

**March Team; St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda**  
**Feast of PENTECOST/Whitsunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Regular Church Services**

**St Peter's Sundays 8am & 11am; Wednesdays 10am**

**St Mary's Sundays 9.15am; St Wendreda's Sundays 11am**

**St John's Sundays 9.30am; Tuesdays 10am**

**Today CHORAL EVENSONG 3.30pm St Peter's**

**Meditation**

After the experience of Pentecost, the Apostles were wonderfully changed. Lambs became lions! Those who had hidden away, became courageous; the reticent became the outspoken; the hesitant became confident. Where formerly they had gathered behind locked doors, for fear of their lives, now they came out boldly to face the crowds, and confess their faith in the risen Christ. It was as though they had been lifted physically, mentally, and spiritually. They were in so great a "high" in their articulate enthusiasm and increased energy that it was thought that they had been drinking too much new wine! In truth they were intoxicated, God-intoxicated, and filled with joy with their new found spiritual energy. In trying to illustrate the tremendous thing that had happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, Luke in Acts refers to two powerful sources of that energy, the elements of wind and fire.

*'Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.'*

The disciples gathered at Pentecost with one accord to expect the promised Spirit. Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem, where the power of the Holy Spirit would come upon them. So there they gathered, 120 of them, possibly in the same large upper room as they had used for that Last Supper. Despite the size of the room it must have been hot and stifling behind locked doors and shuttered windows. Not a breath of air moved until they heard a sound like a rushing mighty wind. Despite the shuttered windows it entered and filled the house where they were. It was supernatural, a Divine wind, a wind from heaven. It was the life giving breath of God, his almighty answer to their fervent prayers. It was what Jesus had promised, invisible, powerful and dynamic. They heard its sound and felt its might, recognising it as the Spirit of God. (In the Hebrew language "wind" and "spirit" are the same word.) It was the same Wind or Spirit that had empowered the prophets; and

now it shook and entered the house. The stale atmosphere was dispelled, and the disciples were awakened to newness of life. They were revitalised by the breath of God. It was spiritual resuscitation, the divine kiss of life. They were filled with the Spirit, equipped to become the 'glorious company of the apostles'; and then sent out to face the world, whether this is seen as evil, the might of Rome, or the intransigence of religious authority. So we pray today;

*'Breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew.'*

*'That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.'*

*'Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.'*

Fire symbolised God's spiritual energy at work within them. It is an active word. The Greek word for fire is used in 'purify'. It burns away the dross. The leaping flames bring warmth and light. Fire is elemental energy, and the active principle of God was at work in the world. Moses sensed it when he gazed on the burning bush. Fire flared from Mount Sinai when God's law was given. It was a mysterious Cloud of fire that divinely led the tribe of Israel through the desert, after their deliverance from Egypt. It was the fire of God that fell upon the altar of Elijah, when he confronted the prophets of Baal. The Old Testament closes with a vision that God's messenger would come like a refiner's fire. John the Baptist opened the New Testament era with the proclamation that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Wind and with fire; and when Pentecost came the fire fell on the gathered people. The flames leapt like living things, dividing into tongues of fire, flickering and resting on them, to inspire and energise them to carry on the work of Christ. Kindled in them was a burning zeal to preach the Gospel and forward his kingdom.

The metaphors of wind and fire only partially express what the disciples experienced at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is not just a power, a source of energy, but a person – the third Person of the Divine Trinity. The apostles welcomed him in their midst as an invisible Presence. It was as Jesus had promised, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." He is the Spirit of Holiness, the alter ego of Jesus, who had promised to be with them always. He is the Invisible Companion to accompany them. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Guest who has come to dwell amongst them, and to be in them; for the Holy Spirit of Jesus is not just a powerful force, but a dynamic Person. Jesus called him the Paraclete, the Divine Helper, the Advocate who would come to refresh in them the things of Christ, and to dwell in them to energise, concentrate and encourage. His

influence would produce in them the fruits of the Spirit, and the Church would be advanced through the Spirit's love and presence.

Peter, in his Pentecost sermon, made it clear that spiritual energy was not confined to apostolic times; but that we, in our own time, might expect the Divine Guest to knock on our door. *'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...." Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.*

So let us by faith respond to that call, open the door, and welcome the Divine Guest into our lives.

## Prayers

Be with us, Spirit of God **nothing can separate us from your love.**  
Breathe on us breath of God; **fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God; **bring us strength, wholeness and peace.**  
*Faithful God, who fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending your Holy Spirit, and made known to every race and nation the way of eternal life; open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Come Holy Spirit, creator; and renew the earth. Come Holy Spirit, counsellor, and touch our lips that we may proclaim your word. Come, Holy Spirit, power from on high; make us channels of peace and ministers of healing. Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God, give life to the dry bones around us, and make us living people, holy and free. Come Holy Spirit, wisdom and truth; strengthen us to be bold in faith.

