

Dear Church Family,

*“In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days...”*

Acts 2:17-19

As we approach the day of Pentecost these verses from the book of Acts, which are part of Peter's speech, remind us of the inclusivity of the Spirit.

Peter quotes the prophet Joel who maintained that God would pour out the Spirit on all people.

Not just a few, not just one nation, not just one gender - but all people.

On the first day of Pentecost the crowd heard the followers of Jesus speaking in the languages and dialects of every part of the world they were from. Not in the common tongue of the empire - which was Greek - but in their everyday tongues from the corners and recesses of the Roman world.

In the ancient story of the Tower of Babel God confused language and people were separated. But in the story of Pentecost we see inspired language drawing people together as the 'water' of the Spirit flowed.

Water is such a great analogy of the work of the Spirit; flowing down to us, flowing in us and round us - finding us, whoever and wherever we are.

Pentecost was the end of exclusivity and the opening of a door to all people who will respond to the moving of the Spirit of God.

## **Prayer Update**

In addition to those mentioned in Tuesday's email please continue to pray for:

Ron Davison who has been poorly recently and has been admitted to hospital overnight for tests.

Penny Hipwell's Mum, Elizabeth and Anne Merrills along with those recovering from illness.

Headteachers and School Governing Bodies as they face very difficult decisions on school re-openings.

## **\*\*Stories & News For Online Services\*\***

If you have some news or a story you would like to share as part of our Sunday service please contact us at [hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk).

**HBCC Online**

Our next online service will be available on Sunday from 10:30.

All services can be found on the HBCC Facebook page and are also on YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hesketh-Bank-Christian-Centre-137989929662209/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-q5TmlygGFnooTXluT6kg>

### **Post Service Zoom Catchup**

We will be running another Zoom 'catchup' for anyone who'd like to connect with others live after the service on Sunday; this will start at 11:00. Details will appear on HBCC Family Facebook.

### **Bible Study & Devotional**

This Friday's Bible study will focus on the Holy Spirit. You can access the material by following this link:

<https://bibleproject.com/all-videos/biblical-themes/>

Select 'load more' at the bottom of the subjects and find 'The Holy Spirit.'

Next week's Devotional will be given by Linda Hawksley and will be on the HBCC Family Facebook page.

### **Congratulations**

\*Please can you let us know if you would like us to share news of special birthdays, anniversaries or occurrences in our weekly bulletin. Send details to the church email address - [hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Walking Day Sunday**

This Sunday, 31st May, would have been Hesketh Bank Walking Day. This always falls on Pentecost Sunday and gives the churches in Hesketh Bank an opportunity to process around the village in an act of witness and prayer.

As we cannot walk together this year we are suggesting that as individuals you might like to 'prayer-walk' in the village and on your street instead. This would be a simple way of asking God to bless our community. Please see the attached 'Walk & Pray' resource attached to this email.

### **Poem for Pentecost by Ivor Williams**

*Pentecost began in Judaism;  
Jews called it 'The Festival of Weeks'.  
But they didn't know it as 'Pentecost' -  
We owe that much to the Greeks.*

*It was also 'The Feast of the Harvest' -  
One of many, if you were a Jew.*

*They had 'Unleavened Bread' and 'Passover'  
And 'Firstfruits' to name just a few.*

*Let's talk for a while about Firstfruits;  
It's one of those interesting feasts.  
It was the start of the harvest of barley  
When the first fruits were given to priests.*

*Now, the Feast of the Harvest and Firstfruits  
Are connected in a way that's quite nifty  
One follows the other, with some time in between -  
Just count the days 'till you reach fifty.*

*And if you're like me, of a delicate age  
But your brain is still active and able  
Just remember the days when you were in school  
And learning your seven times table ...*

*Now, we know there are just seven days in a week,  
So seven times seven they'd say  
Was a 'Week of Weeks' or forty-nine days  
With the Feast of the Harvest next day.*

*And from Easter to Pentecost for us it's the same  
It's exactly the same calculation -  
From the death of our Lord 'till His Spirit came down  
And the birth of our Christian nation.*

Ivor Williams 17 May 2020

## **Online Giving**

Don't forget you can give directly to the church using online banking.

Bank Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account No: 10429627

## **Contact Numbers**

You can reach us on the numbers below:

Mark	- 07526 989665
Steve	- 07484 268297
Alex	- 07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Please also keep in contact with all the groups of which you are part with the social media tools at your disposal.

May the presence of the Spirit be with you,

The Leadership Team 28.05.2020