



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 31st May 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

On Sunday we will celebrate what many call 'the Church's Birthday'. Whit (Spirit) Sunday is associated with the Jewish festival of Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks) which commemorates Moses bringing down the Law from Mount Sinai, and many of the customs associated with it reflect the anticipation of waiting for such a special revelation from God.

In Greek the festival is called Pentecost, because it occurs on the fiftieth day after Passover, and Christians have adopted this title for Whit Sunday because it occurs on the fiftieth day after Jesus' resurrection (counting Easter Sunday as the first day). The theme of waiting in anticipation also runs through Christian celebrations. After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection his followers did a lot of waiting. During that time, they must have spent much time thinking about what Jesus had said and done, about their experiences of meeting their risen Lord and reflecting on what might happen next. There must have been a lot of speculative discussion about how their lives might be different when they came out of their current seclusion, and about how they might go about continuing Jesus' mission in a new and different way.

Sound familiar?

According to Acts chapter 1, after Jesus' ascension they returned to Jerusalem, according to his instruction, to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. They spent their waiting time praying and beginning to make practical preparations, such as choosing someone to replace Judas Iscariot. So, when the Holy Spirit came with inspiration and power, they were ready to respond like a sailing ship whose

sails fill with the wind. In the light of this Biblical precedent: even though the prospect of churches reopening still may seem distant, we too spend this waiting time in preparation so that we are ready to catch the wind of the Spirit and to follow her lead when the time comes.

Every Blessing

Jackie

Message from the leadership team

Today our Bible study group looked at the passage from Acts 1 :6-14, where Luke writes about Jesus ascending to heaven.

In order to support our discussions, we listened to a reflection from the Methodist church in York by Rev Andy. He writes "The passage starts poorly, with the Disciples falling into old patterns of thinking about Jesus and his Kingdom, but Jesus promises all the power they need will come with the Spirit."

We talked about the opportunities we have now in lockdown to share our faith and how we are experiencing a new way of being. We also reflected we too were perhaps at risk of falling into old patterns when we emerge from lockdown, and we too might benefit from pausing, and waiting for the Spirit's guidance before embarking on old patterns of being.

This week we held our first action group meeting following the ROC conversation in March which brought together nearly 200 people from churches, Christian charities, Councillors, and community groups.

The action group was smaller numbers with about 40 people taking part by Zoom. The group split into the four main areas which were highlighted by the ROC conversation. These are:

- Loneliness and social isolation
- Mental health
- Young people
- An 'other' group – which includes

communication about the work taking place.

Each group talked about the issues and where action might usefully start. It is not too late to join an action group even if you were not able to join the ROC conversation. Contact Daniela (Foundry Co-ordinator) or Hugh Bowerman or I if you would like to get involved. If not please pray for the work of the action groups as we take forward the work of the Foundry and bear

witness to our faith through this work.
Ruth Taylor

Maisy Morgan

Maisy Morgan was a near neighbour of ours for many years until she moved to a care home in the latter stages of her life. We first met her with her husband Eric (a walking Spitfire encyclopaedia) when we moved to Horsell in 1983 and who later took a great interest in our 2 sons; as their own grandchildren were not living near to Woking.

Maisy could often be seen chatting to other neighbours as we walked by on our way to the village shops where she herself was a regular. In fact, it was hard not to bump into her with her cheery smile and always a question or two about how we and the boys were getting on, even after they had flown the nest.

While she was able to drive, she was a regular volunteer at St Peter's Hospital and enjoyed her time helping there and chatting about it.

With her eyesight fading, she often could not recognise us until we spoke when she would recognise us immediately, hold our hands and chat away happily.

Even now, when we pass her old home, we still refer to it as "Maisy's" house.

RIP Maisy.

Mike & Sue Tozer

A Word in Season – 10 Sparrows and Pigeons

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed, it faints for the courts of the Lord, my heart, and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow [a starling in my case] a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts my king and my God. (Psalm 84:1-2 NRSVA)

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12:6-7 NRSVA)

These verses remind us that we are precious to God and we are not isolated

from our God.

Recently I have been struggling a bit with lockdown particularly when, as the Sunday before last shows, the technology doesn't work properly. I was very frustrated that I couldn't share the Zoom service. It was nobody's fault, but it left me feeling 'down'. I haven't physically seen Bernhard, Jessica, Isobel, and Clara for over 3 months, or had the usual four or five services to prepare and deliver, and I miss Armchair Yoga at Trinity on a Tuesday.

I am disappointed that in my last three months as a Governor at St Saviours School in South London I will not be going on the residential visits to Rippledawn near Deal with Year Four, or to the Adventure Centre near the Devil's Punchbowl with Year Six.

On Saturday evening I suddenly realised how much I am missing my football, Match of the Day, the midweek matches, trips to the match. All this has left a big hole in my regular routine, and I am running out of things 'to do'.

