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# THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

W/C 31.5.20

And you will be my witness....

I've been thinking a lot this week and last about this phrase, its one we seem to take a bit for granted, yet at the same time, its a bit cryptic isn't it?

For those first disciples, it was probably fairly obvious what it meant for them to tell people about the things they'd seen, but for us 2000 years later, as we celebrate Pentecost and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit - the comforter Jesus promised would be the one who would help the early disciples in that very task - it might be a little less obvious.

Does it mean telling Bible stories?

Does it mean talking about the things we see in the world and looking to work out what we might see as the movements of God through the works of his people (in that case I get a story to tell every time I go out on a Friday to collect food to take out, and the storehouse is once again brimming with the generosity of good people

I think Witnessing to the power of Christ does mean both of these things, but I think it means something else - I think its about being able to tell the stories about the way God through the incredible, powerful, mysterious and wonderful Holy Spirit continues to work in with and through our lives as well.

Put bluntly, I think theres a bit of it about trusting that God will still give us those stories to tell.

And living in such a way that looks to make ourselves a part of them. Trusting in the Holy Spirit's gentle nudge to know what the right thing to do is, then trusting enough to take the risk and do it. Living determined to live in such a way that proclaims with our very actions **'Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done'**

It may well not be easy - Jesus never said it would be, but he did say we'd have help along the way, and thats what this wonderful festival of Pentecost is all about. So as we continue to celebrate and pray, why not make some of your prayers this week to simply say 'come Holy Spirit' - and then wait and see what God might have to say back to you? ,

## THIS WEEK IN CHURCH

In light of the government's latest advice, our Churches are now closed. However, if you would like to pray or chat on the phone or over the internet, this can be arranged through Stephen on 01274 522717, or via social media. Alternatively, the council have a dedicated hotline to share with those in need, you can call, 01274 431000. There's also 'Daily Hope' - a Church of England Phone line for anyone who'd like to hear hymns, reflections and prayers, 0800 8048044.

From now on and throughout the period when we cannot meet in the Church building, we will be streaming Sunday Services at 10:30am through the website <http://littlehorton.ukchurches.org>

## A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# FURTHER READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

W/C31.5.20

## Psalm 104: 24-35

How many are your works, Lord!  
In wisdom you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
25 There is the sea, vast and spacious,  
teeming with creatures beyond number  
—  
living things both large and small.  
26 There the ships go to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to  
frolic there. 27 All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper  
time.  
28 When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.  
29 When you hide your face,  
they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to the dust.  
30 When you send your Spirit,  
they are created,  
and you renew the face of the  
ground. 31 May the glory of  
the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
32 he who looks at the earth, and it  
trembles,  
who touches the mountains, and they  
smoke. 33 I will sing to the Lord all my  
life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I  
live.  
34 May my meditation be pleasing to  
him,  
as I rejoice in the Lord.  
35 But may sinners vanish from the earth  
and the wicked be no more. Praise  
the Lord, my soul. Praise the Lord.

## ! Corinthians 12:1-14

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3 Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

## John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

If you want to look further at the reading we preached on in Sunday morning's service, it was [Acts 2:1-21](#). Why not take a look at the [full chapter?](#)