

NewsLink

31st May –7th June 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends

Well here we are again! Tessa and I were speaking this morning and realised that we have spent the whole of the Easter season in lockdown. At a Christian seasonal time of celebration, - the Resurrection, Ascension and now Pentecost, we are necessarily apart from one another. Hopefully we can relate so much better to our readings this Sunday as we discover the disciples also locked down in the upper room prior to them receiving the power of the Holy Spirit which transformed their lives, their skills in communication; their confidence in sharing the Christian story with others, whose lives in turn were transformed.

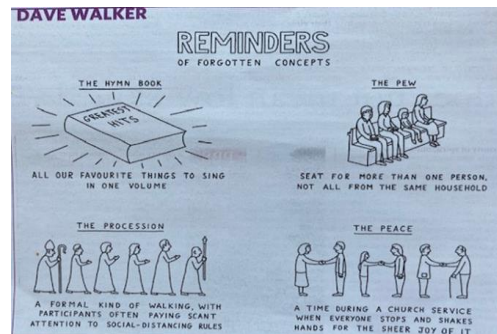
We never know quite what happened at Pentecost but the results are seen in the change that came over the disciples. At one moment they were hesitant, frightened, unable to speak out and probably felt drained and powerless; then, they were ready to go out, bold and courageous, ready to proclaim the Good News, full of the Holy Spirit and his power.

We too need to be open to the power of the Holy Spirit that continues to live in our hearts and informs our prayer life and the outworking of our faith. In the first 13 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, there are more than 40 references to the Holy Spirit empowering, moving and guiding people. It has rightly been called the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. The longing that Moses expressed in Numbers 11: 24-30 is fulfilled, for the Lord has poured his Spirit on his people. Whatever happened at Pentecost, new life was breathed into the disciples; they were given new vision and power.

Who knows where the Spirit will lead us as individuals and as Churches seeking to share the Good News of God's love and build His kingdom here in our communities?

We recognise that people are now growing weary of the lockdown, especially in such glorious weather. I hope that many of you will now be enjoying social distanced walks together in the glorious sunshine and catching up with one another as your paths cross with others.

Stay safe and stay well and God Bless; we pray we will be together soon.....



Ann, Rector

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service, 'The Day of Pentecost' Is now available below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNbuBITqStQ>

It will also be available on the Benefice Website www.nboachurches.co.uk along with additional resources.

Each week we will also publish your photos, Bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in Newslink or on the website. So please do send these to Ann Keating by the Thursday of each week.

If you know someone who can not access Newslink online and who would prefer a hard copy, please send their name and postal address to Ann Keating. We will post a copy to them by Royal Mail in line with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution

'Where's Wendy?' when I joined in with singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*, written by **Wendy Brown**.

I was sent a link to an invitation to join a virtual choir to sing the Hallelujah Chorus as part of the Ascension Day Service on Radio 4. I thought I should be able to do that because I know Handel's Hallelujah Chorus very well. It was really hard! I am used to singing with people around me and of course this was singing on my own. When rehearsing this was fine because I had a singer singing my part in my ears but when it came to recording the video all I had in my ears was the accompaniment! I did not film it very well but I am really pleased to have taken part. (Better next time perhaps!) I attach a link to the video here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000j8rt/clips>

Note from Ann, Rector: Well done Wendy, these recordings of virtual choirs are extremely difficult so congratulations for participating! When I first saw the recording that went viral, I scanned the photos to see if there was anyone I recognised. I didn't know if anyone I knew had participated but I spotted you! Who else managed to see you?

From Revd Paul Batson

Paul found these words helped especially at a very difficult and uncertain time in his life and he continues to find them helpful.

The words are adapted by the late Jim Cotter from the writing of Rainer Maria Rilke, an Austrian Poet and Novelist. They are timeless and are particularly poignant for today

Be Patient

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart.....

Try to love the questions themselves.....

Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given because you would not be able to live them.....

Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it,

Live along some distant day into the answers....

Words adapted by Jim Cotter in his book 'Prayer at Night' and based on words

Written by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

A thank you to all who supported Christian Aid from Alison Wells



Love Unites us All

Dear Mrs Wells,

You've quizzed. You've run. You've prayed. Thank you for getting involved in Christian Aid Week online!

Your innovative, exciting virtual fundraisers have risen to the challenge of celebrating Christian Aid Week differently. We've loved hearing about the Big Wolverhampton Quiz, the Christian Aid Scotland advisory committee taking on the 300,00 steps challenge, All Hallows by the Tower church doing a non-stop reading of the New Testament and many more. Thank you for all the different ways you've got involved to stand with our neighbours living in poverty.

This Christian Aid Week you have helped save lives. From families living in over-crowded refugee camps, to people with no clean water to wash their hands, your support has made a real difference.

[Find out more about our coronavirus response ►](#)

Your love and support mean that Christian Aid can continue to deliver life-saving work around the world. Love never fails. Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

[Pay in your fundraising ►](#)

With thanks for all that you do,

Sophie Brightwell
Christian Aid Week Team
Christian Aid

Barrington Times

We are pleased to have received the next edition of the Barrington Times, the newspaper that our young crucifer Henry Barrington has been producing during the lockdown.



You can view his news in the resource section of the Benefice website. As before we have edited it to remove identifiable photos of the children in line with safeguarding guidelines.

INGREDIENTS FOR A BIBLICAL CAKE.

(Use your Bible not the Internet)

½ cup of Judges 5;25.

1 and ½ cups of Jeremiah 6;20

3 off Isaiah 10;14

2 cups of 1 Kings 4;22

2 Teaspoons of Luke 13;21

1 Teaspoon of 1 Kings 10;10

1 Teaspoon of 1 Kings 10;10

1 Teaspoon of 1 Kings 10;10

½ Teaspoon of Leviticus 2;13

½ Cup of Genesis 43;24

1 Tablespoon of Proverbs 24;13

1 Cup of 1 Samuel 30;11

1 Cup of Genesis 43;11

1 cup of 1 Samuel 30;11

Answers welcome from our readers!

An update from the Winsley Churchyard eco-project.



The churchyards flora is probably nearly at its peak, the early grasses are beginning to flower.

It's an absolute picture at the moment. Above are a few photographs; one of Ox-eye daisies and one on a Grave covered in Mouse-ear hawkweed just gone over.

If you have visited the cordoned off area in the churchyard, do let me know what you think.

Dave our local botanist has also discovered some rare plants in the front section of the churchyard. He has sent in two photos of the plants in Winsley and says that there appears to be two distinct species, He is presently looking at what he thinks they are and then will be sending them on to an expert.

Their glorious colour adds to the look of that edge of the churchyard, especially after the spring flowers have gone.



Dave also took the opportunity to visit Christchurch prior to the grass being cut. He took the opportunity to undertake a quick botanical survey, said how fabulous it's looking and he recorded 111 species.

The most significant find, was not any particular species but a number of species he wasn't expecting to find. Dave said, "As an ecologist when we look at sites we tick off a number of indicator species, which let us know the history of the site and the more of them you get the more value of the site becomes.

What became evident was that Christ Church had been erected upon an ancient piece of grassland. A number of the grasses and herbs indicate that, and are still there, probably since Victorian times. They have had very few opportunities to flower. They have just got on with growing vegetatively. But this lockdown and lack of cutting, has allowed them to flourish."

Ann, Rector



This image was sent to me on social media, I do not know the original source, but I really liked it, hope you do too. Denise Button.

This is one of the orchid species named flower of the holy spirit. It starts blooming during pentecostal period once a year. Before bloom, it looks like praying saints, when the flower blooms, it looks like a flying dove. How amazing is God's Creation!



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Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.

From the Church Times

ROTAS

HOW TO RECREATE THEM AT HOME DURING LOCKDOWN

