

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 30



Keeping
our church
together

At last! A newsletter that confirms that our church will be open once again on Sunday mornings and we even have some dates to put in your diary. After months of writing about hope for the future, we now believe conditions are right for us to meet again to worship inside our building. The pandemic is not over, so there are precautions to take. Please read carefully the back nage of this newsletter for a reminder of how things will be arranged and what to expect when you arrive.

Sunday 23rd May is, of course, Pentecost. The day on which we celebrate the occasion when the first followers of Jesus were blessed with the Holy Spirit. Naison's piece on the next page tells us more, but what better occasion to re-start worship?

Door Stewards and volunteers

When we were able to hold services last Summer and again in the late autumn, the situation was so novel that the Leadership Team took on all the duties of welcoming. This time we expect worship to continue regularly and ask for volunteers to be door stewards. Inevitably a rota will have to be produced. In the meantime, if you can offer to help welcome people at the door, please let me know—especially if you are also offering to prepare the rotas!



From the Minister's desk: *Pentecost Mirrors the Resurrection Story!*

There are only two weeks before we put behind us the Easter season and start on a journey of Pentecost season that mirrors the resurrection story of the Messiah Jesus Christ. There are some people who find hard to believe and live the Easter Story that start with gruesome and painful process of the Lord Jesus smittened, sentenced to death for a crime that was not his own and dying a painful death on the Cross for the sins of the world. The good news of the gospel is the resurrection story, where Jesus Christ conquered the sting of death. Jesus is alive today and tomorrow, this gives us hope to believe in him as our personal saviour to those who believe, put their trust and faith in Him. "... as many as received him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name," (John 1:12). This is the great hope we believe, that Jesus is alive. Pentecost helps us to live the resurrection story. Pentecost Sunday is on the 23rd May 2021.

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in [Acts 2](#).

The Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "*filled the whole house where they were sitting*" ([Acts 2:2](#)). "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them*" ([Acts 2:4](#)). Pentecost is a reflection and a call for a united worldwide Church of Jesus Christ. United we stand strong, divided we fall apart. The kingdom of God ~ the church of Jesus Christ is called to unite under power of the Holy Spirit. In the midst of Coronavirus pandemic, we are called to stand united in doing the mission of God. My prayer is that you know the power of God through the presence of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides the Church today here and thereafter.

May all experience and power of the Holy Spirit as you continue to be led by Him in doing God's mission in your community.

God's blessings to all!

Naison M. Hove 16/05/2021

Returning to Church for Sunday Worship

We look forward to returning to the church for worship. The first service will be on

Sunday 23rd May at 10.30am - Pentecost Sunday

But we do need to keep each other safe , so there are rules to follow:

Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell or have been advised to shield.

In order to maintain social distancing, the number of persons in the church is limited. However, experience from the previous lockdown is such that there will be no need to book in advance.

Entry will be by the “Old Door” to the left of the main entrance in the High Street.

Please wait by to be admitted. In the event of a queue forming, please maintain a social distance of 2m and wait in the church garden.

Please use the hand sanitiser at the door and wear your face mask all the time you are in the church.

Unless you are a church member and we already have your contact details, you will be asked to fill in a short form recording your contact details, or scan the QR Code with your smart phone.

You will be directed via a one-way system to a seat. Only those from the same household may sit together. Maintain a minimum social distance of 1.5m. Please remain in your seat during the service and wear your mask all the time. Do not move around or call out to other worshippers. Government rules prohibit singing or corporate responses, so the service will be less than an hour.

If you wish to make a financial contribution (or weekly offering) to the church funds, please use the offertory plates placed near the exit. At a suitable point towards the end of the service, a thanksgiving prayer will be said for the offertory.

If you require a bible or other book, you must bring your own as nothing may be shared.

For the same reason, there will be no refreshments served after the service, although special arrangements will be made for communion services.

The toilet in the foyer will be available but please follow the one-way system and use the sanitiser provided.

At the end of the service, the steward will invite you to leave by one of the exits, all the while maintaining a social distance with other worshippers. Once outside, you are able to meet in the church garden, but please maintain a safe distance and refrain from hugging.

The rules will be amended when the Government release new guidelines.

This newsletter was edited by Chris Azzaro, who can be contacted on 01903 718070 or by email:

christopher.azzaro@sky.com

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome

There is also information about our church on the website: www.littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk

A Volunteer is required:

Transferring documents to the filing cabinet in the church Office (Upstairs next to the East gallery entrance) is underway.

The next task is to complete the indexing and filing in order that records can be kept in good order.

If you think you could offer to do this task, please contact John Stevens who can give you more information.

Any ideas?

In the process of preparing the newly refurbished Knight Hall and Coffee Lounge, a considerable amount of clearing out of cupboards has taken place. Possible owners have been contacted before anything has been thrown away but the origin of two items is a mystery. In the cupboard under the spiral staircase two window panels were found, each approximately 2ft by 3ft. Both consist of stained glass squares with lead fittings, all in bad repair. These window panels do not match any of our existing windows. The only suggestion, so far, is that they came from the long since dismantled spiral staircase that once provided an exit from the gallery into what is now the coffee lounge. Answers or claimants to John or Malcolm.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 23rd May at 6.00pm Circuit service for Pentecost - see page 5 for details.

Sunday 25th July Church Anniversary and Church Meeting. More details later when we know what we can offer in the way of hospitality.

Sunday 26th September 3.00pm A Thanksgiving service and celebration of lives lost during the Pandemic. An opportunity to meet together, circumstances permitting. Probably at Emmanuel Church

NEWS OF THE BOREHOLE PROJECT

Naison will be leaving on 17th May to travel to Zimbabwe for the next stage of the project. He will be away for 4 weeks then will need to quarantine for a further 2 weeks after that. We wish him well for his journey and send our good wishes to all those he will be visiting there.

Tuesday Bible Study and Prayer Meetings

While Naison is away we will take turns in leading the Tuesday group as follows:-

18th May Prayer Group – Ellie

25th May Bible Study – John Bunker

1st June Prayer Group – Paul

8th June Bible Study – Evelyn

15th June Prayer Group – Christine

22nd June Bible Study - Naison

The code you need is 254 574 5519 password; 349515

Or you can join in by phone 0203 481 5240



Circuit Worship for Pentecost

The Justice & Peace Group invite you to
join in Worship by Zoom on Sunday 23rd
of May at 6:00 pm

Meeting ID:

936 5474 7114

Passcode:

189175

Featuring:

Local Presentations

Rachel Lampard the Team Lead-
er of the Joint Public Issues

**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!
Acts 2.4**