

Sunday 24th May
May Pentecost

Today's Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord..

Next Week Services: Sunday 31st May

10:00am	Harvington	Church @10
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Events

- Open Exhibition:10am- 4pm everyday (Except Fri am and Sun)

The Knitted Bible 21st May -5th June, at Evesham Methodist Church.

- Harvington churchyard **Summer Fete** -6th June, 11am-3pm.
- Church Lench School **Summer Fete** -13th June, 12-2pm.
- Rous Lench **Annual Pig Roast**– 27th June. Willing helpers can contact Fran on Herdmanfrances@gmail.com.

This Week's First Reading: *Acts 2.1-21.*

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.³

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This Week's Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12.3b-13,*

³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20.19-23.*

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Next Weeks Readings: *Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13.11- end, Matthew 28.16-end.*

Prayer of Intercession

At Pentecost your tongues of fire settled on the disciples enabling them to communicate in all languages. Holy Spirit, you impart the language of love and eternal life. You are not restricted to any race or particular group of people. Jesus' salvation is open to all. We pray for all who communicate the gospel to the world. Give them words people can relate to and understand. Open ears and hearts to receive. Empower Christmas the world over.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

Fire signifies God's purifying presence. We pray for our world to be purified and rid of all evils of War, Injustice, Hatred, Discrimination and Apathy. Holy Spirit, fall afresh, cleanse and purify the world. You are more powerful than anything created by humankind. Move in all areas of life and on all continents.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

We pray for wisdom, unity and truth in our government. We pray that the voices of all Christians in parliament will be heard. And that they will be effective witnesses in the corridors of power. Holy Spirit, your power is above all. Transform this nation.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

We pray for your Mighty power, Holy Spirit on the sick to receive healing., the bereaved to be comforted, the lost to see a path open before them and the hungry to be fed. We take a moment now, to ask you Holy Spirit to fall and move in the lives of those we know personally to be in need.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today.**

We pray that with each new dawn all creation will be refreshed. Fill us to overflowing that we may boldly speak your powerful language of love and point the way to Jesus in a way others will understand and receive. May the thirsty drink deeply of you and find their lives changed by your Mighty power. Empower and reignite your church this day.

Come Holy Spirit, with your tongues of fire, **and fall upon us in power today. Amen**