



## Pentecost

I expect that nearly all of us celebrate birthdays, our own and those of loved ones. We send or receive cards, messages and gifts and (in normal times!) gather with others to mark the occasion.

Pentecost, which this year falls on Sunday 31 May, marks the birthday of the church and is something that we should celebrate! Coming 50 days after the Resurrection, Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came permanently on the first Christian believers, shown in a tangible way as a strong wind, tongues of fire and the speaking of many languages, as recorded in Acts 2. As we read in John 14: 15-31 and 15: 26, the Holy Spirit had been promised to the disciples by Jesus before his death, as an 'advocate' and ever present help, to enable them to continue His ministry and mature as believers. The 'pouring out' of God's Spirit had also been prophesied in the Old Testament, the sustaining presence of God with us at all times. This amazing gift built on the occasional times when the Holy Spirit had been experienced by particular people at particular times for particular purposes.

Although Pentecost is not celebrated widely in our culture, without the 'significance' of Christmas or Easter, for Christians it is an important festival. A time for us to give thanks for the gift of God's Spirit and to reflect on how the Spirit helps us to live more fully with and for God. The Holy Spirit empowers us to continue Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) – to bring news of God's presence, peace and power to all.

I encourage you to join our online worship at 9am or 11am on Pentecost Sunday, as well as to spend time in the week allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to you through prayer, reading and reflection. Pentecost Sunday also marks the end of 'Thy Kingdom Come', the prayer initiative that encourages us to share the love of Jesus by praying for 5 people to come to know Him, as well as for our own growth in faith. You can find out more about this overleaf and on our [website](#).

Especially this year, let's remember that it's the Holy Spirit that empowers us to bring God's rule and reign to earth – without it we can do nothing. And let's also welcome the Holy Spirit to fill and lead us through each day.

Happy Birthday church!

Richard Jones



## Families Outreach Update

Judith Lovett and the Fuel lunch club team continue to work together to provide meals and activities for some of our local families. Last week children made bunting to hang outside their homes to celebrate VE Day. In keeping with the rainbow theme for the NHS, they also made rainbow pictures using Skittles sweets.

We have delivered weekly food bags from the community fridge and through generous finance donations we have helped with individual needs like utility bills. This week we gave a game to families to play together. One of the families said "thank you, you're all doing a great job, really appreciate everything you have all done for my family".



## Coronavirus

Following the statement made by the House of Bishops, the Bishop of Guildford has granted permission for a single clergy person to enter their church to pray, celebrate the Eucharist and stream a service using fixed cameras. He has also confirmed he is happy for clergy, along with others, to continue to stream services from their homes. Accordingly, and in line with the updated government guidance, the staff team will continue to work and enable ministry from home. The government has indicated that places of worship may begin to open from 4 July, but this will depend on how things develop as lockdown is eased and is likely to be a phased process. We continue to follow Church of England instructions closely and will let you know as decisions going forward are made.

## CHURCH TALKS

### The Resurrection Changes Everything

May	24	Why the Ascension matters!	Acts 1: 1-11
	31	The church is born	Acts 2: 1-21

### Experiencing God in the Psalms

June	7	Confidence going onwards	Psalms 121
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SGSG Ashtead



SGSGAshtead



SGSGAshteadChurch



SGSG Ashtead

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01372 813964

St Giles' Church & Dell Centre, Park Lane, KT21 1EJ  
St George's Church, Barnett Wood Lane, KT21 2DA

## Thy Kingdom Come 21-31 May

A reminder of the invitation to join in 'Thy Kingdom Come', the global prayer initiative that runs from Ascension to Pentecost. Everyone is invited to:

- ◇ Pray for 5 people to come to know Jesus and/or for 5 people you care for
- ◇ Pray at a set time each day, maybe using prayers from the TKC resources
- ◇ Sign up for an hour slot for our virtual 24/3 prayer event, from Wednesday 27 May until Saturday 30 May
- ◇ Use the special prayer resources provided by TKC

For more information please visit [sgsgashtead.com/tkc](http://sgsgashtead.com/tkc)



### Thank you for your support

£5,434 raised by Ashtead churches for Christian Aid Week

40 wheelchairs sponsored for Through the Roof during Lent

£505 for mission and outreach raised by the Housegroup quiz

£1,000 for Water Aid raised by Lent Lunches

### Online Quiz - Friday 12 June

Please join us for an online quiz via zoom at 8pm on Friday 12 June, contact Sarah Jones on [MinistryPA@ashteadparish.org](mailto:MinistryPA@ashteadparish.org) to book your place.

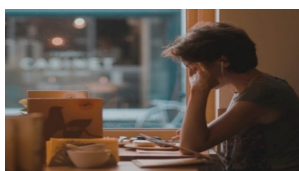


0800 804 8044

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

**Daily Hope** offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England on a telephone line. The phone line is available 24 hours a day. It has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions.

M&S in Ashtead have been in touch with us via a charitable organisation who distribute unwanted food. We will collect from them on Monday evenings and add to our current food and meal distributions on Tuesday and Wednesdays. Another great example of how shops are willing to work with us in caring for everyone in Ashtead.



### Pastoral Support via zoom

There is a new opportunity to speak with one of the pastoral team via zoom. This can be on an individual basis or in a small group. We could discuss a range of topics including parenting, marriage and coping alone in lockdown. If you are interested in exploring this, then please do get in touch with Sharon on 07387 015643, [sharon.seal@ashteadparish.org](mailto:sharon.seal@ashteadparish.org). Looking forward to hearing from you.



The war memorial at St George's was decorated with a wonderful display of flowers to celebrate VE Day



This is Diana, one of our 90 somethings from Evergreen who received our 'we are in this together' card with a VE day quiz and word search puzzle. She said that 'it was lovely to receive the card and quiz, made all the difference'

### Please pray for

- those who are travelling to work, especially those using public transport, that they would keep safe and stay alert
- our Government as they make decisions daily on how the 'lockdown' will ease
- those coping with restrictions and anxieties which come from Government announcements
- our nation, that we might see God as our hope now and always
- those who are sick and for those who give on-going care so faithfully to their loved ones
- the family of Mark Amos, who died on 4 May aged 44