

"Weekly Interview – What does your week look like?"

As part of our outworking of the life of the Holy Spirit in and through people's lives, look out for a NEW addition to our weekly posts on the "New Creation Facebook Page" and "website" – a weekly "3 minute interview" with someone from the life of the Church trying to live out daily life in and with God. We will try and mix things up as best we can across ages, parishes, experiences etc.

The point is to see, at first hand what people are facing in their own lives, and also how God is supporting them and guiding them as they do so.

To find these interviews: look up the "New Creation Facebook Page" : www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches or via the New Creation website: www.newcreationchurches.org.uk (You do NOT need to have an account with Facebook to access any of this material.)

Matt and Kirsty

Iona Trip (Aug 2021): further UPDATE:

We are going to need to make a final decision at the end of the month about going to Iona in Aug 2021. A number of you have indicated that you want to go, and I know it's hard to make any decisions given the current circumstances, but we do need to firm up on the booking. So, if you are interested, or you know someone who might like to come with you, please can you get in touch ASAP. Details about the pilgrimage and trip can be found on the New Creation website - www.newcreationchurches.org.uk or by contacting myself or Kirsty.

We now have ONLY five places we need to fill to make the trip viable. It is a wonderful and very special place and a great opportunity to stop, be still and know who you are in the heartbeat of God.

It promises to be a very special time and everyone would be very welcome. Matt

A message from Sue Hoskins:-

I'm sure that nobody will be surprised to hear that due to Coronavirus my Ordination has been moved back to Sunday September 27th. At present I don't know where or how that will be taking place, but I will still be starting work in the Wrington Benefice on June 29th, initially as a Parish lay worker, until I start my Curacy.

I retired from the NHS last month and went straight back to work. As things settle with Covid-19, I will finally be retiring for good in mid-June.

Thanks for all the messages of support. I hope to see you all soon and I will update you as soon as I can.

Sue

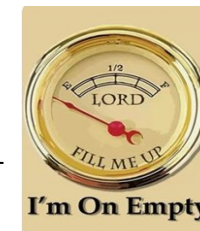


Sunday 31st May, **PENTECOST**

Thought for the week:

As well as details about the beginnings of relaxation of the Lockdown, this week sees the celebration of Pentecost (or Whitsun, as some people know it) – the gift of the Holy Spirit, sent from God.

Now we can be carrying ten bags of shopping from the supermarket to the car, when someone offers us a hand (socially distancing, of course), and we say, "no, it's ok, I'm fine." We get home, carry the same bags from the car to the kitchen table, and then collapse, complaining to anyone who will listen, "what a hard job it is always having to go and do the shopping."



Similarly, we can be in the Doctors' Waiting Room, sat quietly waiting our turn. We then recognise the person across the way. They say, "oh, hi, how are you?" "Oh, fine," we reply. "And you?" "Oh, fine, fine," comes the reply. Yet inside, we are anything but fine.

I think it is something to do with these two emotional traits – a desire to measure wellbeing based on independence, which you could possibly call "pride," if you were being harsh, and a certain reticence to share our real self, which you could call "shyness" that lies at the heart of why we often have problems engaging with a meaningful relationship with the Holy Spirit, even if we have been seasoned Christians for many years.

That, coupled with images of doves or tongues of fire, together with certain styles of worship or forms of prayer that possibly seem far too expressive for a traditional village climate, all lead to solidifying our already formed impression.

And yet, now is a time, as we begin to look to emerge from Lockdown as a community and as a world, when we could all do with being renewed and refilled with the Holy Spirit, almost like never before. The timing couldn't be more appropriate. For, through all the layers of interpretation and styles of expression, the Spirit is the One who enables the creative and life-giving presence of God to be with us, individually and collectively, right here, right now, in terms of clarity of thought, integrity, genuineness and humility, in terms of generosity, compassion and grace, in terms of companionship and courage to embrace change and attempt new things. The list of adjectives and benefits goes on and on. These all come as gifts from "the one and the same Spirit," says St Paul in 1Cor ch 12.

