

Henley-in-Arden Baptist Church

“Staying Connected” 11 – Sunday 31st May 2020

Staying connected to God and each other while not meeting as church in the normal way

PENTECOST

Acts 2:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.....

“.....

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear....”



Last week as we looked at John 14, we saw Jesus’ promise to the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come: to help them, to be with them...

Here we have that pouring out of the Holy Spirit – so the church was born and empowered at the same time.

There’s lots we could say about the Holy Spirit, but we have that same Spirit: God with us; reminding us of the things of Jesus and empowering us to live for Him.

Some of the things the Holy Spirit does:

He makes Jesus real to us

He brings the truth and love of Jesus to the world

He equips us with gifts of grace and service



Of course, we can’t pin Him down: God the Holy Spirit is like the wind – blowing wherever He pleases....!

How wonderful that as Christians we can be a part of what God is doing in this way. We don’t always get it right – of course not – but we can enjoy the privilege of being church together (even when not physically meeting), and of learning and growing into the people He would have us be. And we rely on Him to fan into flame the fire, the passion, of his powerful love for people everywhere...

Holy Spirit, fill me. Fill me afresh with Your love

Loving God, we bring our prayers again today for a hurting world. Forgive our selfishness, our foolishness, our lack of faith. Lead and guide us into Your ways of truth and love, we pray.

We pray for those with responsibility of leadership. And for all of us, give us wisdom, discernment; and a living faith in You.

Lord, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Prayers for: engineers, epidemiologists, early years support workers..... firemen, florists, footballers.....

Lord, bless them with encouragement and support in these difficult and uncertain times...



Holy Spirit: breathe on me, heal me, inspire me; and fire my heart – with passion for Your ways.

Jesus, be glorified – in me, in Your church; and in the world.

Amen

Test your bible knowledge (humour version, anyway):

Q: Who was the first tennis player in the bible?

A: Joseph... he served in Pharaoh's court

Worship services on Radio and TV this Sunday include:

- Radio 4 8:10am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 11:00am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 1:15pm Songs of Praise

And finally, if anyone would like a face-covering made, Kay has a friend who is happy to do this. Let us know. She suggests a small donation to Christian Aid..

Please do feel free to get in touch with me at any time

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those you love, now and always. Amen

Mike

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Romans 5:5

....God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.