Why Sparrows and Pigeons? Those verses above make me aware of how much God cares about me and how important it is to use some of the space 'lockdown' brings just to talk to God. I seem to spend a lot of time just talking to my Lord about the washing up, the garden and the birds. I have found one of the great benefits of lockdown is the bird table in the garden. This year we have never had so many sparrows. We have watched at least five or six pairs feeding and then realised they were coming back more frequently and were obviously feeding young. Now we have five or six families arriving to feed. It is fascinating to watch.

For many years we have had starlings nesting and breeding in the eaves. They always come back to the same place every year and this year is no exception. We have been able to see the young starlings appearing now. We also have our regular two or three pigeons. I know many people don't really like them, but I can't chase them away. The feeders have never been busier or perhaps we have never noticed it all before. With the other birds – robins, blue tits, jackdaws, magpies, and even the parakeets

chattering noisily as they fly over, it's like a Birdway Service Station.

All this new life and activity is a reminder to me that there is hope just over the horizon. Things will get better, perhaps not as we expect but there will be a new 'normal'. This weekend the pigeons have reminded me about their cousins – doves. The dove is the symbol of peace and new life as Noah discovered, and the Holy Spirit. This coming Sunday is Pentecost – when we remember the Holy Spirit coming with tongues of fire and rushing wind upon the disciples and the dramatic change it made to their lives. Last week we celebrated the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Wesley Brothers.

But the Holy Spirit is not just a powerful force coming from the outside, for Jesus promised:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (Helper, Comforter) to be with you forever. (John 14:15 NRSVA)

That is within us - helping, holding, supporting, encouraging, caring for us, like a mother. I am a Dad and a Granddad but there is something about a mother that I cannot match, not just that I cannot give birth to a child, I have always, and still do love my children and grandchildren but I go along with those who see a feminine side of God in the Holy Spirit. We are wrapped in God's love. God is always with us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, especially now when we are seeing the hope of a sunrise but are still 'locked down'.

I leave you with one of our more modern 'Worship Songs' by Margaret V. Old but sung to an old Scottish folk tune, The Skye Boat Song.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove, teach us the truth and help us believe, show us the Saviour's love. You spoke to us long, long ago, gave us the written word; we need it still, needing its truth, through it God's voice is heard. Without your help we fail our Lord, we cannot live God's way; we need your power, we need your strength, following

Christ each day.

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power, comfort, help and energy of the Holy Spirit fill us all and go with us into the coming dawn of the 'new normal' day
Graham Warr

Tabletop give-away

A friend in Suffolk rang me this morning. He had taken his dog for a walk and come across a table at the end of someone's garden, with books set out, and a note inviting folk to take what they wanted. When he came back, there was a note tacked to a tree reading 'Can we have our table back please' Brings a new meaning to the phrase 'table top sale'! PS they did get the table back!

Valerie Slyfield

Valerie and I went 'old school' this week, to deliver the answers to **last week's quiz and set this week's**. Her internet router was down, so she dictated the questions to me. Any errors in the transposing are mine [Daniela]!

- Which Castle in Kent was the home of Catherine of Aragon? *Leeds Castle*
- What is the name of the money lender in "The Merchant Of Venice"? *Shylock*
- What is the currency of Poland? *Zloty*
- What is the general consensus on the number of plays Shakespeare wrote? *37-39 (depending on the source quoted!)*
- What is the capital of Fiji? *Suva*
- What was the name of Rudyard Kipling's home? *Batemans*
- In which country is it illegal to keep just one guinea pig? *Switzerland*
- Which chemical element has the symbol Au? *Gold*
- In which year did Churchill die? *1965*
- What do the letters D N A stand for? *Deoxyribonucleic acid*
- Which 3 countries border the Iguacu Falls in South America? *Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay*
- What is Herpetoculture? *Keeping snakes and reptiles in captivity*

- Who wrote around the world in 80 days? *Jules Verne*
- Where did the Great Fire of London start? *Pudding Lane*
- Who is the actor Peter Davidson's son in law? *David Tennant* (aka another former *Dr Who*).



This week's Quiz:

- What is the gestation of a pig?
- Where is the Darling river?
- Where does an otter live?
- Which is the only vitamin not found in an egg?
- Where do rubber trees originate from?
- What is a leveret?
- Which is the largest of the Great Lakes?
- What is the county town of Wiltshire?
- Since 1066 we've had only 1 Victoria on the throne. Name the 3 other monarchs whose names have never been repeated?
- Which drug comes from poppies?
- In which Cornish town will you find Rick Stein's seafood restaurant?

Thanks to *Jill Willis* for these new pictures of the **Trinity garden in beautiful bloom.**

More photos to follow in the coming weeks.

