

Revd Michael Burns  
Christ Church West Wimbledon  
Sermon : Pentecost ~ 10:00am, June 4, 2017

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- **PENTECOST** – 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension – today is the birthday of the church. Hence the cake and the balloons.
- 40 days after Jesus rose again at Easter, he ascended into heaven. Listen to the story of what happened to the followers of Jesus, the disciples, after that.
- **Read Bible Acts 2**
- **Wind** – invisible – but we can see and feel its effects.
- **Wind** – good for you – we need wind to keep the air fresh – but a fierce wind, like a hurricane, can do a lot of harm and damage.
- **Fire** – good for you – we need fire to keep us warm and to light up our house, church – but fire, if out of control, can kill.
- Yes, wind and fire can all be good but can also be dangerous.
- That’s why you are taught the dangers of fire; to be careful on a windy day.
- Let’s just think about **fire**. For many people it holds both fascination and fear.
- From the beginning of the world, fire was used for warmth, cooking, to keep away predators and darkness.
- But fire, out of control, destroys. House fires and forest fires bring tragedy to many people each year.
  
- Can you imagine what it would have been like to have been there in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago? To have felt and heard and experienced first-hand God’s Spirit at work. To have been part of the new thing that God was creating that day – this new community of faith: the church. Well, whilst we weren’t there in Jerusalem 2000 years ago, we are nevertheless part of the church—the family of God—that came into being on that day in Jerusalem so long ago. And just as God’s Spirit filled and inspired those first Christians, so God also fills and inspires all of us who are open to the coming of His Holy Spirit.
  
- Today is the **Feast of Pentecost** – the birthday of the Christian Church.
- At **Pentecost** we are reminded that God’s fire never goes out.
  
- At Pentecost we are reminded that God’s fire can totally transform a person’s life. May the tongues of flame and the breath of the wind breathe new life into each one of us, who are the Church, here today?