



# PENTECOST

I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE

## “You will receive power”

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles in the Bible, Jesus gives this command and promise to his disciples:

*“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 1:4-5)

He later went on to say:

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

As I read these verses from Jesus, himself God in the flesh, I can't help but think about how many people in the world today are using and misusing their power for their own ends. Yet Jesus, who has the greatest power that any person has ever had, promises to give his power away to others - that they may carry on with his work.

But, this power isn't just an impersonal power without any limits or accountabilities - this power comes from the infilling of a person, the Spirit of God himself. This Spirit who brings *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. (Galatians 5:22-23) This power that the Spirit of God gives is to all disciples of Jesus, including those of us who follow Jesus today. The way that we can tell if somebody today is truly walking with the power of Jesus is if they are displaying these attributes; and that includes you and me.

So, how are we called to use this power - this greatest power that people in the world can receive? *“You will be my witnesses...”* says Jesus. To truly exercise power is to be a witness for Jesus. This is about witnessing for the values that Jesus taught, by both speaking them out and also living them out every single day of our lives. It is about boldly speaking out for his truth and justice in a world where many people have turned their backs on him. And it is about calling people to repentance for turning their backs on Jesus, and for them to turn to Jesus as their Saviour. Exercising the greatest power in the world is about witnessing for Jesus, and not just selecting the bits that we want to be witnesses about.

But, the way in which we do this is important too. If the Spirit of God brings power for disciples of Jesus to live and act in the ways that are referenced above from Galatians 5, then acting in the opposite ways to this is about living according to a different power than the Spirit of God. Namely, if we act in ways that are unloving, joy quelling, conflict bringing, anxiety inducing, unkind, malicious, untrustworthy, violent and impulsive then we are not acting according to the power of the Spirit of God. If we are acting, or if anybody is acting, in ways that are more like that list then they are acting according to the powers of the world - and such a power is puny compared to the power of God.

So, as we approach Pentecost Sunday this May, and remember this new pouring out of the Spirit of God upon people in the world - what are we to take from this? Firstly, be encouraged and feel empowered; because that is what you are. As a follower of Jesus today he has given you his own power to live as a disciple. Secondly, don't lose perspective about others in the world with so-called power. They do indeed have power, but it is only a power that the world grants and so when it meets the power of Jesus it has to bow to him.

God bless,

*Paul*

# New or Visiting?

## First Time Here?

If it's your first time here then welcome! It's great to have you with us. Here are a few short notes that you might find helpful.

**Relax** - You're our guest, so make yourself at home. If there is anything that you would like to know then ask one of the Welcome Team by the front door.

**We don't expect guests to give** - For those who are members or regular attenders there is an offering plate at the back, but we don't ask our guests for any money.

**We have a Loop System** - Switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

You might find it useful to sit towards the middle.

**Hang around afterwards** - Come and join us for a cup of tea or fresh coffee, and for a chat—drinks are served in the hall and we usually gather in the lounge to chat.

**Prayer** - If you would like someone to pray with you — either prayer for you or for someone you know — there are people who would love to do so after the service. Please make yourself known to the service leader.

**Children & Youth** - Once a month, the whole church worships together. On other weeks, there is a Sunday School for primary aged children. One of the Welcome Team can show you where Sunday School meets. For pre-school age children, there are green tables at the side of church with activities. Please don't be embarrassed if your children make any noise—they are welcome here and are part of the service, too! All our children and youth leaders have DBS checks and have undergone safeguarding training.

## Next Steps

We are all on a journey through life, and our faith is no different. Depending upon where you are on your journey with God here are some 'Next Steps' you could take:

### COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

Commit to follow Jesus today!

### RE-COMMIT TO CHRIST

It's never too late for a fresh start with faith.

### DECLARE YOUR FAITH THROUGH BAPTISM

If you feel you've made a commitment to God but have never been baptised, then this could be a great step for you.

### JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you're not in one, there are a number of groups that meet in homes throughout the week to get to know each other better, look at the Bible and pray together.

### BE PART OF THE MISSION

There are lots of ways you can use your gifts to serve God, his Church and the wider community. Speak to one of the church team to find out more.

## MAY 2026

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 Morning Family of God Service  
6:30 Evening Communion Service

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café  
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café  
9:30-11:00 Messy Toddlers  
1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

7:30 PCC

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00-1:00 Light Café  
1:00-1:30 BCP Holy Communion  
7:00-8:30 Youth Club

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>—Pentecost Sunday

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

7:30 Social Night

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>

10:00 Morning Service & Sunday School  
6:30 Evening Service

## PRAYER MEETINGS

### Monday

10:00-11:00 Zoom Prayers

### Tuesday and Thursday

9:30-10:00 Morning Prayer in Room 2  
(off the Church Hall)

### Wednesday

1:00-1:15 Pause for Thought in Church

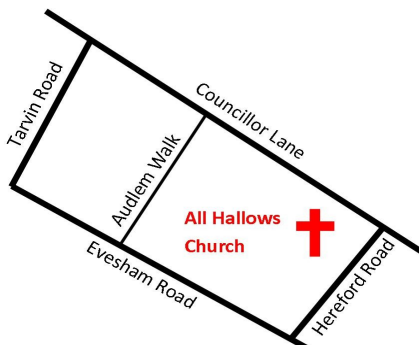
### Saturday Prayer Relays

Book a half hour slot during the day to pray, before somebody else takes over

# Contact Details

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If you would like to make a one-off donation to the work of All Hallows Church you can do so by using the QR Code.