



# Pews News

United Benefice of Shenstone & Stonnall



## Pentecost Sunday – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

**The Lord be with you  
And also with you**

I pray you are all safe and well. Don't forget if you need help in any way please call me and I'll do my very best to find the right sort of help for you.

Pentecost Sunday!! The church's birthday. Those of you who have celebrated birthday during lockdown will know that very different celebrations have had to take place. Our Pentecost services are very different too, let's continue to pray for our churches to be open.

With all Blessings  
Rev Liz

### **Collect Prayer – 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 face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**





## **News from the Church of England – current as at 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

- All public acts of church activities, worship and private prayer opportunities within church are suspended until further notice.
- Clergy are however now allowed into church buildings for private prayer and to film morning prayer and services.
- Guidance and ruling on conducting weddings and funerals is available on the websites of Lichfield Diocese and The Church of England.
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>
- <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information>

### **Our Prayers**

- We pray for our world, and all in need at this time.
- We pray for all our Government, our Bishops and Clergy. We pray especially for the Prime Minister and our Government as decisions continue to be made.
- We pray for our country as we cope with the lifting of some restrictions. Protect us and help us to make the right choices.
- Many known to us have had much needed surgery and treatment postponed, be with them all.
- We hold before you those in our Community affected by Covid-19, and those who need to isolate
- We give thanks for those who have been healed
- We hold before the Lord our schools, teachers, support workers and those pupils preparing to return to school
- We thank you for all key and frontline workers. Protect them Lord
- We pray for the ordinands (vicars in training) as they leave their colleges, move homes and prepare to take up their Curacy posts. We especially pray for Graham Wigley who will be joining us here in our United Benefice.

### **Update – Graham Wigley**

Graham will be joining us from 28<sup>th</sup> June and will initially be licensed as a Lay Curate. His ordination date has now been provisionally rearranged as 26<sup>th</sup> September. At this stage we're not sure how many guests, if any will be allowed in the Cathedral.

Due to the current situation the purchase of the house in Stonnall has stalled. A date for exchange and completion of contracts couldn't be agreed before Graham needs to move into his new home (next week), so Graham will live in the Streetley parish curate's house. This house is 3 miles away from Stonnall church, so not too inconvenient. His new address will be;

11 Icknield Close  
Streetley  
West Midlands  
B74 3NN

Please feel free to send a 'welcome to your new home' card if you would like to. A phone number and email address will follow shortly when these have been set up.

### **Help and Assistance**

We want to make sure everyone in our church and our communities stay safe. If you have any need whatever please contact one of our care co-ordinators who will their best to find someone to help you.

Graham & Margaret Birt 01543 483138

Di Proctor 01543 480442

Val Neale 01543 374430

### **Contributions for our local foodbanks.**

If you would like to make contribution to our food banks the following collection points are available;

For the Lichfield Food Bank (Shenstone Church) –

The Vicarage, St Johns Hill, a container is in the porchway

7 Church Close, Shenstone, a container is outside the door.

For the Thomas Project (Stonnall Church) –

1 Lazy Hill, a box is inside the porch

Thank you for your generous contributions. Both foodbank projects can only take gifts of non perishable items, so please no fresh goods.

### **Social Media**

If you don't use social media and would prefer not to, the Archbishop of Canterbury has set up a free phone line of a service you can listen to. If you know someone who would like this, please pass this number on to them.



### **Morning Prayer times on FaceBook**

During the week, Monday to Friday, there is a short time of Morning Prayer on both FaceBook pages. This time of prayer is based on the set liturgy for Morning Prayer for the day. You can access an app for this at <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>. It's a free app and includes Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer for each day.

### **Church Finances**

Although both our churches are closed for public worship and private prayer time our bills still need to be paid. Thank you to those of you who continue to give by standing order and those who have posted donations through the Vicarage door. If you do usually give by envelope on the plate you will have received a letter with a supply of envelopes in to enable you to continue your donations during our shut down time. You can either save these up till we're able to reopen or contact one of the wardens and they'll arrange for it to be collected from you.

A justgiving page for each church has been set up should you or a family member wish to make a donation, the details are as follows;

For St John the Baptist

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stjohnthebshenstone>

For St Peter's Church

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pccofstpetersstonall>

## **Our readings for this Sunday are;**

### **Acts 2:1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But 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. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'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. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

## **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. <sup>21</sup> 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."

