

### A Pentecost prayer for the persecuted

As we celebrate Pentecost, it's good to remind ourselves that the great, revolutionary Christian faith began in a house. Please join us this Pentecost in praying for the millions of Christians who secretly meet house churches around the world.



*Somewhere in Central Asia, defying the authorities, this house church meet for secret worship every week.*

### It all began in a house.

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. It's that moment when the first followers of Jesus turned from a frightened group of renegades into a radical, revolutionary movement. And it all began in a house.

Today, the house church continues to be a place of revolutionary power. In countries where the church has been driven underground, the house church is a vital gathering place for Christians.

- In China, increasing regulation and oppressive surveillance has led many big churches to divide into smaller, less visible house churches.
- In Iran, Christians meet in houses and apartments, trying to avoid the attention of the secret police.
- In Central Asia, Christians gather together and share an evening meal – what looks like a social occasion is actually a church service in disguise.

So, this Pentecost, please ask God to pour out His Spirit afresh on all those who gather in secret around the world. The revolution began in a house. And in houses and apartments around the world, it is still happening - because nothing can stop the power of the Holy Spirit.

### A Pentecost prayer for the persecuted church

God of all power and might, inspire us all by the power of Your Spirit, Kindle the flames of faith, ignite the light of truth, give us the burning passion to share the Good News about You to those around us. We pray especially for our persecuted brothers and sisters at this time, for all those who meet in houses and apartments, the underground outposts of the revolutionary Kingdom of God. Protect them all we pray,. May Your Spirit visit them anew, and fill them afresh with hope, courage and love. Amen

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet



28 May 2023  
Pentecost—Whit Sunday

### Collect for this Sunday

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Readings for this Sunday

**Acts 2.1-21**

**1 Corinthians 12.3b-13**

**John 20.19-23**

### Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Psalm 104:24-35

#### God the Creator and Provider

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with  
good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the Lord!

### Please pray for...

#### From our prayer list

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Debbie Dams, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Dennis Gentleman, Judith Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Jane Knight, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Jose Stokes, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, John Weatherspoon, Kevin Whitfield, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We also remember the souls of Richard Rice-Oxley, Nora Green, Bill Middleton, John Sharman, Frank Wyer and all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Wedding anniversaries: Harriet & James Guest (2 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Emma Green (6 months); Evelyn Stubley, Roy McConchie (2 years)

#### From today's Gospel reading

*Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you...." He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

#### Reflection:

We need the Spirit because only the Spirit can gather and hold us together, and also help us to do what Jesus asks us today: to go into the world making disciples of all. Only the Spirit of God and no mere human effort can bring about the spiritual renewal we need. Only the Spirit can stir up a flame among us to make us passionate about God and the desire to spread the word of God's reign in the world.

#### So we ask ourselves:

- ✚ How am I spreading the word of God's reign by my words?
- ✚ How do I spread God's reign by my actions?
- ✚ Where do I need to turn to the Spirit for help?



#### Safeguarding & Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (our Rector): revdneil@yahoo.com, 01778 219626 or

Anthony Andrews (our group safeguarding officer): andrews.seed@btconnect.com , 01778 440669

Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)

Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

#### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

28 May	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
4 June	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
11 June	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
18 June	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
25 June	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
Each morning	9 am	Morning Prayer/Eucharist	see below

Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; **Wednesday: 10am, Morning Prayer, Morton;** Thursday: Haconby; Friday: Rippingale; Saturday: Kirkby Underwood.

**Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion?** Just contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626 or [revdneil@yahoo.com](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)

#### The New Bishop of Lincoln

The Diocese of Lincoln is pleased to confirm that 10 Downing Street has today named The Rt Revd Stephen Conway as the next Bishop of Lincoln.

Bishop Stephen is already a well-known face in parishes across the Diocese of Lincoln, having been appointed Acting Bishop of Lincoln in November 2021, alongside his current role as Bishop of Ely. He remained as Acting Bishop until Easter this year.

Bishop Stephen said that he is very much looking forward to the opportunity to continue his ministry in Lincolnshire. "It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be able to support and serve the people of Lincolnshire. I am excited to listen and learn alongside you as I seek to build upon the friendships and partnerships that I have begun to build across the diocese. There are many opportunities ahead of us all and I look forward to working and praying with you as we come together and build strong, resilient faithful communities which flourish in the love of Christ Jesus."



#### THESE ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY WANTED

There is a collection box in St. John the Baptist Church, on the left at the back of the church

Tinned meat	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
vegetables	Jars of pasta sauce	Tinned
Squash or fruit juice	Tinned potatoes	Packets of plain rice
Shaving gel	Toothbrushes	Household goods
		Toiletries