

The Lighthouse



Day of Pentecost

Scripture Reading: Acts chapter 2 verses 1–21

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind ...

Dear Friends,

A very Happy Birthday. We all have a birthday at Pentecost. It is the celebration of the birth of the church, and as God's children we are at the party. Instead of sardine paste sandwiches, jelly and cake, at the Pentecost party there is power, commitment and hope on the table! Timid disciples hiding in the upper room are changed into people of mission and conviction, all because the Spirit of God came on them.

Let's clear one theological issue up straight away – The Holy Spirit is a person. We talk of the three persons of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Paul writing to the church at Ephesus tells us 'not to grieve the Holy Spirit'. You can't grieve a lamppost! The Spirit hears our prayers, he works on our behalf, he intercedes for us.

I'm offering a few stories which hopefully remind us who the Holy Spirit is. The first story is personal and very up to date. Yesterday I sat in my car, pressed the start button and up came a symbol and a load of bleeps instead of the engine firing up. Help, no power. This has never happened before, and I feared the worst, not least a huge bill. All was well, I simply didn't have my key battery with me. The message to us is to let the Holy Spirit take control of our lives. Without him we are powerless; we don't start up as Christians, and we get nowhere.

A boy was flying his kite. The wind took it higher and higher until it looked like a small dot in the sky. 'How do you know it is still there?' asked his mum. 'I can feel it moving my hand,' replied the boy. Although unseen, the Spirit of God moves us to be and do as God wants.

Imagine a sea view. The ocean is wide and deep, all powerful and so vast it goes beyond the horizon. That is rather like God. We cannot understand him fully, yet all God asks is that we take our own bottle and fill it from the ocean. There is plenty of sea water left, the view is no different, yet we are filled with all we need by God's love, and it is free to us. We read in scripture to be filled with the Spirit of God – God's power in us, providing all we need, and giving the strength to live for him, and to serve him. So, Happy Birthday as we celebrate, follow and serve Christ in the power of the Spirit.



'Flying the Kite', a painting by David Cox, c. 1820

David Cox, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

With every blessing in Christ, Derek the Cleric.

Hands – Face – Space – and Fresh Air

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by coronavirus, and especially countries where the virus is out of control
- + our NHS workers, care workers and care home residents
- + key workers and those who provide essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the vaccines
- + people waiting to be called for a job and those going for their jobs
- + for co-operation among nations in dealing with the pandemic
- + our teachers and school staff
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience as we deal with changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + our Armed Forces serving here and abroad
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness, hospitalisation or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + those who have died
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend online and in person
- + all who are visiting the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + for wisdom and safety in easing restrictions in the months ahead
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all circumstances

Services in May

23rd May

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre

11:00 At St Michael and All Angels Ingoldisthorpe – Traditional Worship – Holy Communion

30th May

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre

11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Dersingham

Edgar Cooper

Sadly, Edgar Cooper died last week. Edgar offered so much for St Nicholas Church in many ways, including being Churchwarden. The arrangements for Edgar's funeral are currently being finalised, but I can confirm that Edgar's funeral will be on 14 June at 1pm in Church. The Church Choir, of which Edgar was a long-time member, will be singing (a limited number due to restrictions). The service in church will be able to be attended by limited numbers of church members and friends, in addition to the family. Numbers to be confirmed in the coming weeks. Please bear in mind it might not be possible to accommodate everyone wishing to attend. We are working on live streaming the funeral service direct from Church. The viewing of this will be different from how our regular livestream worship is accessed, as it will be via access only from a direct link (to follow).

We pray for Edgar's daughter Sue and the family at this time.

Rev Mark

Bible Readings for Sunday, 30th May

Trinity Sunday

First reading – Romans 8:12–17

Second reading – John 3:1–17



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

TUNISIA

Population 11.9 million. 23,100 Christians (0.02%)

Christians who've converted from Islam are most vulnerable to persecution – often from their own family members and surrounding society. This is especially true in the country's conservative southern regions. Many converts choose to hide their faith. The hostility and pressure they face from the surrounding community and society make it dangerous to share their faith with others. Men can face intimidation, ostracism, beatings and even death threats, whilst women are at risk of sexual harassment, domestic violence, expulsion from family, and forced marriage. Violent Islamic extremists are active in the border areas to the south. They will target any Christian, whether foreign or national, if the opportunity arises.

Prayer points

- Pray that God will bring isolated believers together for fellowship.
- Pray that believers across Tunisia will be filled with renewed boldness and faith as they follow Jesus.
- Pray for female believers in Tunisia struggling with trauma, that God will heal, restore and encourage them.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Tunisia, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Tunisia - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Tunisia from Open Doors

O God, we pray for Your people in Tunisia. We ask that You will be with them and strengthen them in all circumstances. We pray especially for Your servants who found the life-saving grace of Jesus despite coming from another faith. We ask that You protect them, sustain their faith and give them hope and courage. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Thanks to Rev Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

We give thanks for:

- + springtime and God's creation
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + our church community, our families and friendships
- + livestreamed and in-person worship
- + our scientists, medics and care workers
- + our teachers, key workers and all people providing essential services
- + vaccines and progress in treating coronavirus
- + the arts, music and creativity
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit

New Church Audio and Livestreaming Equipment

Progress has been very positive since I announced online that we were looking to upgrade the sound system at St Nicholas to one that works! The live streaming equipment will enable us to stream services weekly and enhance significantly what we are able to offer in quality of sound and in picture and options on screen.

Over the summer period I will be looking to recruit a small team who can learn how to operate the controls and joystick. In the meantime, there is still work to be done behind the scenes.

