



The Benefice of Upper Wensleydale



"The Wild Goose,"
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Edition 11

'Church in the Home'

Sunday May 31st – Saturday June 7th

From the Vicarage

Sunday is a day in the churches calendar where we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room at the festival of Pentecost. It is a day where everything changed for those early believers and is often referred to as the churches birthday; the day when the church as we know it, was born.

The account that Luke gives us in the book of Acts describes a violent wind, and that which looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them. The symbol of the flame is therefore a common image associated with the Holy Spirit but there are others. The Dove is the primary symbol and this is because we are told in Luke's gospel, Luke 3:22, that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus after his baptism in the Jordan, in the form of a dove. The dove also represents peace or 'shalom'. Celtic Christian tradition depicts the Holy Spirit as the Wild Goose. For them, the untamed, erratic, uncontrollable nature of the Wild Goose more closely characterised their experience of the Holy Spirit. A Wild Goose is always on the move and doing unexpected things. It is loud, passionate, unsettling and uncontrollable. I can understand both images and have certainly experienced the Spirit in these different ways. However you might depict Him, the Holy Spirit is a part of the godhead. He is there to be known, to be experienced and He is there for everyone.

I never tire of telling of a church friend of ours who experienced the Holy Spirit in such a wonderful way. She is a lady who left school aged 15 with minimal qualifications and attended a conference our church was hosting on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. During a time of prayer she along with some others, gathered around one of the international speakers and began to pray. About half an hour later when the prayer had finished the man turned and asked our friend: *'Where did you learn to speak Hebrew so fluently?'* She was astonished. Praying in the spirit and in tongues she had unknowingly given a very personal and a very pertinent word of encouragement to this man from the Lord himself.

The Holy Spirit empowers us and gifts us to be about our business as a church. He is not *'for then'*, He is most definitely for now. Our service of Morning Prayer closes with a commission and with the opportunity for us all to ask the Lord to fill us with his Holy Spirit. It may be the first time you have ever done so or you may have done it many times before. The important thing is that we recognise we *need* Him, *ask* for Him and *receive* Him.

In the words of BobbieBall the comedian and Christian:

'We need to keep coming back to Him, 'cos we're all leaky!'

Rev Dave.



There is a redeemer

<https://youtu.be/61CJdXmxxLU>

Music from
Sarah

This song speaks of the spirit at the end. In fact it speaks of the whole Trinity. But I just love that the song uses the promise from the Bible that the Lord gives us. Leaving His spirit with us until the work on earth is done. We are not left alone. We have all we need to empower us in the journey by asking His spirit to come into us.

There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One

Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

When I stand in Glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place

*Thank you, oh my father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done*

Send the fire

<https://youtu.be/O7-EG9Bq-F8>

This rousing modern Pentecost hymn just cannot be left out today. 'We need another Pentecost.'
'God of Elijah hear our cry' Let the church cry out from each one of our hearts today !

O God of burning cleansing flame
Send the fire
Your blood-bought gift today we claim
Send the fire today
Look down and see this waiting host
And send the promised Holy Ghost
We need another Pentecost
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

God of Elijah hear our cry
Send the fire
And make us fit to live or die
Send the fire today
To burn up every trace of sin
To bring the light and glory in
The revolution now begin
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

It's fire we want for fire we plead
Send the fire
The fire will meet our every need
Send the fire today
For strength to always do what's right
For grace to conquer in the fight
For power to walk the world in white
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

To make our weak hearts strong and brave
Send the fire
To live a dying world to save
Send the fire today
Oh see us on Your altar lay
We give our lives to You today
So crown the offering now we pray
Send the fire today
Send the fire today
Send the fire today



Sunday May 31st Bible Readings:

Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3-13, John 20:19-23, Psalm 104:26-end

Click on this site, type in the reading you want and then listen to David Suchet read it to you.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Gen.1>

Reflection

Forty days after the resurrection Jesus ascended to the Father, and ten days later we celebrate Pentecost. What happened before and after Pentecost and what are we to make of it all? What we call Pentecost was the Jewish Festival of Shavuot, celebrating the fiftieth day after Passover when Jews would gather to celebrate the first fruits of harvest. The Apostles were there waiting for a sign.

Before he ascended Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said to them 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20 v22). He gave them the power in his name to forgive sins or to retain them. A quiet breath of God to allow them to act in Jesus' name. In the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles we then hear that Jesus said to them 'Wait for the promise of the Father you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.' The apostles clearly did not understand what Jesus meant and asked for a time when this might happen and whether it would restore the kingdom to Israel. In the ten days between then and Pentecost the Apostles continued more or less as normal, praying together and asking for guidance to help to choose a replacement for Judas.

