

Welcome to St Dunstan's and Southville Churches

Feltham Ecumenical Parish:
Anglican and Methodist Churches in
partnership

Sunday 23 May
2021

PENTECOST

The significance of Pentecost to the church is something that we need to walk through carefully, and we shouldn't ignore, because Pentecost was a Jewish celebration – although in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did.

But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended; he had promised during the gospel narratives, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at Pentecost that the spirit came and empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left and Peter; and Peter stands up in front of the throng, probably thousands, maybe tens of thousands of people to proclaim the gospel, there in the midst of a Hebrew celebration that was intended to remind the Hebrews of how God had always protected them.

And here Peter stands up and says, "Let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protector for all of humanity. Let me tell you who he is." And so Pentecost becomes this marker in history, really when many people would say, "That's the moment that the church was born."

That is when thousands come into the faith. And it goes from this little sect of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church breaks forth into culture. Suddenly it is that unstoppable force that no one can really deny any longer. Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. It, at one point, is just a historical memory. Now it is the living reality of the moment when the spirit of God seemingly bursts forth.

Contributed by Derek Perry, with acknowledgments to christianity.com

Methodist Circuit Bible Study

This takes place by zoom or phone on Thursdays starting at 10.00am, please join by 09:45. Please contact Jonathan Griffiths for details. Email: jonathan.griffiths@sfmc.org.uk

Church Notices: Southville Methodist

Today: 10:30 am **Morning Worship** led by the Rev. Julie Underwood
Next Sunday (30th): No service in church

However, from Sunday 6th June there will be **worship in church every Sunday** until further notice. Meanwhile, Staines Methodist Church is continuing to zoom their 10.30am Sunday service and we would encourage you to join. For an invite contact Matt or Roz via service.staines@sfmc.org.uk

Southville Church will be **open for private prayer** on the first Saturday of the month from 09:30 to 10:30am; the next occasion will be Saturday 5th June.

Church Notices: St. Dunstan, Church of England

Today: 9.30am **Service on zoom**
10.30am **Holy Communion** if dry in Church Centre garden (with singing)
if wet in church (no singing) Booking not essential but would help.

Next Sunday and for six weeks thereafter, please note changes of time:

9.30am **Service on zoom**

10.30am **Holy Communion** in church – please book by noon Saturday

And on Wednesdays:

10.00am **Holy Communion** in church – no need to book

A change of time for our Sunday services is being tried, to see whether it enabled more people to come to church. Please note that government guidance for indoor services remains the same as before 17th May: hand sanitizing, masks to be worn, no congregational singing inside the church and socially distanced seating (which now permits up to six people to be seated together, if they wish, or up to two households).

For our zoom services, phone or email the parish office for details of how to connect from computer, smartphone, tablet or by phone.

Bible study will continue on Monday 7th June at 8pm on zoom. Contact Anne Dollery for joining details.

Following last week's **Annual Meetings**, we are thankful to report that Duncan Forsyth has agreed to continue as our (only) churchwarden, Ian Stuchbury as the treasurer and Richard Clayton, Shirley Howell and Ruth Stevens have joined the PCC (leaving three vacant places).

Gratitude was expressed for many kinds of service and contribution to our common life but particular mention was made of **Susan Collins** and **Brenda Cook**, now retired after many decades of inspiring work with children and young people; and **Beryl Gamble** who served faithfully as our organist for an equally long time.

People

We are sad to hear of the death of **Constance (Connie) Rowse** and we send our sympathy and condolences to her family. Connie's funeral will be held at 12 noon at St Dunstan's on Wednesday 30th June and all are most welcome to attend. No flowers by request; the family invite individual donations to Cancer Research UK instead. Connie was part of the congregation worshipping at St Catherine's and then Christ Church before coming to St Dunstan's until she became too frail to get to church and received Holy Communion visits at home.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 5th June at 11am: **World Environment Day Interfaith meeting** (on zoom) organised by the World Zoroastrian Organisation (based by Bridge House Pond), to discuss the role of the environment in our respective religions and to pool ideas for a collaborative environmental project to benefit the local area. Meeting id=968 9989 6139, password=interfaith. All are most welcome.

