

Parish of Curdworth, Middleton and Wishaw

NEWSLETTER

For the week beginning Sunday 31st May 2020



PENTECOST

Whit Sunday

Welcome to this week's Newsletter. We hope you are still keeping safe and well.

Today is the Feast of Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday. We have recorded a service for this Sunday and the link will be sent to you in another email.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this service. Managing the technology has represented a learning curve for all of us, but we hope that you agree that our services are a fitting way to keep church going in these difficult times and we are learning all the time!



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Visit the Archbishop of Canterbury's free phone line whilst church buildings are in lockdown.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

CORONAVIRUS TIME CAPSULE PROJECT is for young people and is a digital project which is designed to be creative and maybe serious, but fun and does not take up a lot of time. The video is built up week by week. Week 4, “School”, has been completed, but anyone can join in at any point and can still send responses for the first three weeks, which we will edit in. At the end of the project, whenever that turns out to be, we will have a fascinating insight into what life was like as a young person living through these extraordinary times.

So what about the adults??! What have been the highs and lows of lockdown so far for you and your families? What new skills have you learned? How have you filled your extra free time? What have you found difficult or frustrating? Could you send your responses for a ‘time capsule’ by Thursday for inclusion in next week’s Newsletter? It doesn’t need to be long, in fact 100-150 words per person would be ample. It will be interesting to see what you come up with!

Thank you to all who have sent some more lovely photographs for inclusion in the recorded services. Keep the photos coming, because they are also being added to this Newsletter as well as services. Pictures taken locally, in your garden or on your walks are ideal.

Bible Quiz 6. Answers to last week’s questions below.

1. After His resurrection, how long did Jesus remain on earth before he was taken up to heaven? Acts 1:3
2. What did Jesus say to His disciples shortly before His ascension? Acts 1:1-5 also look at Mark 16:15, Luke 24:49
3. As he was being taken up, what hid Jesus from the eyes of those watching? Acts 1:9
4. Who appeared beside them as they were watching Jesus disappear? Acts 1:10-11
5. Luke says the Ascension occurred in the vicinity of Bethany (Luke 24: 50-51). Where does the Acts of the Apostles say it happened? Acts 1:1-12

No.	ANSWER	/x
1.	40 days	
2.	"John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."	
3.	A cloud	
4.	Two men dressed in white	
5.	The Mount of Olives	

How did you do?!



Bible Quiz 6

1. What Christian holiday does the holiday of Pentecost follow?
2. While everyone was gathered together in a room celebrating the feast, what sound was heard all around them? Acts 2:2
3. Which one of Jesus' disciples took the opportunity to stand up and speak to the crowd of people? Acts 2:14
4. According to Peter, what did God tell David would happen to his enemies? Acts 2:34-35
5. Who did Peter describe in Acts 2:25 as sitting at the right hand of God?

No.	ANSWER	/x
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Finance

This week's good news is that the Diocesan Board of Finance should by now have received our Common Fund payment for the first quarter of 2020. We have been asked to consider what our contributions might be for the next few months, and this will become clearer as we assess our income and expenses.

Thank you so much to everyone who has continued to support our churches by giving by standing order. If you usually give by envelope, please carry on! If you would like to have them collected from you, just let us know and arrangements can be made. If you can transfer to giving by standing order, please consider that option.

The response to previous articles in this Newsletter have been very encouraging. Some people have made donations. Others have taken out standing orders so that their support continues whilst we are still in lockdown and a few people have increased their level of giving, which is wonderful. If you are still thinking about this matter and are considering setting up a standing order, you might find the bank details for each of the churches useful. Regular income is vital to our survival.

St Nicholas': 30-92-75 00610273

St John's: 05-09-42 57896460

St Chad's: 30-98-37 00152981

Reminder of a date: St Chad's Church Wishaw is hoping to hold another Quiz Night at Grounds Farm on Saturday 7th November. Full details to follow. Hopefully by then revised restrictions and social distancing will permit this to go ahead.

You will find as a separate attachment the answers to the **Chocolate Quiz** and Part 1 of a **Dingbats Quiz!** Good luck!!

At the end of the readings you will find a short reflection on the first reading. Thank you to Rev Roy Allen for this week's reflection.

PRAYERS

In your prayers this week, please pray for those who are sick, including:

Shirley Bolton

George Bullivant

Diane Craven

Lesley Cox

Eric Dance

Pat Harris

Stacey Hobbs

Will McFarland and all children and adults with autism

Isabella Murphy
Marie Sylvester
Jenny Tillson

Freya Pearson
Helen Taylor
Paul Wilson

Cathy Smith
Barbara Thomas

If you would like anyone added to this list, please let us know.

Remember those who have died and those who mourn them:

Bill Lowe Iris Pryce

We remember all those who are key workers supporting vulnerable people in the community, in our hospitals, shops and schools.

Breathe in the love of God,

Breathe out and give to God your fears.

Breathe in our hope in Christ,

Breathe out and give to God our anxieties.

Breathe in the strength of the Holy Spirit,

Breathe out and give to God all that we cannot control.

Today we pray in spirit with people around the world surrounded by God. Amen.

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This Newsletter and the collect and readings for Sunday are being sent to as many people as possible by email, currently to 75 email addresses, and will also be available on the website and on A Church Near You. If there is anyone in the community who you think would like to receive this by email, you or they can let us know by email, phone or text. If you are able to print this for someone without access to the internet, please do, or let us know and we will try to provide a paper copy.

In the interests of data protection, we cannot print the list of people who will have received this by email, so you won't know, but we would rather be given an email address several times than not at all!

These are difficult times for us all, but hopefully we will all continue to keep in touch and support one another.

If you would like anything added to this sheet in future weeks, please send it to us by email, text or by hand. margaret_allen69@yahoo.co.uk 07778 458 789

Many thanks. Stay safe and keep well. *Roy and Margaret Allen*

Collect and Readings for Sunday 31st May 2020 –

The Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

is from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of
fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them
were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the
Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in
Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because
each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and
astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And
how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians,
Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus
and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to
Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and
Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of
power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does
this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:
'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen
to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine
o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the word

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 12

³No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body Jews or Greeks, slaves or free and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Here is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹It was evening on 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.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

The doors of the house were locked. The followers were in lockdown. Locked in for fear. Many in our world have been, or are, locked in. A lot of us are frightened. It is not a world we understand. We are suspicious when we used to be confident. But one thing is constant; whatever our situation Jesus is with us, and we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. These followers were at their lowest, confused by rumours of the resurrection. And then 'Jesus came and stood among them and said "Peace be with you"'. In these difficult times Jesus is standing with us, the peace he wills is for us to believe and to do. To be sent out. We are still his ambassadors in our captivity, and he will never abandon us.

Roy Allen

