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May 2017

LAST MONTH'S
FIGURES

Captain's Column

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, June 4 2017, Christian churches celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter. On that day, the church celebrates the happenings recorded in the New Testament Book of Acts, chapter 2. We read that the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to go into the streets telling of Jesus to all those they met, many believed and the church began to grow. Because of this, we call Pentecost "the birthday of the church."

When it comes to church holidays many people celebrate Christmas and Easter and they get all the attention, Pentecost often goes unobserved in many homes. However, without Pentecost, we wouldn't have the church.

At Pentecost, the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and that gift enabled them to speak and act with boldness, and change lives. These 12 ordinary men were given the power that would transform the world. If we look at what they were like before the coming of the Holy Spirit and what they were like after, we have the proof that something great happened.

The gift of the Holy Spirit in *our* lives helps us to share the love of Jesus in the world, and each of us also has gifts to use for the benefit of others. We do that by bringing our gifts to the task of building up the body of Christ, the church, and by sharing God's love with all the people around us.

St Teresa of Avila wrote this famous poem -
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes,
you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

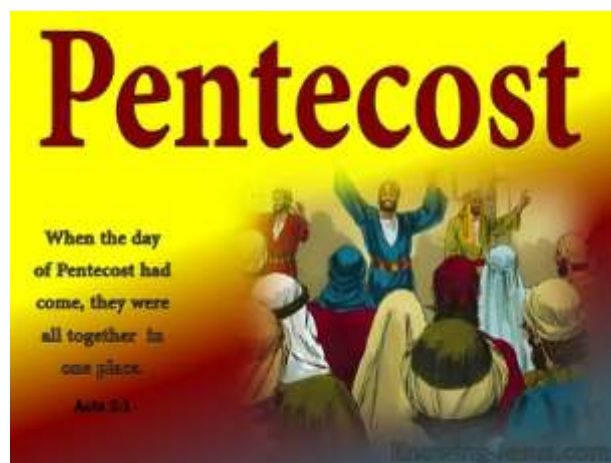
With the Holy Spirit within us, we are the presence of Christ in the world today. We are his hands, his feet, his eyes. Through us, Christ reaches out and serves the world in love. We need to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, and release the spirit that is within us, as we seek to serve God, one another and our world. God through the Holy Spirit equips with the resources, talents and abilities that are beyond our own to fulfil his mission to serve suffering humanity through us weak humans so that he is glorified. In times where we think we can't God through His spirit enables and says **you can!** – with God all things are possible! Thank God for Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Carol

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Week 1	33
Week 2	40
Week 3	46
Week 4	38
AVERAGE	39

You may be aware we have a new accounting system that started on the 1st April. Due to this we are unable to provide any figures as yet but hopefully by next month normal service will be resumed!!!



SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

May

7th Barbara K, Adrian, Peter
 14th Shirley, Sheila & Ray A.
 21st Sally, Helen, Sheila S, Jean
 28th Kathryne, Helen, Rowan

June

4th Sheila D, Maureen, Melanie, Sheila A.
 11th Barbara K, Adrian, Peter
 18th Shirley, Sheila & Ray A.
 25th Sally, Helen, Sheila S, Jean

Thanks to the teams who volunteer to do this week by week.



Prayers

- We do remember those who are ill and those who have been bereaved in recent days. We think of Betty and her family after the sad loss of her brother Jack. We also think of Sheila S and her sister Ann after the sudden loss of her son Steven. We ask for God's peace and strength for them in these days.
- We continue to pray for healing for Billy and Barbara H and those who are struggling with ill health.
- Each month we pray for one of the groups connected with our corps and this month we pray for our Outreach groups—The foodbank & Street Pastors. We thank God for those who have been called to work in these areas and we pray God's blessing on these ministries. We pray that through these people might see the love of Jesus and want to know more about him.
- Pentecost Prayer - Gracious God.** We are reminded again when the first believers in Jesus were given the courage to tell others about Jesus. We believe you give us that same courage to tell others about Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. You know, O God, that sometimes we are fearful and we feel alone. But just like that Pentecost long ago, we, too, are surrounded by your love and presence. Help us live in such a way that others see in us a reflection of your love. Help us have the courage to tell others about the difference it makes in our lives to trust in your love and care. Help us see those around who want to be in the fellowship of Christians. Help us to witness to one another so that we grow in faith. Through the power of your Holy Spirit and the witness of your son, Jesus the Christ, we pray today. Amen



Saturday 13th May

We will be holding an 'Afternoon tea'
 At The Salvation Army
 Abbey Lane,

2-4pm



Please come along and join us for cake & refreshments!



Sunday 7th May 4pm

Please join us for Messy Church at The Salvation Army For craft, singing, Bible story, food. A time for all the family of fun, food and fellowship. All Welcome and its free!!



This

Month's theme is David & Goliath! Come & share this great story and enjoy some fun crafts!!!

Charity Partner

The Icknield way parish churches which is seven parish churches /villages lying between Saffron Walden, Essex and Royston have made 'The Salvation army' Saffron Walden their charity of the year this year. We would want to say a public thank you for the support and donations of this group for our work here in Saffron Walden.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May

- 2nd 'Well'
 Junior Soldiers 6pm
 3rd Toddlersong 10am
 4th 'Well'
 7th Worship Service 10am Led by Capt. Carol
 Messy Church 4pm
 9th 'Well'
 CAMEO - Saffron Walden through the ages
 6pm Junior Soldiers
 10th Toddlersong 10am
 11th 'Well'
 13th Afternoon Tea
 14th Worship Service 10am Led by Capt. Carol
 16th 'Well'
 6pm Junior Soldiers
 17th Toddlersong 10am
 18th 'Well'
 21st Worship Service 10am Led by Capt. Carol
 23-25th Carol away on SA course
 23rd 'Well'
 CAMEO - It's Tea Time
 24th Toddlersong 10am
 25th 'Well'
 28th Worship Service 10am Led by Capt. Carol
 29th-2nd Half Term week, No Well, JS or Toddlersong

June

- 3rd Standing Day
 4th Messy Church

Saturday 3rd June

We are having a standing day in Saffron Walden Town Centre to collect for this year's Annual Appeal (Big Collection) If you are able to help collect on this day please see Carol/Steph. We need at least 8 collectors to make this viable. Thank You.



DOING THE MOST GOOD

UNITED CHURCH PRAYERS

For the month of May we are invited to pray for Ashdon & little Walden c of e church. We pray for leaders and members of these churches. We also pray for Radwinter & Chrishall Primary School, the teachers and children.