

THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

31ST MAY 2020

Welcome to Pentecost Sunday, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples. But it was not only to those disciples that God came so intimately and completely in the Holy Spirit – there is plenty left for us! God is prepared to, and longs to, make his dwelling with expectant believers of any age, tradition, culture or personality. If we long for him more than anything else, God will indeed come now and breathe his life into us.

SUNDAY'S READINGS: ACTS 2:1-21; JOHN 7:37-39

THE UK BLESSING SONG

A few dark weeks ago, when the coronavirus was at its most intense and there was a lot of fear around, this song was released on YouTube by Tim Hughes, a worship leader, song writer and vicar in Birmingham. In a matter of days, he had contacted churches and Christian groups of all denominations all over the UK with the song, they returned their recordings and he edited them and produced this beautiful video. Not surprisingly it went viral and if you have access to YouTube do listen and be encouraged.

The first section is a blessing which God gives to Moses to bless the people. Paul sometimes uses it to end our services.

The Lord bless you and keep you; make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

Then the song builds with more blessings from the psalms and the New Testament.

*May his favour be upon you, and a thousand generations,
and your family and your children and their children and their children.*

May his presence go before you and behind you and beside you.

All around you and within you, he is with you, he is with you.

In the morning, in the evening, in your coming and your going.

In your weeping and rejoicing he is for you, he is for you. Amen

As many of us have been praying through this ten days of Thy Kingdom Come, the knowledge that this song is over us and these blessings are being declared into the spiritual atmosphere over our nation is so inspiring.

THE CHURCHYARD – PATHS, STEPS AND COBBLES.

Alas, without the footfall of people going into church and children walking through the churchyard to school, the paths have become weedy and the whole entrance area looks woefully neglected. At some point the building will reopen and in preparation for then, if you have a couple of spare hours and want to do some weeding along the path from the Fanny's Lane entrance or the main steps, please - help yourself!

PRAYERS

Last Sunday, Paul asked us to email him with any answers to prayers that he could share, as well as requests. Let's not be so burdened by the many needs that we forget to be thankful.

This week pray for:- *children and staff as many schools and nurseries partly reopen; pray for those waiting for hospital and for dental treatment. Pray for those who are still having to shield because of serious health issues. Pray for creative and innovative ways for more businesses, shops and factories to resume work. Pray for wisdom and guidance for those in any sort of authority. Pray for joy and peace for those who are melancholy.*

Have a good week, stay safe and well and know that however you feel just like the blessing says, God is with you, God is for you.

And now for some more of those garden pics ... thanks so much to Ronald, Sonja, Debbie (her favourite Rosa Mundi then her horticultural grandsons), Sarah and finally congratulations to Peter Allsop on the arrival of grandson Raffi.

