

Pew Sheet for 24th May 2026

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Saturday 23rd May

10.30am -4pm Interactive Pentecost event
at Woodford Halse

Sunday 24th May

9.30am BCP Communion at Boddington
10.00am Procession from St Mary's
Woodford to Hinton Methodist Church for
Pentecost Service
11.00am Holy Communion at Eydon

Monday 25th May

1pm Wedding at Byfield

Wednesday 27th May

9.45am Morning Prayer at Byfield
11.15 Prayer Group St Mary's Woodford
Halse

Friday 29th May

1pm Funeral at Byfield

Saturday 30th May

12.00pm Wedding at Byfield

Sunday 31st May

10.00am Benefice Communion at Woodford
Halse

Monday 1st June

2.00pm Funeral at Boddington

Friday 5th June

2.00pm Funeral at Byfield

Saturday 6th June

5.00-7.00pm Youth Church at Woodford
Halse

**Advance notice.

James and I will be inviting anyone from the
benefice to come to a BBQ at the Rectory
on Sunday 12th July. Please look out for
further information nearer to the time. Clare

This Sunday is Pentecost when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is sometimes known as Whitsunday because it is a traditional time for baptisms and confirmations and traditionally white clothes were worn by people as they affirmed their faith in either baptism or confirmation at this time. There are no baptisms or confirmations in the Fiveways benefice this Pentecost, although I am hopeful that the new bishop of Brixworth, Dr Alex Hughes, will be visiting Woodford for a confirmation service in the autumn. There are, however, a variety of services and activities across the benefice to celebrate this important festival.

This Sunday is a fourth Sunday when services in the benefice travel to different churches and this week the traditional BCP communion service will be at Boddington and the Common worship communion service will be at Eydon. This weekend there will also be a series of prayer activities based around the season of Pentecost in St Mary's church Woodford between 10am and 4pm on Saturday. These activities are designed to be suitable for people of all ages, whether you enjoy a time of quiet reflection or to pray through more physical hands-on activities and everyone is welcome to pop in at any time during the day, although children under ten will need to be accompanied by an adult. Also, in Woodford on Sunday morning there is a joint service with the Methodists which will be at 10.30am in Hinton Methodist church. Those who are willing and able are invited to meet at St Mary's church at 10am and walk together through the village to this service.

Hopefully there should be something suitable for everyone and I look forward to joining many of you in prayer and worship as we celebrate together the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and consider what the Holy Spirit is doing in the church today.

Every blessing,
Clare

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as
either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 2:1-21**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place. And
suddenly from heaven there came a sound
like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled
the entire house where they were sitting.
Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared
among them, and a tongue rested on each
of them. All of them were filled with the
Holy Spirit and began to speak in other
languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Now there were devout Jews from every
nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.
And at this sound the crowd gathered and
was bewildered, because each one heard
them speaking in the native language
of each. Amazed and astonished, they
asked, "Are not all these who are speaking
Galileans? And how is it that we hear,
each of us, in our own native language?
Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents
of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,
Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging
to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both
Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs
— in our own languages we hear them
speaking about God's deeds of power."
All were amazed and perplexed, saying to
one another, "What does this mean?" But
others sneered and said, "They are filled
with new wine." But Peter, standing with
the eleven, raised his voice and addressed
them, "Men of Judea and all who live in
Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and
listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not
drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine
o'clock in the morning. No, this is what
was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In
the last days it will be, God declares, that
I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy, and your young men shall see

visions, and your old men shall dream
dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men
and women, in those days I will pour out
my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And
I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below, blood,
and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall
be turned to darkness and the moon to
blood, before the coming of the Lord's
great and glorious day. Then everyone
who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved."

Or **Numbers 11:24-30**

PSALM Psalm 104:26-36. 37b
(or 104:26-end)

R I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number,
both small and great. **R**

There go the ships, and there is that
Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season. **R**

When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled
with good.

When you hide your face they are
troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are
created,
and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

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

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have
my being. **R**

So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

Either **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to
the Corinthians.

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by
the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of
gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are

varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities, but
it is the same God who activates all of
them in everyone. To each is given the
manifestation of the Spirit for the common
good. To one is given through the Spirit
the utterance of wisdom, and to another
the utterance of knowledge according to
the same Spirit, to another faith by the
same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by
the one Spirit, to another the working of
miracles, to another prophecy, to another
the discernment of spirits, to another
various kinds of tongues, to another the
interpretation of tongues. All these are
activated by one and the same Spirit,
who allots to each one individually just as
the Spirit chooses. For just as the body
is one and has many members, and all
the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ. For in
the one Spirit we were all baptised into
one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free
— and we were all made to drink of one
Spirit.

Or **Acts 2:1-21**

GOSPEL

Either **John 20:19-23**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

It was evening on the first day of the
week, and the doors of the house where
the disciples had met were locked for fear
of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among
them and said, "Peace be with you." After
he said this, he showed them his hands
and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced
when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to
them again, "Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me, so I send you." When
he had said this, he breathed on them
and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive the sins of any, they are
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
they are retained."

Or **John 7:37-39**

POST COMMUNION

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.