Advance notice: **Saturday 24th July 'Pond Fest' at Bridge House Pond**. We are invited to be involved, either running a stall or helping with stalls. Please contact Gary at the Parish Office.

Christian Aid Week and other good causes

Many thanks to those who organised the **raffle for Christian Aid**: Jackie Trebett for providing the prizes, Susan Collins for the photos and descriptions, and Rachel Stuchbury for

keeping the records. And many thanks, on behalf of the recipients, to all who have donated to Christian Aid. We sold £155 tickets at £1; a further £388 is known to have been donated to Christian Aid, making £543 – but we know that the true total is higher, because not everyone (naturally) shared with us how much they donated.

If you want to **give thanks for receiving your vaccination**, or to donate to charities who are helping to ensure that every community is supported, the following suggestions are among ways this can be done:

- The Church of England helped to bring about the vaccinaid.org campaign with Unicef and Crowdfunder, which is seeking to help provide more than 2.5 billion vaccines worldwide. Donations can be made directly, or communities can set up local fundraisers.
- Christian Aid's [Give Thanks campaign](#) is focusing on humanitarian support including food, water and healthcare in areas where the vaccine is not currently available.
- In addition, the Church of England has worked with yourneighbour.org on the [Give Hope Campaign](#) which works to target misinformation and encouraging vaccination.

Feltham Food Bank: financial donations are welcome (see felthamfoodbank@gmail.com) but food items left in the box at St. Dunstan's will also be delivered periodically. Tins of meat or fish are always useful, as are tea, coffee and sugar. Not pasta, please (we always have enough).

Other news

Our good wishes and prayers go to our old friend **Maria Sharp**, who is being enrolled as a Soldier in the Salvation Army today! When the Holy Spirit takes hold, there's no knowing where you may find yourself (see Acts 8: 39-40).

Cargo bikes for families: Hounslow is using a scheme that loans cargo bikes to families free of charge for a month, following which you can choose to purchase them at very low prices. If interested see https://www.peddlemywheels.com/family-and-cargo-bikes?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

The Big Ask is an online survey for young people aged 4-17 years in England, launched by the Children's Commissioner. Age-appropriate questions and format are offered, so that any young person can tell the government what their life is like and how it could be improved. See https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

Has anyone seen the St. Dunstan's tombola?? If anyone has 'borrowed' it (possibly with sabotage in mind), they are urged to leave it in the vicarage porch, no questions asked. But don't try concealing it under your overcoat.

A few phone numbers in case of need

Samaritans: 116 123 (and it's free)

Domestic Abuse UK: 0808 200 0247

Hopeline Suicide Prevention (aimed at young people or those concerned about a young person): 0800 068 4141

Mind information line (on mental health problems and how to seek help): 0300 123 3393

CAP Christians against Poverty: free debt counselling 0800 328 0006. <https://capuk.org/>

And two dog jokes

What is the difference between a dog and a marine biologist? One of them wags his tail, and the other tags his whales.

Why do dogs make terrible dancers? Because most of them have two left feet.

<p>Southville Methodist Tachbrook Road, Feltham TW14 8NU Change of website address: www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Email address: contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Minister: Rev. Andrew Reed (01784 252559) Email: rev.reed@sfmc.org.uk</p> <p>St. Dunstan (C of E) St. Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY Minister Rev. Anne Dollery (020 8890 8347) Email: AnneDollery@yahoo.co.uk</p> <p>C of E Parish office 39 St.Dunstan's Road, Feltham TW13 4JY (visitors by appointment only) Email: admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk Tel: 020 8890 2011 Website: www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk</p>
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