The revised quote for the audio equipment and installation is £11,498, including VAT. The cost of the streaming equipment and installation at the same time is £3,607, which brings a total of £15,105. Thank you to those who have made generous donations. We are getting close to the total needed, which is great. If you would like to make a donation to help get us over the line, please contact the church treasurer Pat Oughtibridge or Pauline.

Thank you,
Rev Mark.

Wordsearch – The Day of Pentecost

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Acts chapter 2 verses 1 to 21.



FILLED
 HOLY
 WIND
 TONGUES
 GALILEANS
 FIRE
 TOGETHER
 LANGUAGE
 AMAZED
 SPIRIT
 SOUND
 PENTECOST

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

BIT HARDY TEN PLY
 REEF TENTS COPE
 VERSE

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

St Michael and All Angels, Ingoldisthorpe

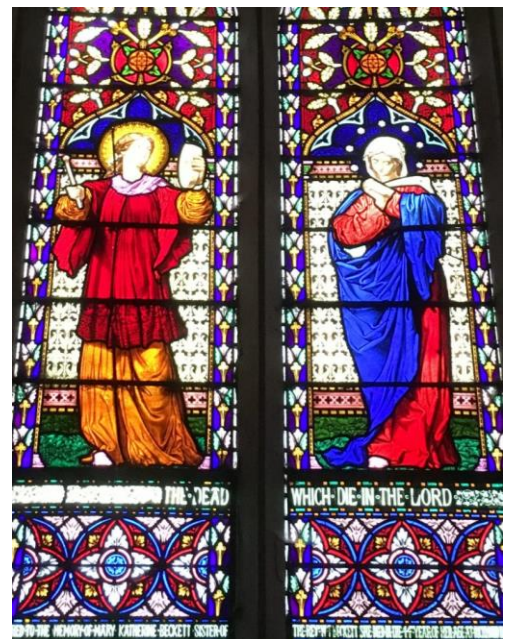
Today's 11 am service comes from St Michael's.

These photos, by Matthew McDade, show the church's interior and one of its beautiful stained-glass windows.

Source: <https://www.exploringnorfolkchurches.org/>

*And everyone
 who calls
 on the name
 of the Lord
 will be saved.*

– Acts 2:21



Accessing Livestream Worship

The 11am services are livestreamed and are available from the YouTube Channel – ‘Dersingham Online Worship’.

I recommend and encourage you to hit that subscribe button on the ‘Dersingham Online Worship’ YouTube channel, as this will make it easier for you to see the live worship each week.

We use 4G mobile internet. Generally this is good, but on occasions the connection may drop off, causing some delay or pausing. Where there are major issues, we will endeavour to record the service and post it online later.

Livestreaming is a steep learning curve for us as a small team working with new technology. Thank you for your support and prayers as we strive to offer live worship and improve it over the coming months.

Rev Mark
Rector

Anagrams: birthday, plenty, free, Pentecost, serve

With help from: wordman.com/anagram-maker

Services in June

6th June

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre

11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Dersingham

13th June

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre

11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Dersingham

20th June

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre

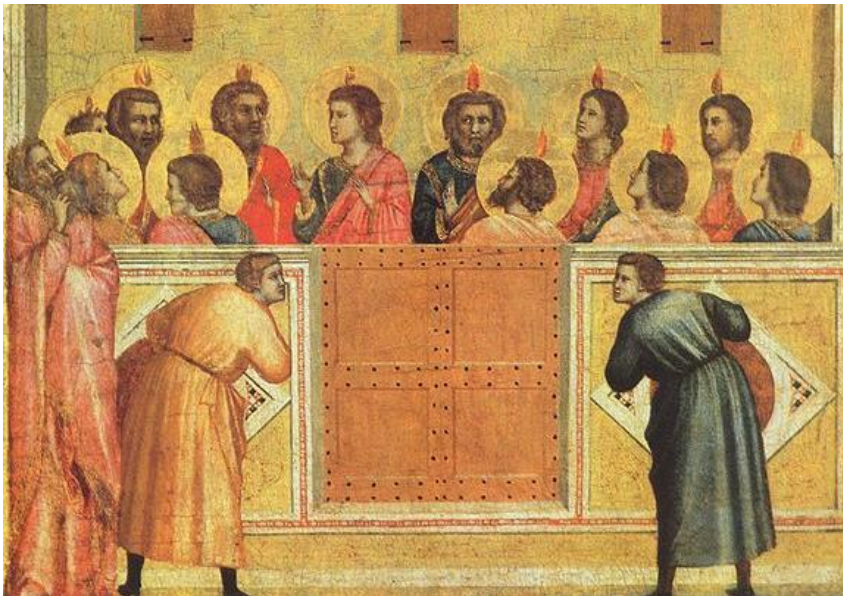
11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion from the Prayer Book at St Mary the Virgin Anmer

27th June

9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion at Dersingham Village Centre

11:00 Morning Prayer with Baptisms – Traditional Worship at St Nicholas Dersingham

Please do book in for all services by contacting Pauline Martin 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



Public domain

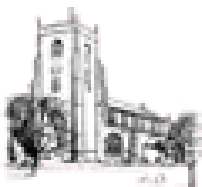
A Painting of Pentecost

This detail from a 14th Century painting by Giotto refers to the moment, described in this week’s reading from Acts, when the twelve disciples received the Holy Spirit in the form of ‘tongues of fire’ upon their heads.

The three figures at the front of the painting seem to be listening intently. Acts 2: 4, 6–8:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

... 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?’



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

