

## Ministers' Message

It seems a long time since I last wrote an article for the various village magazines around Bredon Hill, as our publications got temporarily suspended due to the Lockdown; However, many of you will know that during this time I have been producing a weekly Bulletin, to support worship and personal prayer whilst our church buildings have been closed. If you have not seen it and would like to receive an electronic copy then please email me at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com).

In writing this article, I was asked to try and avoid talking about the Coronavirus, and so will therefore mention what is happening in the churches calendar at this time of year. For the end May sees us focusing on the festival Pentecost, a commercially less well-known festival than Christmas and Easter, but nevertheless important! As it is now we remember that after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended in heaven, He did not leave the disciples on their own and left to their own devices; Instead, He sent the Holy Spirit, to dwell within them and to equip them with those gifts which the church now calls Gifts of the Spirit – *Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Piety and Reverence*.

Through these gifts the disciples were transformed from being quiet, fearful, anxious and nervous people, to ones who because of their awareness of the presence of God within them, together with their belief in an eternal life with God, were willing to accept hardships marginalisation, persecution to the point of death, and were still empowered to be His witnesses, making new disciples wherever they went.

That same Holy Spirit still equips us today, enabling us to cope and give us courage, when we, like the disciples, are daunted by the prospect of doing something we feel is beyond us, or when something happens which shakes us to the core of our being and we don't know which way to turn. At such times, all we need to do is to let go and let the Spirit in, so that the Spirit can work within us.

But Pentecost quickly moves into the long season of Trinity, when we remember that God exists as a 3 way relationship – as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; And for those of us who were baptised and confirmed, we may remember questions being asked of us, or on our behalf, of *“Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of being and life, the one for whom we exist?”*; *“Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?”*; *“Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?”* These questions illustrate how the relationship of the Trinity can be expressed as a divine dance as they interact with one another, expressing love for each other, and complementing the work each has to do.

We are called to live in this same loving relationship. Therefore this June, whatever it brings for us, and in whatever challenges we face, may we as people made in God's image, live in this community of the love of a Trinitarian God, and live out this community of love in our homes, our villages and across our wider world.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well.

**Allison**