



Thanks to a tall ladder and Tim Rowlands, we have this beautiful photo of our church to meditate on.

It seems to have been so long since we have been able to gather together in our usual way. But God is good and even in this challenging time we see many blessings.

Things that we can praise God and give thanks for.

May I encourage you as you look upon this photo and think of all the special occasions that have been, be assured that once again we will worship together. In the meantime make the most of the time and opportunities, give thanks to Him who is faithful.

Rev'd Liz



St Stephens
Belmont

Hello All
Well the building may be
empty but church is going on!

Though the amazing technology, the kind-hearted efforts of many, looking out for one another, phone calls, messages, deliveries, sharing of ideas and recipes, & The Link

Just to mention a few.

Our Parish Council met on Zoom, worked really well thanks to Fady.

I met with Bp. Kate and clergy "On the couch" Zoom

With all its challenges our Zoom Church has been going well each Sunday, about 40 people joining us. Each week we see small improvements and every-one seems to be enjoying catching up.



LIGHT UP THE WORLD

THIS YEAR THE 10 DAYS OF PRAYER
FROM ASCENSION TO PENTECOST MAY
21ST- 31ST MAY

INVITATION TO TKC GLOBAL WAVE OF PRAYER 21st -31st May

WE ARE INVITED TO JOIN WITH THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD TO PRAY FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW THE LOVE AND HOPE OF JESUS.

If you have not been involved before, the idea is to pray every day for 10 days for 5 people that you know to come to faith in Jesus,

I think this year more than ever people are searching for truth and love and some assurance that there is more meaning to life than Covid 19. Then once you decide to commit to prayer you register, either as a church or as individuals, and the world map lights up showing your location. I have been involved for a number of years and believe it is really a call of the Lord to be praying especially at this time. It was initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

If you want more information you can go to their web site and see videos, and many resources that you can download and be inspired.

There are devotions by Bp Tom Wright for each day.

If you download the Phone App you can type in the names of the people you commit to pray for and you get a reminder each day. Brilliant.

Please consider, it's simple and easy to do, and it has a huge impact in transforming society and our world and more so ourselves.

Just imagine if everyone in our church prayed what a huge impact we could achieve together.

Study this week Acts 1 & 2:1-3

.They joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary, mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Verses 42-47 they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship and prayer.....And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. Whilst an astonishing 92% of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and 40% of those taking part in 2019 did so for the first time, we recognise there is much more we can do together to help *Thy Kingdom Come* be fully in the lifeblood of the Church.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- *Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ*
- *Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus*
- *Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness*

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the past three and a half years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'.

We are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge. The effects have been remarkable.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the country to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part this year – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 178 countries around the world.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this...he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight...Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer... When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added."

Acts 1, 2

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."
Archbishop Justin Welby