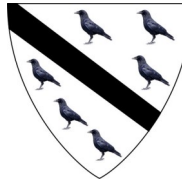


HIGH FRAMLAND NEWS



COVERING THE PARISHES OF

St Guthlac's, Branston : St Botolph & John the Baptist, Croxton Kerrial
St Michael & All Angels, Harston : All Saints, Knipton
St Peter's, Salthy : St Bartholomew, Sproxton

June 2020

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The Revd David Cowie, The Rectory, 7 Sycamore Lane, Wymondham, LE14 2AZ
Tel 01572 789954 / 07377 873837 Email: revd.david.cowie@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Revd Canon Julie Hutchinson, High Framland Rectory, 5 Croxton Lane, Harston, NG32 1PP
Tel 01476 870083 : Email: revdjulie@icloud.com

FROM THE PEN OF THE PARISH PRIEST



What does it mean to be the Church in these times? Our buildings are unable to be used, we've been isolated from one another, and we can't gather together to receive the gifts of Jesus offered in wine and wheat.

This is perhaps the biggest question facing the present-day Church throughout the world, and it's a good question to be

thinking about as we approach Pentecost and our yearly celebration of the beginnings of the Church.

Pentecost was that moment when the Holy Spirit descended on the first followers of Jesus. They were a broken and frightened group, left bewildered first by Jesus' death and then by his Resurrection.

They were still beginning to make sense of it all when Jesus upped and left, ascending to the heart of the Father; just like that, Jesus was no longer with them. So they gathered together in one place to pray together and wait to receive the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit finally appeared, it was with wind and flame, freeing the disciples from their fear, transforming their bewilderment into wonder, and empowering them to go out into the world.

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But there can be no going into the world this year to celebrate Pentecost. There can be no gathering together in one physical place, either. For many of us, we will still be stuck in our rooms, locked away from one another. The only way we have of being present to one another is to gather together on the mysterious ether of the Internet for live-streamed worship. For others, we will only be able to be present to one another through our prayers, united in the love that is the Holy Spirit.

For the Spirit has been given to us, and keeps us together in the bond of love, in much the same way as the Spirit is the bond of love between the Father and the Son. As long as there is love in our hearts, then there will be the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and there we will be connected with one another.

We might be necessarily absent from our buildings at this time, but we are not absent from God. The celebration of Pentecost reminds us that God dwells within our hearts; and through that same Spirit, we can never be absent from one another. The Spirit unites us in a way even being physically present cannot.

And still we will yearn for the day when we return to our church buildings. These buildings have been the places that have sheltered our communities for generations, providing us with roots so we can serve the people around us.

They are our centre as a physical, embodied community who comes together to pray and reveal God's love in the world - even if our mission is to reach out beyond the stone walls to build a body of believers greater than can be contained by our buildings.

And so this Pentecost we pray, as the first followers of Jesus did, for the Holy Spirit to come once again and dwell in our hearts. But more than that, this year as we are physically absent from one another, we pray now more than ever that we might be united in the bond of love.

And we pray, as always, for that day when it's not just us but the whole of creation which is united and made one in the bond of God's love.

David Cowie



CONTACTS

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SALTBY

Churchwardens:

Sue Hill, 01476 860398,
Jenny Tebb, 01476 562019

**We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of
Paul Butcher on 8th May 20230.
Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.**

SPROXTON

Churchwarden:

Malise Graham, 01476 860266

It is hoped to start the village hall lunches again on Wednesday, 9th September.

Sproxton Village Hall 50/50 winners

1st P Graham : 2nd A Jeffreys : 3rd B Peternell (email 15th May)

Copies of this newsletter can be found at www.highframland.co.uk

Please would you pass any items for July by **SUNDAY, 21st JUNE**

to Sue Watford, tel 01949 861256; email SueWatford@aol.com