Nothing could have prepared them for what happened next. Imagine waiting for a sign but not knowing when, quietly praying for guidance, praying with a group of 120 believers and then the shock which blasted them out of their ordinary lives into a world where nothing would ever be the same again. The only way they could describe it was tongues of fire and a great wind; a huge blast of spiritual energy which changed them for ever. They had been given the power to forgive sins in Jesus' name now they were being given power to go out and fulfil their mission. Such was the great influx of spiritual power that they could never go back to what they had been. They were changed for ever. From now they would be harvesting the first fruits of a new era. The confused and dispirited followers became focused and centred and went out into the world to change it. The fishermen of Galilee, so tradition has it, travelled the known world spreading the Gospel of Christ. The ripples of this huge influx of spiritual fire are felt today whenever we preach the gospel and tell of the Good News. This seismic shift changed what has been called the 'Jesus Movement' into a faith for all, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 10 v44-48 - the Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

God not only sent His Son into the world to redeem the world, but He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us His disciples and empower us to go out and bring others to our Lord. The OT is full of references to the Holy Spirit moving in the lives of men; we think of Joel's prophesy, 'I will pour out my spirit on all flesh' and we are part of that continuum. God is there for us, the Holy Spirit will guide us if we accept the gift. This gift is available to everyone now. The Holy Spirit will gift us the fruits of the spirit but also, if we chose will gift us the life we are meant to live. Then we can take on the world as the Apostles did.

And what of the speaking of foreign languages. Christine Hallas told me something which happened to her which perhaps illustrates this. Christine was part of a small group visiting the Holy Land. They went to Golgotha and one of the party started to speak in tongues. Christine said she didn't understand a word but in her spirit she knew what he was saying. She understood his message. In her innermost self she knew.

So, Pentecost is the beginning of the new era; of Christianity which will spread across the world because of the power of the Holy Spirit which changed the apostles to men of confidence, filled with spiritual energy to tell the Good News.

Now, we have to do likewise. Alleluia. Amen

Mary Rose Kearney & Christine Hallas



Prayers



We must THANK for what we know we should be thanking God for, and we must PLEAD for his help for others and ask for strength for ourselves. It's a favourite ploy of the atheist to blame God for disasters - this Virus?- which are invariably the result of our own machinations and carelessness: so they talk of the multitudes killed, for example, in the First World War, or the Titanic's sinking in 1912 just before that outbreak, or the Spanish Flu's horrendous killing at that war's end; or the villages swept away by huge landslips and people drowned in mud as in Aberfan in 1966 or in China a similar horror in 2018...but...was it God's fault to arm the Germans to fight us? Or did he drive an iceberg south into the path of that luxurious best in the world liner? Or say to the Welsh branch of the NCB to place a vast coal tip next a primary school?

We are the ones who behave foolishly, and God stands by and has to see the suffering which must be as bad as actually dying! But God takes the faithful dead to Heaven, to give them a new life just as his son took the pain at his crucifixion saying "I have suffered before you". It is not God who moves in mysterious and cruel ways, it is us.

We must think of others and plan totally with that in mind.

O Lord have mercy upon us
'Christ have mercy upon us'

A scientist was asked in about 2015 if a pandemic was due. 'Yes' he said. And where will it occur he was asked: 'China probably: it is overcrowded in urban areas where there is a combination of poverty, congestion and proximity to the natural world who may take on our diseases which may well mutate and be deadly for humans'.

O Lord please let us enter your kingdom when the time comes, and return to where Love was born. We are sorrowful for our sins. In the forty days you appeared to your disciples about 40 times after the resurrection. You walked and talked and even cooked some a fish breakfast on the banks of Lake Galilee.

Let us walk closer to you. As our vicar said in a powerful prayer a few weeks ago "*What do you need to tell the Lord today*", and added "*Lets replace our hurts and disappointments with honesty as honesty leads to submission and that leads to praising God who provides every good thing*" and, I add, is without a doubt close by to comfort at every sad occurrence.

Dear God, we plead: please remove or help us remove this pandemic which is scouring the entire world. Protect the refugees in a large Syrian camp from it and all the poor who have no hospital or medics nearby. We know that nothing is impossible for You.

O Lord have mercy upon us
'Christ have mercy upon us'

Let us now end by having have a full minute of silent prayer, pleading for help for all we know need it, visualising them, and for thanking for His attention and help - and let us be grateful.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN
Piers Browne

...This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday This Sunday ...

Sunday May 31st
10:30am
Morning Prayer



To view this Sunday's service:
Visit the website
www.upperwensleydalechurch.co.uk
or our FaceBook page :
[upperwensleydalechurch-cofe](https://www.facebook.com/upperwensleydalechurch-cofe)



There has been a great deal in the news this week that might be unsettling folks. Let's keep our prayers and our praises rising and avoid taking offence. The last 10 weeks have been born with great fortitude but many are now feeling weary and need new strength to carry them on. Pentecost reminds us that God's power is there for us, so let's keep asking for the Holy Spirit to empower us and those we love. 😊

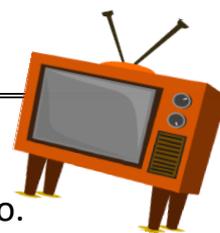
Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Lots going on this Sunday

**TV
Radio**

Worship on the BBC:



Tune into some of the services on TV and Radio.

Sunday: Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8:10 – 8:50am from City Church Cardiff

Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:00 – 4pm from St David's Cathedral

Wed: Radio 3 Choral Evensong 3:30 – 4:30pm from St Mary's Warwick

Sunday BBC1 Worship. 10:00-11:00 Pentecost Celebration from Gorton Monastery

11:00-11:30 Pentecost Service from Hereford Cathedral



11:30 – 12:00 Stories of HOPE

1:15-1:50 Songs of Praise with Rev Kate Bottley