

St Mary's Stelling NEWSLETTER

"Kent's most extraordinary Parish Church"



May 2018

Ascension and Pentecost!

These two important Christian festivals are celebrated this month.

Ascension Day is always on a Thursday, and this year it is on 10th May, and is often considered the crowning event of the ministry of Jesus. On the fortieth day after Easter, the risen Jesus went to the Mount of Olives with his disciples and ascended to heaven before their eyes (Acts 1:1-12). The Christ that the disciples had known on earth had returned to his Father, and they now had to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit who would empower them to continue Jesus' ministry on earth.

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the promised Holy Spirit upon the remaining eleven Apostles of Christ (Judas had hanged himself) and another 120 disciples. This event took place in an Upper Room in Jerusalem after the Resurrection of Jesus as described in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the 'Birthday of the Church'. We celebrate Pentecost seven weeks after Easter Sunday and nine days after Ascension. The feast is also called Whit Sunday, Whitsun, or Whit.

Services for May

6 th	Holy Communion	Revd Chris Duncan
13 th	Morning Worship	Nick Hunt
20 th	Holy Communion	Rev'd Phil Brown
27 th	Morning Worship	Olivia Grove

House Group

The Lent Course led by Julia and the two home-discussion groups led by Revd Thomas Collett-White have been very well

supported and valued by all participants, with strong relationships and positive encouragement developing within the group. There seems to be a strong desire to continue meeting, and therefore another evening has been planned to take place at 7.30pm at our home Oakgate House on Thursday 24th May.

The evening will be based on the Novena, which you may know is a traditional period of prayer during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. The theme for 2018 is "Changed Lives".

If you wish, please bring along a prayer, reading, poem, or object which has a particular meaning for you and your faith. All are welcome; if you are interested in finding out more, please call Julia or myself on 709635.

Building Matters

The final cost of the ceiling repairs was £11,000, which has been met by our Insurers, Ecclesiastical Insurance. Thankfully the ceiling repairs are now fully completed.

However, with our 1,000-year old Church building, there is never a dull moment! We were required by our Insurers to undertake an electrical inspection, and this has revealed various items of necessary remedial work, which is likely to cost at least £1,500. This cost is not covered by our insurance, and will need to be met from our reserves.

Prayer Corner

Loving Father, we know we need your Holy Spirit to enable us to take the good news of Jesus to our community.

Send your Holy Spirit on us now, we ask. Fill us with your Spirit afresh that we might be bold to pray for, to live and to proclaim the gospel here in our villages.

Verse for the Month: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16

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With the whole church on Earth we pray
afresh, 'Come Holy Spirit'. Amen.

Verse for the Month: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16