

Holy Spirit of God, strengthen and inspire churches around the world to find new ways to be a city on a hill. Give us all individually opportunities to give a reason for the hope that we have, doing this with gentleness and respect.

**At Pentecost people from many nations heard the good news in their own language. Below is the first line of the Lord's Prayer - can you recognise the languages?\***

1 Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς  
2 Baba yetu, yetu uliye Mbinguni yetu  
3 Notre Père qui es aux cieux  
4 Ein Tad sydd yn y nefoedd

**We pray the Lord's Prayer.**

Our Father...

**Hymn**

**Come down, O Love divine,**  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with  
thine own ardour glowing.  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it,  
thy holy flame bestowing.

**Blessing**

Living Lord, open our eyes to perceive  
You, realign our minds to believe  
You, and reawaken our hearts to receive  
You, and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

1 Greek. 2 Swahili. 3 French. 4 Welsh

**\*ANSWERS:**

#### PRAYING LIKE JESUS

##### "Try Praying"

Do you have friends, neighbours or family members who would like to try praying but don't know how to start? Pick up a "Try Praying" booklet from a box on the fence near the gate into St Mary's churchyard or point them to [trypraying.co.uk](http://trypraying.co.uk). We also have versions for children and teenagers.

#### A SERVICE ON YOUTUBE!

**Sunday Worship** at 10.30am on Youtube, followed by 'Virtual Coffee' at 11.15am: [tinyurl.com/youtube-denham](http://tinyurl.com/youtube-denham)

#### A SERVICE ON YOUR TELEPHONE!

Dial **01895 714013** to listen to a weekly service from Denham Parish Church. Do give it a try!

In your prayers this week, please remember anyone known to us who is suffering the pain of bereavement at this time – especially the family of **Kathleen Clancy**.



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## PAROUSIA

Weekly News and Service Sheet  
**31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**  
**Pentecost**

**Welcome to this new-style Parousia!** All Church of England buildings remain closed. But the life of our church is not being put on hold and God remains active in his world! This news and service sheet is one way of keeping in touch and worshipping together. You can download it from our website or ask our church office to send you a paper version. The inside pages provide you with a simple service so you can worship at home. Please check our website or Facebook page on a regular basis and do contact our church office if we can help in any way. *Christoph Lindner*

### Fire and Form by Christoph Lindner

When the fire of the Holy Spirit fell at Pentecost, the disciples were radically changed. And not just they. Peter's preaching on that day resulted in about 3,000 baptisms - the first church was born. And very soon - in the next verse - we witness how new and appropriate forms were found for this powerful move of God: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

#### Fire and form: we need both.

Fire without form may burn brightly for a moment but then die down quickly - lots of paper and kindling, but no wood. Form without fire becomes lifeless and cold - a dead ritual: the paper, kindling and wood perfectly arranged in the grate, but no spark to light it.

On the 13th of August of 1727 a small community of Moravians in the little German village of Herrnhut experienced the fire of the Holy Spirit as they prayed and repented of their divisions. Together with their founder, Count Zinzendorf, they started a non-stop, 24-7 prayer meeting that would continue for more than 100 years. They became pioneers of the modern mission movement and took this fire to the ends of the earth. It was at a Moravian Bible study in London that John Wesley's 'heart was strangely warmed', which led to the birth of Methodism. They met weekly and found forms to help them lead a life that pleases God. That's why they were branded 'Methodists' by others, a jibe that John Wesley turned into a title of honour.

#### Fire and form. Healthy habits.

At Denham Parish Church we pray for the renewing fire of God's Spirit. And this coming Sunday we are starting to explore and deepen our practice of ten healthy habits of the Christian life. We will begin with *prayer*.

**STAY SAFE • STAY CONNECTED • STAY HOPEFUL**

### Opening Prayer (from Psalm 104)

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honour and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

### Hymn

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,**  
the Holy One, is here;  
come, bow before him now,  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of Light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place,  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him;  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

### Confession and Absolution

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. (*Psalm 51.10-12*)

*Let us confess our sins to God,  
who forgives us in Christ.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life to the glory of your  
name. Amen.

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins and make us holy to  
serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### First Reading: John 20 19 - 23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

### Second Reading: Acts 2. 41-47

Those who believed what Peter said were baptised and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Quiet Reflection or Time of Sharing**  
(or read page 1)

### Come set Your rule and reign

In our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray  
Unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
Like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit come invade us now  
We are Your church  
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first  
We hunger and we thirst  
Refuse to waste our lives  
For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captives' hearts released  
The hurt the sick the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause  
We are Your church  
We pray revive this earth

*Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here we pray*

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r  
Reaching the near and far  
No force of hell can stop  
Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this  
Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of  
Christ. We are Your church  
We are the hope on earth

### Prayers

*We pray that God would send his  
renewing Spirit to enable his church to  
carry the Good News into our  
communities and to the ends of the  
earth. We pray for our five Mission  
Partners: Trinity/SHOC, Tearfund, BRF,  
Church Army, Wycliffe Bible Translators  
(Samuel Kpagheri).*

*We pray for all aspects of the current  
crisis – for those who are suffering and  
grieving, for health care staff, scientists  
and leaders, for those working in critical  
jobs, for those who are anxious.*

### Collect for Pentecost Sunday:

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the fact of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord . Amen.

We pray that during this crisis many would return to God or would receive his grace, forgiveness and love for the first time.