



"where the river flows everything will live"

THE PARISH OF TIDENHAM (& St Briavels and Hewelsfield & Brockweir) **WEEKLY PARISH BRIEFING SUNDAY 31 MAY 2020**

Pouring...

Our Reader, Fiona Gardiner, offers us a reflection for this week as we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost...



I love visual aids. It's the child in me, I guess. As we've approached Pentecost we have been using the nine days after Ascension (the Novena) to pray expectantly as we wait for another out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. And yes, I think there is meaning in the waiting; that looking forward and waiting with God for revelation, for refreshment and direction is important.



The Holy Spirit is often described in terms of things we can easily imagine: fire, wind and 'baptism'. The root of the word baptism is about utter soaking and drenching, so the pouring out of water is yet another mental picture for us to latch onto.

I've been thinking a lot about pouring over the past weeks: we had a pouring wet winter and how many times was St Luke's room flooded? It seemed like a daily occurrence at one point. Families up and down the country were driven from their homes because of flood damage. Now the sun has been pouring down on us in this extraordinary spring and our gardens are thirsty for rain. We've been overwhelmed by the dedication and kindness of NHS staff, key workers, neighbours and friends pouring out to us.

On that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles in tongues of fire and a rushing wind. It was one of those life changing, faith changing moments. Suddenly, from being closeted together praying and waiting, the apostles pour out of their safe space into the crowded, public streets and Peter, of all people, is gifted with the most amazing and heart-stirring proclamation about Jesus. It just pours out of him and there is a flood, a tsunami of new Jesus-followers.

The gift, the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, did not stop at that first Pentecost. It's a continuous gifting from God, an unceasing pouring out on his Church, even today. It is the Spirit who will drive us forward out of our safe spaces into new adventures with God. The Spirit will continue to empower us in new love and forgiveness. The Spirit is still introducing people to Jesus for the first time. We've heard of the greater numbers attending Church online in these days of lock-down. We've heard that prayer is flourishing. People are thirsty for new meaning in their lives, new direction and assurance. So let's wait expectantly and ask the Spirit to blow us away with his tempestuous joy. Let's ask for a new blaze of faith where ours has been a small, flickering flame. Let's open our hearts and minds to be flooded with new understanding and passion for telling the good news of God's unfailing love. We are longing for a new flooding of the Spirit in our individual lives and in our scattered church communities.

And let's remember that the Spirit doesn't stop pouring out to us but is generous and profligate in His blessing. So, if we need a visual aid to help us along in the coming days, every time we POUR something or take a shower, or water our thirsty gardens let's take a few seconds to ask for the Holy Spirit to pour into our lives again.

What we would like the Holy Spirit to do for us? What is our greatest need or our biggest dream or most potent desire for ourselves, friends, family or nation? If we could each only ask for one gift, what would that be? Perhaps we could use Stuart Townend's words as our prayer:

*Pour over me,
Pour over me,
Let Your rain flood this thirsty soul.
Pour over me Your waves of love,
Pour over me. Stuart Townend Copyright © 1999 Thankyou Music*

Thank you Fiona. Come Holy Spirit. Where the river flows everything will live! May we live life together in the flow of your love.

God bless

Revd David Treharne

Vicar of Tidenham with Beachley and Lancaut and Priest in Charge of St Briavels with Hewelsfield & Brockweir.

Up Coming Services

PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS for the 7th SUNDAY of EASTER (31 May)

There will be a special Pentecost service **on Sunday 31 May** on the Parish YouTube channel... 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' available from 9am. Material will also appear on the Parish website (follow the 'News' tab) & Parish Facebook page.



You are then invited to gather on Zoom at 11.30am for a coffee time together. Zoom is relatively easy to get on to if you have access to the Internet. Click on this link to download and join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83002388238?pwd=WTgzRElWdUNSaG41SlQzbHF5ZExNdz09>

If you need help to do this give one of the team a ring or email.

The Bible readings for this coming Sunday are: **Acts 2:1-21, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39**

The Collect for this Sunday (Whit Sunday) which is the feast of Pentecost:

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Healing Eucharist: Wednesday 3rd June, including prayers for healing at 12:15pm on Facebook.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Prayer



Thank you for sending in your prayer requests. Please feel free to email tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com, please make it known whether your prayer request is PRIVATE or okay to send out to the public.

Tidenham Parish Prayers for Sunday 24 May

Thanksgiving

For all the key workers who serve their communities, especially social workers and all carers.

Thank God for the many individuals and link churches who support the Rehema Project and the work Heather does in so many ways.

Give thanks for the incredible generosity of all the Rehema women, and the lessons they teach about generosity.

Thanks to God that Pat Hales has come through her cancer operation and is now feeling much more upbeat.

For the blessings that we have in our lives... for friends & family.

For our NHS and all who work there.

For the continued sunshine and warm weather.

Praise God for His Holy Spirit who inspires and guides us on our journey through life.

Intercession

Locally:

Brian Fraser who became ill on Monday; he's in The Gwent hospital for investigation. Thankfully not Covid-19.

Audrey Pettman, who is in her 80s and struggling to care for her older, very demanding disabled husband as well as her disabled son.

