



### Keep in touch with St Joe's

Follow our emails and bulletins to keep up to date with all that is happening at St Joe's. If you don't yet receive our weekly email, contact Tim: [tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk](mailto:tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk), and he will add you to our mailing list. If you are unable to receive emails, keep in touch, by phone or word of mouth. Please share information with friends. We are the Body of Christ.

### Future Dates:

**Walk Through the Bible** is now booked for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October. This all day event provides an excellent way of learning about and getting the 'big picture' of the Old Testament. It costs £14, and includes a full manual, and membership for life!

We hold an open **Wednesday Evening Zoom Discussion Group**, which anyone is welcome to just 'turn up' at. Each session is complete in itself, and has an opportunity for discussion and prayer. The title is Who Is Jesus? and each week there is a short reflection. Here is the link:

Wednesday Evening Zoom Discussion Group  
This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82647846063>  
Meeting ID: 826 4784 6063

### People at St Joe's

Minister:	Tim Eady	01902 569625	<a href="mailto:tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk">tim@pennfieldsparish.co.uk</a>
Associate Minister:	Graham Hartnell	01902 593086	
Wardens:	Chris Strange	Treasurer	Hilary Bannister
	Steve Perry	Hall Bookings	Andy Wynter
	Brenda Swatman		
	Jenny Green		

### And in the wider parish

Vicar	Peter Smith	01902 332749.	<a href="mailto:peter@pennfieldsparish.co.uk">peter@pennfieldsparish.co.uk</a>
Curate	Treena Larkin	07368423748	<a href="mailto:treena@pennfieldsparish.co.uk">treena@pennfieldsparish.co.uk</a>
Parish Office		01902 341943	<a href="mailto:office@pennfieldsparish.co.uk">office@pennfieldsparish.co.uk</a>



# Joe's Prose May 2021

News from St Joseph's Church

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ....

## A Warm Welcome to Everyone



## Come., Holy Spirit....

It used to be a public holiday. Nowadays, the 'Spring Bank Holiday' seldom coincides so, despite being second only in importance to the great Festival of Easter itself, Pentecost (or Whitsunday) gets forgotten by the world at large, and even for Christians, struggles to be remembered.

Pentecost recalls the foundational event of the Christian church. It is rightly known as the Church's birthday. Literally, Pentecost means fifty, reminding us that Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter, or, in the Jewish calendar, fifty days after Passover.

Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, until the Holy Spirit came upon them. On the feast of Pentecost, we read in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 2, the Spirit came upon the disciples in a big and significant way. He affirmed them in their faith, filled them with His presence, and sent them out to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbol for Pentecost is fire, representing the tongues of fire that touched the heads of those first disciples as the Spirit came upon them, and symbolic too of the rapid spread of the gospel, like wildfire across the Roman Empire.

Of course, Pentecost was first of all, a Jewish festival, within which a key component was the celebration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. So it is no coincidence that God should use this feast as an occasion on which to give the Spirit to the disciples. The Holy Spirit represents a new kind of law, no longer written on tablets of stone, but on the flesh of the human heart; no longer a series of commandments, but the law of the Spirit – primarily the law of love, which challenges us to consider our attitudes and behaviour. This calls us to a far deeper commitment to God than just a blind obedience to series of laws, and is perhaps best summarised by the phrase – following the *Spirit* of the law, not just the *letter* of the law. What really counts is obedience to God, and the extent to which we exhibit the fruit of His Spirit in our lives. Once again we must turn to St Paul to learn precisely what these fruit are: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23). These characteristics grow in us when we open ourselves up to the life of the Holy Spirit.

So Pentecost may be a birthday celebration, but it is not just an occasion to look back and count up the years. It is a day to encourage us to deepen our commitment to God, by welcoming the Holy Spirit as ruler and master of our hearts and lives. The colour of the season is red, as we remember the tongues of fire that came to rest upon the heads of the disciples.

Holy Spirit give us faith  
Holy Spirit give us hope  
Holy Spirit give us love.  
Revive your work in this land beginning with me.  
(Unknown)



### **Normal services to be resumed as soon as possible.....**

We're not quite there yet, but we hope and pray that the covid-pandemic is drawing towards its conclusion. We are now

holding three short services every Sunday – at 9am, 10am and 11am. We ask you to book a seat – either using the Eventbrite link that is published every week, or else by phoning Jo Strange or Tim. As we use the church, please remember that social distancing rules are still in place, and churches are committed to obeying them.

### **And Live-stream worship?**

For the time being, we will continue to live-stream the Morning Service from St Joseph's, so that the whole community can share in our worship.

### **Wednesday morning Communion 11.30am.**

Wednesday morning communion is back! Everyone is invited to this quiet, reflective service, that lasts for about 30 minutes.

### **Thank you**

Under difficult, covid circumstances, we held some meaningful Easter worship. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare for and lead our worship. We have a great team, and so many people involved. Thank you for being part of the team!

### **Thy Kingdom Come**

This nationwide initiative is a call to prayer. For 10 days, between Ascension and Pentecost, we are encouraged to pray for 5 friends to come to know Jesus as their Lord. Of course, we live in a world of immense need, and as a parish we will be holding a prayer chain over these 10 days. Look out for more details, but begin praying for your 5 friends now!

### **Ascension Day: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

There will be a service at St Joseph's at 7.30pm on Ascension to mark the beginning of Thy Kingdom Come. You are invited.

### **Pentecost: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

A parish service will be held at St Philip's to mark Pentecost at 6.30pm on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.