Why would we not want to engage with such a Helper, a Companion, a Comforter and a Friend, as we look to the future of a Britain and a world post-lockdown?

Perhaps, only because we quite like doing things the way "we" always do them, or because we have been hurt somewhere before and we hold everyone, even God at "arm's length" because it's safer that way.

Cont.....

Can I encourage, as many that are willing, however, to take this time, for forty days, from Pentecost (THIS Sunday – 31st May) till the 16th July, to join with me and others in an exploration of just how wonderful, diverse, creative and life-giving the Holy Spirit truly can be, not just in the Bible but in each and every day of this life, and in our present world. There is a little book that I have found personally very stimulating to help us to engage in this, like having a friend who's walked the footpath before us and also with us – it's called "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" by Jack Levison (see below). The "Daily Blog" on the New Creation Facebook Page will be based on his work each day – so look out for that (details below). I could almost guarantee that at the end of your 40 days you would not only have learnt something new about who the Holy Spirit can be, but also see your relationship with Him in ways that you would wonder why you had never seen it that way before.

And, even if you don't like reading, and you don't want to follow a five minute video blog, please join with me in letting your heart and soul breathe by praying this Sunday, and in the coming forty days, "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in us all the fire of Your love. Amen."

Let us look to the ending of Lockdown and a life beyond not in pride, not in fear, but in companionship and love, themselves gifts of the Spirit.

Matt Thomson

"Daily Blog" – "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" – Sun 31st May till 16th July:

Starting on the Monday after Pentecost the "Daily Blog" on the New Creation Facebook Page will change focus to explore "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" as a way into refreshing and renewing our relationship with the Holy Spirit and how He can be relevant in our world as we live out each day and as we look to the future.

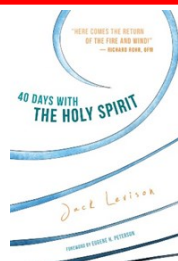


Written by Jack Levison, himself a lecturer and writer on matters to do with the Holy Spirit for over thirty years, you may wish as well, or instead, to purchase the book for yourself and make it your own discipleship journey in the coming days.

You can obtain "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" from Amazon, Eden and also as an ebook via Kindle etc. And you can access the "Daily Blog" either by [looking up the "New Creation Facebook Page"](#):

www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches or via the New Creation website:

www.newcreationchurches.org.uk (You do NOT need to have an account with Facebook to access any of this material.)



For help with any tech questions or to access help within our communities, please contact Kirsty, who should be able to point you in the right direction. Phone : 07871 513151 Email : kirsty.bowles@newcreationchurches.org.uk



Live Stream Church for Sunday: **"Pentecost: praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit afresh and anew" – LIVE from the Prayer Garden in Congresbury – 10.30am**

(Simply access the "New Creation Facebook Page" : www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurches or via the New Creation website: www.newcreationchurches.org.uk

(You do NOT need to have an account with Facebook to access any of this material.)

This week we are going to be **CELEBRATING** the Gift of the Holy Spirit to the early Church two thousand years ago, and **PRAYING** for a renewing and refreshment of the Holy Spirit in these days, as we look to life beyond Lockdown.

The weather looks to be fine – so we will hopefully be outside in the Prayer Garden, behind the Refectory in Congresbury.

For the Service – you will need:

A Cake (or equivalent) – something to celebrate and share on the 'birthday' of the Church

A Light Bulb – of some description

And a towel – a hand towel or a bath towel – preferable something that is soft to touch

Look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday.



And afterwards, join us for our NEW 'Virtual' Coffee catch up.

Afterwards, why not join us for the second of our 'virtual' Coffee and catch up? We shared the first of these last Sunday and it was lovely to see people, to hear their stories across our communities.

See the "New Creation Facebook Page" where details of how to join will be posted.

Matt