

Newsletter

Sunday 19th May 2024



Charity No. 1127144
Serving God, Serving the Community

Dear Friends,

What do you think about when you read or hear the story of what happened when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus's followers? We are told that they were all together in one place in Jerusalem when, 'Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' The whole thing sounds very alarming especially when to add to the wind and fire, the God-fearing Jews who had travelled from many different nations heard these 'men from Galilee' speaking in their own languages. It is Peter who stands up and explains that the men who speak are not drunk but this is the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy that, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.' (The whole text which recounts the event can be read at Acts 2. 1-21). What do you think about that? Do you believe it happened? Do you believe it can still happen? Do you wonder why it does not happen very often in our church? And are you secretly glad about that?

In my experience it is quite common for people to fear the work of the Holy Spirit. I should clarify that by saying that for most of us, being comforted and strengthened is ok, as is inspiration and the formal sacrament of Baptism followed by Confirmation. Any of you who have ever been to an ordination service will know that 'Veni Creator Spiritus' is sung as it was at the coronation of Charles III. 'Come Holy our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire. Thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.' We usually use the version that is in the 1662 Prayer Book though the original version goes all the way back to 9AD. The tune we use is well over 1000 years old too. Yes, we implore the Holy Spirit to come but I wonder, don't we rather hope that will happen on our terms?

As I was listening to Lectio 365 this morning, I heard the worship leader quote Simon Ponsonby, who, writing in *More* (edited by David C Cook, 2010) summarises the famous Welsh minister Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He asks, 'If we have what the first Christians had, why do we not do what they did? We must conclude that either God gave them more than He has given to us, or we have failed to avail ourselves of what He has given us.'

A need for God to act powerfully in our lives, in our community, in our world, often comes from a place of desperation. When my daughter Rachael went to visit Brazil, she worked for a few weeks amongst the poor who lived in dangerous and almost inhumane communities known as 'Favelas' – we might understand them as shanty towns or shack areas. She was struck by three things. First the extreme filth and poverty. Second the real dangers those people experienced from gun crime and extortion. And third and most profoundly, the expectation in the church, that God was alive and active and working amid all that she had seen. She saw people speaking in tongues and witnessed healings in a way she described as astonishing. She observed the passion with which they worshipped God and the certainty with which they called upon him. People gave prophecy and those to whom these were given acted on them.

You do not have to go as far as Brazil to see the living God work through the Holy Spirit. I have seen that happen in several churches that I have been part of in Britain. I am seeing the Spirit move among us here in Bromborough and I do not believe that the followers of Jesus had more given to them than we have available to us now. What I do believe is that we (I include myself) are fearful of the power of the Holy Spirit and what that might mean and consequently what God can do is limited by us. It is not about anyone lacking faith. It is often that we lack expectation.

I am not suggesting that everyone in church should expect that they will speak in tongues or be given the gift of healing. In the first instance we need to allow God's fruits to grow within us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The sign of these characteristics developing, is a sign of the Holy Spirit living within you. However, we are urged to ask for and to expect spiritual gifts. It is rare that any one person will have all the spiritual gifts at one time. Paul tells us, 'We have different gifts, according to the grace given us... let [us] use [them] in proportion to [our] faith,' Romans 12:6. If you want to read more about what those gifts are look at Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12-14 and Ephesians 4.

Every blessing for the week to come,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jenny Gallie'.

What's on this week

Monday 20 th May	The Centre is open 9.00 am -2.00 pm Monday -Friday 1.30 pm Knit and Natter in the Centre
Tuesday 21 st May	9.30 am -12.00 pm Caritas drop in. Drink and a chat. All welcome. In the Centre 12-2.30pm The Club House meets in the Village Hall. All welcome
Wed 22 nd May	10.30am Holy Communion in the Centre
Thursday 16 th May	10.00 am Little Church meet in Church 12 -2.30 pm 'The Club House' in the Village Hall. All welcome
Saturday 25 th May	12 noon Steven Jennings and Susanne Hughes Wedding in church
Sunday 26 th May	9.15 am Holy Communion 11.00 am Holy Communion

Sunday 19th May Pentecost

*Acts 2: 1 – 21
Romans 8: 22 – 27
*John 15: 26–27, 16: 4b – 15

Wednesday 22nd May

James 4: 13 – end
Mark 9: 38 – 40

Sunday 26th May Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Romans 8: 12 – 17
*John 3: 1 - 17

*Denotes 11.00 am Reading

Notices

The Bible Course – Wednesday afternoons from 1. 00pm at The Rectory

We now have 10 people attending this course which is wonderful but it also means we are currently full. I hope to run another Bible Course soon.

