Park (bring your own meat, drink and dish: BBQ provided) organised by Churches Together in Prestwich & Kersal. A troupe of rod-puppets will pop up and participants will be invited to come behind the screens and try them out. They will pop up again at Costa Coffee on Monday 5 June. For Pentecost Praise gather in St Mary's Park at 2.30pm for a 3pm Outdoor Pentecost Celebration with live music.

Sun 10 June Christian's Uniting in Gtr. Manchester. Will you join the procession and prayers, proclaiming "We are one in Christ"? The walking together starts at 10am at Salford Cathedral; then 11.15am for open air worship in St. Ann's Square & then 12 md celebrating in Mcr. Cathedral.

FUTURE DATES AND NOTICES

Sun. 11 June Deanery **Confirmation Service** at **10.30am** in St Clement's Church, Ordsall M5 3LQ, with Bishop Mark Ashcroft. Please pray for our candidates: Freddie Torrance; Debbie Dickinson; Amanda Williamson; Sarah Hughes.

LIFTS TO CHURCH on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please let Eileen Booth know if you can go on a rota to offer lifts to members who want to come to church and have no transport. Thank you. 792

Uplifting music in Bury Parish Church from now to the end of Summer. All are invited to attend every Friday lunchtime.

Dementia Friends. We are hoping that everyone will be willing to become a friend by attending one of three sessions to learn how to support those with dementia: at St Andrew's: Sun 18 Jun 1.30-2.30pm; at St Paul's: Thurs 22 Jun 1.30-2.30pm, & Tues 27 Jun 7.30-8.30pm Further information from our dementia Champion, Sarah on sarah.charis74@gmail.com 07931788698.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Curate: Revd Mike Dyson, 15 Moorside Road Kersal, Salford M7 3PJ (0161 792 1098)
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Graham Robinson is doing three bike rides this summer in support of The Christie Hospital. To support this you can give via <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/grodger3371> where there is further information.

HOLIDAY AT HOME - Advance notice with details to follow. Book the date for this year's HOLIDAY AT HOME. Monday and Tuesday 7-8th August at St Paul's 10-3pm. Cost £5 per day.

ARENA BOMBING, 22 May 2017:

Redeeming the situation by Rick Thompson

We need to redeem this situation - and Jesus knows how to do this spectacularly.

Jesus showed himself for 40 days after the resurrection. It was mind blowing but Jesus hadn't finished turning the tables on humankind.

The Ascension into heaven is also mind blowing and nobody expected it to happen but there is more. God gave Jesus all authority in heaven and earth and put everything under him that every knee shall bow to Jesus. Wow!

Now that *is* redeeming the situation. The crucifixion was the beginning, not the end.

We are coming up to Pentecost - 50 days after Passover. When Jewish people remembered the giving of the Torah to the children of God in the desert. As Christians we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit who writes the law of God on our hearts and minds. Jesus needed to ascend into heaven in order to send the Holy Spirit.

Redeeming the situation is no problem to God, He doesn't need Jesus to walk on planet earth in human form now, because of the Holy Spirit....

Who teaches that 'NO' can mean New Opportunities;
That the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart;
That 'Goodbye' is really short for God be with you, and
That one reason for extinguishing a candle is because the dawn has come.

Hall Bookings: St Paul's and St. Andrew's 792 3877;

Emergency prayer chain: ring Maureen 792 4873 or email rober382@sky.com

All notices to sub-editor Norma MacKinnon at mackinnon860@hotmail.co.uk

For more information and past newsletters visit our website: www.stpaulsparish.org.uk