Thanks for the safe delivery of Caroline and Adam's twins - one girl, one boy. Please remember the whole family in your prayers - for Caroline to recover quickly, for the babies to grow in strength and for them all as they begin their new life together.

For all who are sick or suffering in any way, especially those you know.

For all who are mourning at this time, that God would be their source of comfort and strength.

For our local schools, as some children are returning this coming week.

For all who work or live in care homes, especially those known to us. For their protection.

Nationally:

Pray for schools as they return this week

Continue to pray for our Prime Minister and Government, that all decisions will be made with wisdom.

Internationally:

For our Mission Partner, Heather Johnstone, at the Rehema Project in Tanzania.

Please pray for all the Rehema women. Pray that God will enable them to be resourceful in providing for themselves and their families.

Pray that her fellow mission partners will be able to find a way to feed back to their link churches in a positive and encouraging way.

For more information see <https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/heather-johnstone/>

PARISH NEWS UPDATE

Despite not being able to gather publicly while our church buildings remain closed, our life together as a church family hasn't stopped. We continue to focus on what it means to be a Christian community while we cannot gather together for worship and with God's help are still trying to live out our vision:

"Living life together in the flow of God's love."

PARISH PRAYER

Where the river flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's love flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's forgiveness flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's joy flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's blessing flows, everything will live.

Where the river of God's people's prayer flows, everything will live.

Where the river flows, everything will live.

Children & Families - Jane Penny is producing worship resources suitable for families and children which will be available via email. Splash Families are invited to gather via Zoom at 3pm each Sunday. Please contact Jane for the link.

TV BBC 1: This Sunday 31 May 2020

10:00am: Pentecost2020: A Celebration for Pentecost: A live service from the unique setting of Gorton Monastery in Manchester.

11:00am: Sunday Worship Pentecost Sunday: The bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev Richard Jackson, leads a service for Pentecost Sunday.

11:30am: Sunday Morning Stories Series 1, Hope: Kate Bottley introduces uplifting stories of people making a new start.

1.15pm: Songs of Praise

Pastoral Care of the Church Family – A number of people within our Parishes have had bereavement in recent weeks. You are very much in our prayers. May God be with you in a special way. DO keep in touch with and support one another through this time. A reminder that if anyone from the church rings you the CHURCH is ringing you. However, if you are aware of someone struggling please do contact a member of the Team.



New mental health service – Qwell, a new online digital platform, provides anyone in Gloucestershire aged 18 years and above to access self-care resources, information, peer support and access to trained counsellors. It is open to anyone experiencing issues with their emotional well-being, such as stress or anxiety, and there is no need to be referred. This compliments a range of existing mental health services supporting those in the county.



Help with IT - might be willing and able to assist with IT issues over the coming weeks and months? We need support with editing & producing pre-recorded videos that involve different people's contributions; assistance with the process of live streaming at home and when permitted, from the church building too. So if you have the skills and are willing to assist with one or several aspects of the above do **please** let Vicar David know asap DTRevd@aol.com !! Thanks to those couple of people who have offered so far!!



Stay safe online – Sadly, there has been an increase in attempted scamming online, including some emails going saying they are from the Vicar (but aren't). Always check what emails you open. Please don't disclose any personal or financial information, be aware of grooming, stay safe and enjoy the important online connections.



Financial Giving - Thank you to all those who have reviewed their giving and either started standing orders or made one-off donations. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available to download from the website. Please contact Ewen or Clare for any assistance.



Good News – please do email in with any good news at this time.

There is a new wordsearch on the Tidenham Parish Facebook page this week.

TIDENHAM PARISH ONLINE LINKS AND CONTACTS

Parish Website: This has information, documents and links to other sites. <https://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk>

Facebook page – all welcome to join and post comments. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/114300818701466/>

YouTube channel: 'Tidenham Parish Online Church' with videos and resources to assist you in your devotions.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChRjOlVDBT9M9usfhp2722w>

Life Group meetings via Zoom – please contact relevant people if you'd like to join in

- Wednesday 10.30am. DTRevd@aol.com
- Wednesday 8pm. fiona.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
- Wednesday 8pm. janice-hamilton@outlook.com
- Thursday 1.30pm. Jane cfmtidenham@btinternet.com

Other Online local resources

Daily Prayer via Zoom with CYTUN Monday to Friday at 8.45 for 9am start <https://zoom.us/j/122778377>

Cytun Churches Together Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206786133181081/>

Chepstow's Virtual Café Online via Zoom Every Saturday at 2pm. Find the link on CYTUN Facebook page

Tidenham Parish Council www.tidenhamparishcouncil.co.uk has useful links and information

For the latest Church of England Covid 19 guidance which covers all kinds of issues including weddings, baptisms and funerals. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

There are also some really helpful resources for prayer and worship on the Church of England website. Click on this link... <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>
https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/568755/Home/Coronavirus/Coronavirus_guidance_and.aspx

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St Briavels & Hewelsfield website		www.stbandhchurches.org.uk
Prayer requests	tidenhamprayers@btinternet.com	(by 12pm Wednesday for following Sunday)