



# The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 9: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

## Pentecost Sunday

Dear Friends,

The late May Bank Holiday weekend has for many years been marked by the Cliff College Anniversary and, more recently, by the Cliff College Festival. This year the Festival became an on-line event and was renamed 'Festival at Home', but in more normal circumstances, thousands of people visit the beautiful Cliff College site for the event which is a mixture of teaching and worship, fun and fellowship, and activities for all ages.



This photograph goes back to a time well before the digital world in which we now live, to a time when crowds of people gathered

on the College Terrace to hear the sermons given by the visiting preachers including, in 1954, a certain Billy Graham.

One of the traditions of this special Cliff event is that a banner would be displayed over the entrance to the College grounds simply saying, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit?' This was the question Paul asked the believers he found in Ephesus (Acts 19 v 2). He discovered that they knew about Jesus, and that they had received 'John's baptism' in water, but they had not heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul soon put them in the picture, and they received the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

On this Pentecost weekend we need to hear that same question addressed to us 'Have you received the Holy Spirit?' and to be open to all that God's power is able to do in each of our lives.

Yours in His service,

*Chris Blake*



## Worship Reflection

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2 v 17)

Hymn (StF 391)

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power;  
O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your church in every part.



Prayer

Holy Spirit, unpredictable as the wind,  
unquenchable as fire, yet gentle as a dove: come now and breathe new energy into our lives and new life into our souls, by your gracious power. Amen

Bible Reading (Acts 2 v 1-12)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

Reflection

I'm sure that there are a number of people who offer to read the Bible in church but who hope that their name doesn't come up on the rota for Pentecost Sunday! All those strange names to pronounce one after the other!

Luke, of course, includes this list of names for a purpose. People were gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish celebration of Pentecost from all around the known world when the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus in a new and powerful way. Their lives were transformed, and they began from that moment onwards to be used by God to transform the world.

There were at the time some common languages that would have been widely spoken. Those from the East would have known Aramaic while those from the West would have known Greek. Luke, however, makes the point twice (once before the list and once afterwards) that those present on that day heard the message in their own native language or dialect. This was a wonderful miraculous event in which the Good News of Jesus was proclaimed to all in ways that all could easily understand.

We pray that God will continue to pour out the Holy Spirit on us that we might, still today, effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus to others through our words, our prayers and our lives.

#### Prayers of intercession

We pray for all who are in need. We pray:

-for parents and for all who work in our schools as they prepare for more children to return to school next week

-for those who are anxious because they are in lockdown and for those who are anxious about the possibility of leaving the safety of their homes

-for those who have the responsibility of being our leaders, that they may lead with integrity

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

#### Hymn (StF 564)

O thou who camest from above  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart!



#### Final Prayer

Spirit of God, come as the wind to move us forward, come as the dove to launch us heavenward; come as the fire to make us clean. Amen

*The Methodist Church is encouraging us all to 'tell our stories'.*



*You are invited to choose a Bible or hymn or song verse, or perhaps a prayer that you have read or written, and to describe why what you have chosen is particularly important to you. Contributions need to be no longer than 250 words.*

*This week's contribution is from **Carol Lander** from Aldershot.*

**One day at a time sweet Jesus that's all I'm asking from you.**

**Give me the strength to do everyday what I have to do.**

**Yesterday's gone sweet Jesus and tomorrow may never be mine.**

**So, for my sake teach me to take one day at a time.**

(Written by Marijohn Wilkin and Kris Kristofferson)

Being a great worrier, I have often found myself taking comfort from this song. It started during the 'ordinary' busy times. Always too much to do and not enough time, and I kept finding these words going through my head. They remind me to try to live in the present, take one thing at a time and know that God will give strength when it's needed.

Two years ago, when I was going through treatment for cancer, I often played the recording, by Cristy Lane, last thing at night and found it calming. The NHS seem to take a similar attitude, preparing you for one step at a time. Whilst I started with a treatment plan, I only really found out the details as things progressed. I would have been overwhelmed, if at the start, I had been fully aware of all the details of the various procedures, side effects and so on involved around surgery, chemo and radiotherapy.

Now in these times, I once again find myself returning to this song. There is so much among family, friends and in the wider world to worry about and we are constantly in a state of waiting to see what is going to happen in the future, but the important thing is to make the best we can of one day at a time.