### **Songs for today**

All my days, Cornerstone

### **Thoughts for today**

(bullet points from sermon posted on FaceBook 31<sup>st</sup> May)

- Two great symbols of our church, the cross to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made, for the forgiveness of our sins, second the flame of the Holy Spirit (HS), coming at this first Pentecost.
- HS perhaps most difficult to identify with, God, the father the guy in charge, head honcho, Jesus is easy to identify with, because he became human like us, had a mother and father, flesh and blood, but the HS..... well. As a child in the brownies, we used to go to church on some day or other, once a year, and remember being scared to death of the HOLY GHOST.....
- So who is HS – always been there Gen 1:2 `.. and the spirit of God was hovering over the waters, mentioned in OT 1 Kings 18:46 Elijah having the power of the Lord coming upon him, Judges 15.14 Spirit of the Lord come upon Samson in power. HS coming to people and giving power, is not a new thing, been around for 1000s of year, but this HS would only come for a short while and not live inside of people. Jesus came and in John 14:16-18 `And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, that he may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you

as orphans, I will come to you'. New covenant, HS is to be with us, to remain with, to be our helper.

- Just look at the disciples after the HS, after first Pentecost. Hiding, in fear,, these same men who'd been with Jesus for 3 years, now suddenly running scared. OK once Jesus appeared to them they started to worship in the temples again, but nothing else much. Once HS filled them, Peter preaching in temples, speaking other languages, threatened with their lives but keep on preaching the gospel, they heal the sick and lame – the only difference is that the HS is now within them. They'd witness Jesus' life, his death, his resurrection but it took the HS to transform them.
- Secret? We too have that same power to transform us – we too have the potential for HS to be in our lives, just as it was for the disciples that first Pentecost, but so very few of us tap into that power, maybe we never have, maybe we did once but don't do so any more, maybe we've forgotten how to do it
- It is the Holy spirit that gives us the ability to witness to the world. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us words to say when our minds go blank.
- It is the Holy Spirit that makes us able to carry out Christ's command to preach to all the nations and make disciples of every nation.
- If we do not know how to use the Spirit, or are hindering His work in us. We cannot fulfill the commandment we have been given to minister.
- It is through the Holy Spirit that we are able to love the unlovable, minister to the unwanted, serve those who reject us and grow the kingdom of God.
- It is the Holy Spirit that gives us our power. It is the Holy Spirit that makes us work the way we were meant too. When we use the Spirit we can do all things for Christ. We need to be filled with the Spirit. Without the Spirit we can do nothing. With Him, we can turn a world upside down and shine God's light into a dark world. When we are filled with the Spirit, we can be Christ in our world. Are you being powered by the Holy Spirit?

## Prayers

Holy Father, fill us with the Holy Spirit the power of the living God,  
Guide us by the Holy Spirit the giver of life, Strengthen us through the  
Holy Spirit the fire of love. Let your Spirit come upon us, to change us  
and all your faithful people

Breathe on us, Breath of God

**And fill us with life anew**

We thank you Lord for the gifts of your Holy Spirit, we praise you and  
for pray all those who exercise these gifts. We pray that through the  
Spirit our worship may be lively and a sweet sound in your ear.

Breathe on us, breath of God

**And fill us with life anew**

We pray for all who feel anxious, or guilty. We remember all those  
whose lives whose lives are touched by illness or disability, all those  
who are frustrated by being limited by circumstances. We pray for  
loved ones who are ill especially .....

Breathe on us, breath of God

**And fill us with life anew**

We give thanks that you are the God who breathes new life into us,  
you are the God who restores us. We give thanks that you give us  
new life

Breathe on us, breath of God

**And fill us with life anew**

We offer you these prayers in Jesus name

Amen

Vicar: - *Revd Liz Chamberlain* 480286 [vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)

St John the Baptist Church Wardens: - *Bonnie* 480278 & *Bill Whitney* 480652

St Peter's Church Wardens: - *Peter & Patsy Toulouse* 361778

Parish Administrator: - 480286 [admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk)

St John's Hall Bookings & Administration: - 480286 [admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk](mailto:admin@shenstoneandstonnall.co.uk) Website:  
[www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistshenstone.org.uk) Facebook: *St John the Baptist Shenstone and St Peters Church  
Stonnall*