

June 2025

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me ... Luke 4:18*

The year of the Lord's favour proclaimed in Isaiah 61:1 is claimed here by Jesus in his home town of Nazareth. Jesus goes out into Galilee, healing, teaching, eating with disciples and expectant crowds. The Spirit of God that filled Jesus at his baptism, guiding him in the desert and now sending him out drawing all into the presence of Yahweh, the living Creator God of Jewish faith.

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ... Acts 2:4*

Bazalel, Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Saul ... Elisha asks Elijah for twice his Spirit. Particular people given the Spirit of God to fulfil the tasks God had placed on them, yet Joel (2:28) had prophesied that the Spirit of the living God will be available for all. Jesus, in one of his resurrection appearances breaths the Spirit on his disciples. (John 21:19-23); *Peace be with you.*

*Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7*

The very breath of life, bringing us alive, is the Spirit of the living God. As Nicodemus heard from Jesus (John 3), you become aware of God through being born again. Yes, we can have a charismatic experience, such as I have been blessed with, but we are 'born again' when we become aware that God is Immanuel; God is with us always through the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World who is the Way, the Truth, the Life and the Resurrection. Being aware that Jesus is your friend and walks with you, continuing his ministry of healing, teaching and eating with his disciples, guiding us in the way of love, compassion and justice seeking Christ calls us to. This is the work of the Spirit in each of us; and this Spirit is available to each and every human being on the planet Earth. It is the Spirit that seals us in the love and knowledge of God, and gives us that deep-seated joy that we know all shall be well.

Each morning, I ask Sophia wisdom, the Spirit of God, to guide me through each day. It is this wisdom that draws us together as Church, as a body of disciples building each other up and seeing to grow the kingdom of God in Cheshire, in Halton, in Flintshire as it is in heaven. The gifts Christ bestows through the Spirit are so many ... please read 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:11. We have a generous God.

So, as we enter the summer season, with the vast array of colour nature sings to us, may we embrace the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Pentecost and go forth in peace allowing justice to reign and healing to happen. We have a mighty responsibility (hence Good Governance ahead for this coming year) and a duty of care to walk Christ's way of peace and humility. The Holy Spirit of God will guide you, will bless you and may we boldly claim the crown of Christ as we join Jesus in bringing loving transformation to the world God loves so much She sent her one, one and only begotten Son to be our Saviour.

***Gordon***

Thank you to all who came to a Service of farewell at Oakmere Methodist Church on June 8<sup>th</sup>. In sad circumstances it was an uplifting Act of Worship. Especial thanks to John Bell for sensitive and prophetic words. Several of us have met for prayer at Oakmere over these past couple of months, with some potential ideas floated as to the next steps. There will be an invitation to the local community to see if there is that passion emerging for Oakmere to be a centre of mission here in this beautiful corner of the United Kingdom. Please do keep an eye out for this, and please do continue to pray for guidance in all involved in this discernment.