

gifts that God has bestowed on you? They may be just for a season ~ so you have the power and authority to share His love in a specific way in a specific circumstance; or they may be a permanent part of your pilgrimage, enhancing your prayer and witness of God's love and enabling you to grow in your understanding. Until we actively ask the Spirit to work in us we won't know what gifts are determined for us and that is the risk bit ~ the bit that humanly prevents us receiving fully what God has for us ~ and the devil would love it to stay that way because he is never happier than when God's love is hindered and hidden! Paul reminds us that the Spirit works through the whole Body of Christ and each of us is a part of that body ~ he talks about being given the Spirit to drink so that we are all working together to make Christ known.

That drinking of the Spirit was in the invitation that Jesus gave during His earthly ministry, at the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot or Feast of Booths), and is in His invitation to each of us ~

*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*  
John 7: 37 ff

There was always an importance in the timing of Jesus teaching and the feast of Tabernacles is the last great feast that God commanded the Israelites to observe. It happens in the autumn and lasts seven days. It is also referred to as the “Season of our Joy” and symbolises the restoration process that God plans for mankind and offers through Jesus. The feast is held after the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) which provides prophetic insight regarding the Second Coming.

Today is Pentecost Sunday ~ we acknowledge the gift of the Holy Spirit ~ but we need to do more ~ to actively say thank you Lord and yes please ~ let the Spirit work in my life as I grow in faith and live for You. I invite you to do that with me. I have a lapel pin for each of us ~ which we will hand round ~ everyone take a pin and we will invite the Spirit in and wear the pin as

Ministry Musings (4<sup>th</sup> June 2017)

## Pentecost People



What does it mean to be a Pentecost person ?  
As a Christian it is what you are invited to be !

Pentecost is the time when we recognise the gift of the Holy Spirit is actually available to each one of us and we can accept that expectantly.

The Spirit is always available and usually working in our lives, though we do not always acknowledge it! How do you think you accepted your faith in the first place?

Maybe you heard the words of a powerful minister ~ but what gave them the power and authority to speak as they did?

Maybe it was an action of love ~ but what inspired the action?

Maybe it was quietly reading God's Word ~ but what made the Word make sense to you?

We honour God by being obedient to Him BUT knowing Him is enabled through the power and work of the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, as God's people, we are :~

- P** ~ prepared, by knowing God's Word and living by it.
- E** ~ encouraged, by prayer, praise and people.
- N** ~ nurtured, by sharing what you know of Jesus.
- T** ~ trusting, by believing God is with you at all times.
- E** ~ expectant, by being open to God at work.
- C** ~ constant, by commitment & steadfastness.
- O** ~ open ~ by recognising Christ in others.
- S** ~ serving ~ by being obedient to what God asks of you.
- T** ~ tenacious ~ by holding firm the glimpses of God we get.

All of which will help us in our pilgrimage of

**Knowing Jesus ~ making Him known**

Acts 2: 1-21                    NT page 115  
1Corinthians 12: 3b –13      NT page 170  
John 7: 37-39                NT page 97

If you have been following the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer posts in your emails you will have heard or read Archbishop Justin's words for today ~ on pray it, picture it post it ~ He says this.

*"Pentecost Sunday. Not only do we say, "The Lord is Risen, Alleluia", but the Lord has given us the Holy Spirit of God. And the Holy Spirit comes and fills our lives, He fills the world, He transforms the church, He draws us into the very presence of God in Jesus Christ."*

*The gift of the Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost Sunday, all those 2000 years and more ago, was just the key moment in the church not going inwards, and becoming all kind of holy huddly, but in being driven out to change the entire world.*

*We've been praying, many of you would have been praying, and I thank God for that, over the last week, 10 days, praying Thy Kingdom Come, praying for the kingdom of God to be seen in our world, the rule, the reign of God.*

*The transformation from darkness to light. Praying for individuals to hear that Jesus loves them, that He reached out and died for them, that He rose from the dead and offers them life and purpose and that they are called to go with Him in the rest of their life's journey whether it be for decades or just a very short period. They are caught up in the life of Christ. We've been praying for that.*

*Let's go on praying because the Spirit promises that He will come and fill those that we speak to about Jesus so that their hearts will be, as Wesley said, "Strangely warmed" and their lives transformed.*

*This is the moment of prayer into action. The disciples went out. Let's be a church that goes out, that confronts every injustice, every evil, every moment of darkness and brings light and*

*hope.*

*May God bless you in your witness to Jesus Christ. May He fill us with His Holy Spirit. May we know that we are His and we have the best news the world has ever heard. Amen."*

That's the Pentecost message from the Archbishop of Canterbury, but of course it is not just His message to us ~ it comes from the faith given to him and all of us through God's Word. All our readings today support that message, the message that we have the gift of the Holy Spirit and when we invite the Spirit to work in our lives God's work happens ~ we are told the Spirit came to rest on each disciple ~ they could communicate God's love and they went out and did so! It surprised, shocked and stunned the world! People tried to ignore, excuse or silence them ~ but the power of the Spirit enabled Peter to explain what was empowering them. And that is what was spoken of in Joel as a tool to reveal God's wonders, and His desire for His creation.

So what do we know of the Spirit? Paul writes that "no-one is speaking by the Spirit of God and says 'Jesus be cursed' and equally no-one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. You and I, as Christians have the Holy Spirit whether we like it or not! The Spirit has been freely given to each of us but we chose to ignore the fact, or suppress its bidding or are fearful of it and close our hearts to its prompting. God never forces Himself on us so the Spirit waits patiently as a spark in our hearts until we recognise her presence. When we begin to recognise gifts we realise that it is the Spirit that distributes them. The same with acts of service and good works that honour the Lord and reveal God at work ~ they are all prompted and guided by the Spirit. They are the words and actions in our lives that are not done for attention or selfish motives, the things we would humanly avoid if we thought they carried any risk of rejection, humiliation or danger or simply took up time we would rather give to something else! You and I actively need to call on the Spirit to work in our lives otherwise we are very good at going it alone and not serving Christ but kidding ourselves that we are!

So have you responded to the Spirit? Have you recognised the