

The weather has warmed up with brilliant sunshine over the weekend; it really felt as if summer was upon us, what an environment to celebrate Pentecost. This was originally a Jewish festival, which commenced with a celebration of the harvest with the first fruits and concluded with another feast with two loaves. It was during the feast of the loaves when Jews from all over the world as it stood then had returned to Jerusalem that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles.

The lesson which was read by Jane Moody was taken from Acts 2: 1-13. This is the famous story where the arrival of the Spirit amongst the apostles sounded like a strong wind and looked like tongues of fire. It empowered the apostles to be able to communicate with all of the visitors to the festival in Jerusalem in their own languages. This would have been topical at the time as the event happened 50 days after the resurrection of Christ. Suddenly people from all over the world were able to understand each other.

Earlier in the service the children had gate crashed, entering the church making a loud noise with rattles. They were celebrating Purim which is another Jewish Festival once again designed to waken up the church.

Pentecost is regarded as the point where the Christian Church was established through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of thousands.

The Spirit of God is unseen like the wind; it is breathing life into us. The concepts of breath, life and power are woven through the fabric of the Bible. Pentecost brought a divided society together. Society was set up to make barriers between communities. Peter was able to preach the Gospel to a separated mix of people who spoke different languages and this was the start of a process of putting the story of Jesus together as a very public affair. If nothing else the Church is charismatic of the Holy Spirit.

Within Genesis 11 is the story of the Tower of Babel. This was a huge mistake, people did not understand each other and there was disunity at many levels. In modern day society there is much confusion. The church is confused, politicians are confused, and the confusion of Babel is alive in our midst. Many people in our society are confused.

Pentecost was able to bring people together. The message of the gospel was able to get past barriers. It is a ministry of truth, not of confusion.

It is our calling as a people of God to go into a world that is full of confusion and break barriers down so that the message of the Spirit becomes clear. We need to be able to speak the truth without being full of ourselves. The Spirit gives us the gifts or fruits detailed in Galatians not for ourselves but to assist us in building up Christ's Church. The strong message of Pentecost allows us to form a vision, which is set in the Triloggy, draws us into relationships and empowers us to go and live Gods life in this world.

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In the evening, the Seven at Fetteresso Service once again looked at the life of Ruth where she became part of the household of Boaz. The road to getting there was mapped out by the direction of the Holy Spirit, not by the notions of humans.

This unlikely passage of events led to a situation where Ruth who was an outsider became someone on the inside. This enabled her to become part of the direct line of David leading eventually to the birth of Jesus.

As in the events of Pentecost by being active participants in Gods purpose led to achieving unity in that family. Likewise if we trust in God he will transform us so that we can walk in his purpose as apart of the Good News of Christ.

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The following intimations were made: -

- The Chocolate Box Mission will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. People should sign up to participate in this event.
- People who wish to assist in funding a "Build a Classroom" project at Watoto can participate in a 3-course meal at Zaras Restaurant on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- A meeting to restructure the Stonehaven Churches & Youth Ministry will be held in St Bridgets Hall on Saturday 6th June at 10am.

- The Summer Sunday School will commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. A list for volunteers to register is available.
- The Christian Aid collection from Fetteresso raised £2000, which will allow another £600 to be collected as Gift Aid.