Car Boot Sale Yesterday

Thank you to Julie Gordon, Jane Cavanagh and Thelma McGorry who with Ken, Julie Watts and team made this happen. They have raised another £240. Amazing and well done.

Churchyard Thanks

The BVCA (Community Association) have been awarded a grant for environmental spaces. They plan to spend a good portion of it on materials for the churchyard including resources to help keep it tidy and bulbs to make it look pretty. Don't forget to support their fair which is Saturday 15th June. We will also be raising money then too.

Counting the cash on Sunday

Would you be able to stay behind after the Sunday 11am service to help count the cash? It doesn't take long, maybe 20 minutes, but it needs 2 people. We will set up a rota so it won't be every week, just one in 3 or 4 if we get enough people. If you are interested please see Julie Watts.

Parish Lunch on Sunday 2nd June

This will take place as usual but note there is a change of venue. This month we are going back to the Royal Oak and tables in the conservatory. The Oak has recently been decorated and their kitchen is a little bigger so we are hoping service will be a bit faster and that this will please more people.

Funeral for the Lt. Revd Canon Peter Christensen

The funeral for Peter will be held on Saturday 8th June at 1.00 pm in St Barnabas Church. Peter will be lying in the church from 4.00 pm on Friday 7th June. The family are pleased if any of you would like to join them at that time but once we leave, I would appreciate it if people could avoid access from Friday evening until preparations need to be made for the 1.00 pm service.

St Barnabas Community Care Network

This is the umbrella name that we are giving to all the activity that we do which relates to the parish's community work. Our own 'Food for Families' will be part of this, but so will our being a hub for the FUSS and FUPS School uniform scheme and our Caritas mornings. This is why it feels right to call it a network. As the Caritas work highlights, we are 'Stronger Together.' We rely on our primary schools, Involve Northwest and our GP surgeries too and there is so much more to come, I am sure. We will be able to use this title when bidding for grants on behalf of the church and we can use the title to link with work done by the Village Hall and any other organisations that we engage with. Many thanks to those of you who gave me ideas. I really liked the ideas of the Salimas Project (this is in Cyprus and is the birthplace of Barnabas). I also liked 'Love Bromborough' and 'Bread for Bromborough' though the latter sounded a bit more like a village Bakery. I have no doubt we may need to use some of these names moving forward.

Visit our website - PLEASE

Thanks to Andrew and those who went before him, we are developing a really good website. I know some people have visited it because I have received emails through the contact forms. When did you last look? Can you help us? We would like to get the usage up which helps us be more visible, especially to people who are looking for our page or even happen upon it and discover we are a great church. What we need you to do is 1. Go to the page www.stbarnabasbromborough.org 2. Have a look around. 3. If you are listed as a leader or know you have an email address that goes back to you please send Andrew a photo at Communications@stbarnabasbromborough.org. 3. Encourage friends and family to look at the site. It is something to be proud of. 4. Return to it regularly so that we can increase the views. Thank you

For our Prayers

We continue to pray for good health and healing for David, son of Colin Hart and Colin himself. For Maureen Coleman, Gordon Simmonds and Bill Darch. We pray for our church family at home: Josie Davies, Thelma Williams, Hilary and Eddie Griffiths, Jan Harper, Barbara Tharme and Pat Porter. We pray for the family of the Lt. Peter Christensen and of the Lt. Norman Bradshaw. We pray for our link Missionaries Marcio and Noemi and their children and we thank God for the work that they are doing in Indaiatuba. We pray also for all who are affected by the awful floods there. We pray for St Barnabas Church in Limosol in Cyprus and their minister Revd Deborah. (Edna from this church worships with us when in Bromborough to visit her poorly sister.) We will be working to build a link with them.

Donate to St Barnabas as you shop online!

Sign up with GiveAsYouLive.com and choose 'PCC of St Barnabas, Bromborough' as your chosen charity

The Rector Jenny can be contacted at rector@stbarnabasbromborough.org or via her mobile 07806608219

Please send notices for inclusion in the Newsletter to ros.wood@outlook.com by Wednesday at 4pm.