*Minister:* As part of God's Church here in March,  
I call upon you to live out what you proclaim. Empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

**All: By the Spirit's inspiration, we will.**

*Minister:* Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**All: By the Spirit's peace, we will.**

*Minister:* Will you share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**All: By the Spirit's love, we will.**

*Minister:* Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**All: By the Spirit's joy, we will.**

*Minister:* Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**All: By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Lord come to bless us, **fill us with your Spirit.**

In your mercy fill us with your Spirit. **Hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### SPECIAL SERVICES

THIS Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
Choral Evensong 3.30pm St Peter's

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**CORPUS CHRISTI Service**

7pm St Mary's

**Evensongs at St John's 4pm**

June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**St Peter's 6.30pm**

**Carl Jenkins Mass for Peace**

*Singers welcome for the Mass for Peace  
for more info contact [james.trundle@hev.com](mailto:james.trundle@hev.com)*

### St John's Church Regular Activities

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

9.15-11.15 St John's Tots;

**Tuesday**

**10am Midweek Communion Service**

2<sup>nd</sup> Study Group 11-12 **Next 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Study Group 7pm-8.30pm; Film The Chosen

**Wednesdays** Community Hub in Hall 12-2

**Thursday** 1st Thursday Social Group (see below)

**Friday** Choir Practice in Church

**NEXT First Thursday**

Meet at March Museum 7pm 4<sup>th</sup> June

### Regular Church Activities at St Peter's

**Tuesday** 10am-12noon Knit and Natter;

1<sup>st</sup> St Peter's MU 2.30-4pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Deanery MU

**Wednesday**

**10am Midweek Communion Service**

1<sup>st</sup> Study Group 7.30-9pm **NEXT 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Christian Aid Lunch Hall 12-1pm

Bishop Sarah's Welcome 3pm 21<sup>st</sup> June Cathedral  
Information about tickets to follow.

### Some Study Group Opportunitites

**Monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 11-12 St John's Next 9<sup>th</sup> June**

*Weekly Tuesdays 7pm-8.30pm*

*in St John's; Film The Chosen*

**Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 7.30-9pm St Peter NEXT 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**Mountains in the bible**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm St Wendreda Hall.**

**St W Midweek bible study 11am, Genesis**

*Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> May 11am Fri 12<sup>th</sup> June Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June*

*Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> July Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> July*

*Please check with Rev Ruth about the venue.*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Ely Cathedral**

**3pm Refreshments, 4pm Service**

**Service for Admission of Churchwardens**

*All are welcome*

**Church PCC Meetings**

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June 7.30pm St Peter's in Meeting Room

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> June 7pm St John's in Church

Tues 30<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm St Mary's at Vera's

## Welcome to St John the Evangelist, St Peter & St Mary Churches in the March Team

### Feast of PENTECOST

**Whitsunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Today **CHORAL EVENSONG 3.30pm St  
Peter's**

### Regular Sunday Services

**St John 9.30am Sung Communion**

*First Sunday of each Month*

9.30am Wholeness Service with Laying on of Hands

**Monthly MESSYCHURCH 1-3pm Next 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**St Mary 9.15am Traditional Sung Communion**

**St Peter 8am Holy Communion**

**11am Sung Communion**

**Monthly, Next Week, Last Sunday;**

**Sunday Club 11am**

TUESDAY St John's; 10am Holy Communion  
WEDNESDAY St Peter's; 10am Holy Communion  
*Zoom services* Sunday 5.15pm Team Service  
Thursday 8.30am Morning Prayer

Team Rector: Rev Andrew Smith 01354 572117  
[andrew.marchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.marchurch@gmail.com)

*All enquiries about Weddings Baptisms etc to Andrew  
Baptisms; 12.30 St Peter; 2pm or later St John St Mary*

**Team Leader in Mission Ruth Clay 07905950849**

*RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com*

Clergy; Jane Rees 463284, Anthony Chandler 652894,  
Jenny Webb 07957919510 Mother Jane Dicker 661099  
Readers; Hannah Taylor 661712, Stewart Piper

*Next Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, TRINITY SUNDAY*

*2 Corinthians 13 v11-13, Matthew 28 v16-20*

**12.30pm Baptism at St Peter's**

### BAPTISMS

**2pm St John's** Florence Anne Medler

### WEDDINGS

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June St Peter's

1pm Alan Kilbride & Jodie-Jade Ashton

3pm Edward Harwin & Joline Phillips

### Church Grounds

**St Mary** A big thank you to all who work so hard  
– looking better than for many years.

**St John** Thanks for the regular working parties.

Mark seeking another volunteer for the lawnmower  
**St Peter** Stewart has had to retire from cutting grass  
– volunteers needed, and also for the beds and limes

### **Prayer, Collect, for this week**

Send down, O God, upon your people, the flame of your Holy Spirit, and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift, the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side. May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness. Send us forth to the nations of the world to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work of raising Christ to your right hand. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Acts of the Apostles 2 v1-21**

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."

### **Gospel of St John 20v19-23**

It was evening on that day, 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.'

### **Prayer after Communion**

Unlocked Spirit, you are the breath of peace; no doors keep you out: invade our warring confusion, disarm our defences and shape us to live as a people of forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, the word of reconciliation. **Amen.**

**Pastoral Meeting** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 10-11am  
for people from all 4 churches interested in pastoral work and visiting care homes  
at Rev Ruth's house, 177 Station Road

**Baptism Party 31<sup>st</sup> May 3-5pm** St Wendreda  
for all those who baptised their children in the last 2 years & their families

**Future Dates**  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am St Peter's  
Music Workshop for the Mass for Peace  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June St John's SUMMER FAIR 11-3  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> 4pm St Wen's Rhapsody Chorus Concert  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June St Mary Lunch at Liz & Joel's  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid Cream Tea at Jackie's 2-4  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Choral Service at St Peter's  
4th July St Wendreda's Summer fair 10am -2pm-  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July BACON BUTTIES at St Peter's  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July Alan Norris Band Concert St Peter's  
Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July Water Aid afternoon tea, Rachel's  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July St Mary's Lunch Bar-B-Q  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Aug Christian Aid Tea&Cake Rectory 2-4  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sept Quiet Day at St Mary's  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept St John's Autumn Fair  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept Model Railway Exhib St Mary's

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June 2.30pm at St Wendreda's  
**Angel Roof Talk and Afternoon Tea**  
contact [RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com](mailto:RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com)

**PLANT SALE** raised £1140 – well done.  
**PIG RACING** raised £764 – thanks.