

Sunday theme – **Pentecost**

Read Acts 2: 1 – 21

1. What does the word ‘Pentecost’ mean to you? For those outside the church, it is most likely to be associated with Pentecostalism, and seen as some sort of wild Christian religious experience, particularly the ‘talking in tongues’. Yet, inside the church, we know that the receiving of the Holy Spirit is experienced differently by every individual.

1a. What feelings do you experience when this passage is read in church every year?

1b. Pentecostalism is believed to be currently the fastest growing Christian denomination. With St James church policy deliberately working for growth, what, if anything, can we learn from this?

2. From what you learn from the Old Testament, the physical and spiritual journey God’s chosen people were on, (now being addressed by Peter – verse 14ff)

2a. Is it a strange response to the challenge about being drunk, that Peter should quote from Joel?

2b. verse 17. What is the importance of ‘in the last days’?

2c. How do you understand verses 19-20, literally or in some other way?

3. Verse 21.

3a. Some people think that being ‘saved’ means ‘going to heaven when they die’. What do you think?

3b. What relevance and impact does ‘being saved’ have in your life today?

Read Ezekiel 37: 1 -14

4. This passage has many possible themes and visions and prophecies, and just as relevant today as when first delivered some 2500 years ago; deliverance, renewing, rebuilding, new life, future blessing, Spirit filling, life comes from God, working in unity, to name a few. But the one that churches should visit every year is the concept of that which is dried up and lifeless, perhaps completed their useful service, becoming restored to new life in all its fullness by the filling of God’s Spirit. It’s the opportunity for church’s annual MOT!

4a. Are there any corners of our church which need renewing and refilling?

(Bible used = NIV 2011 translation)

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