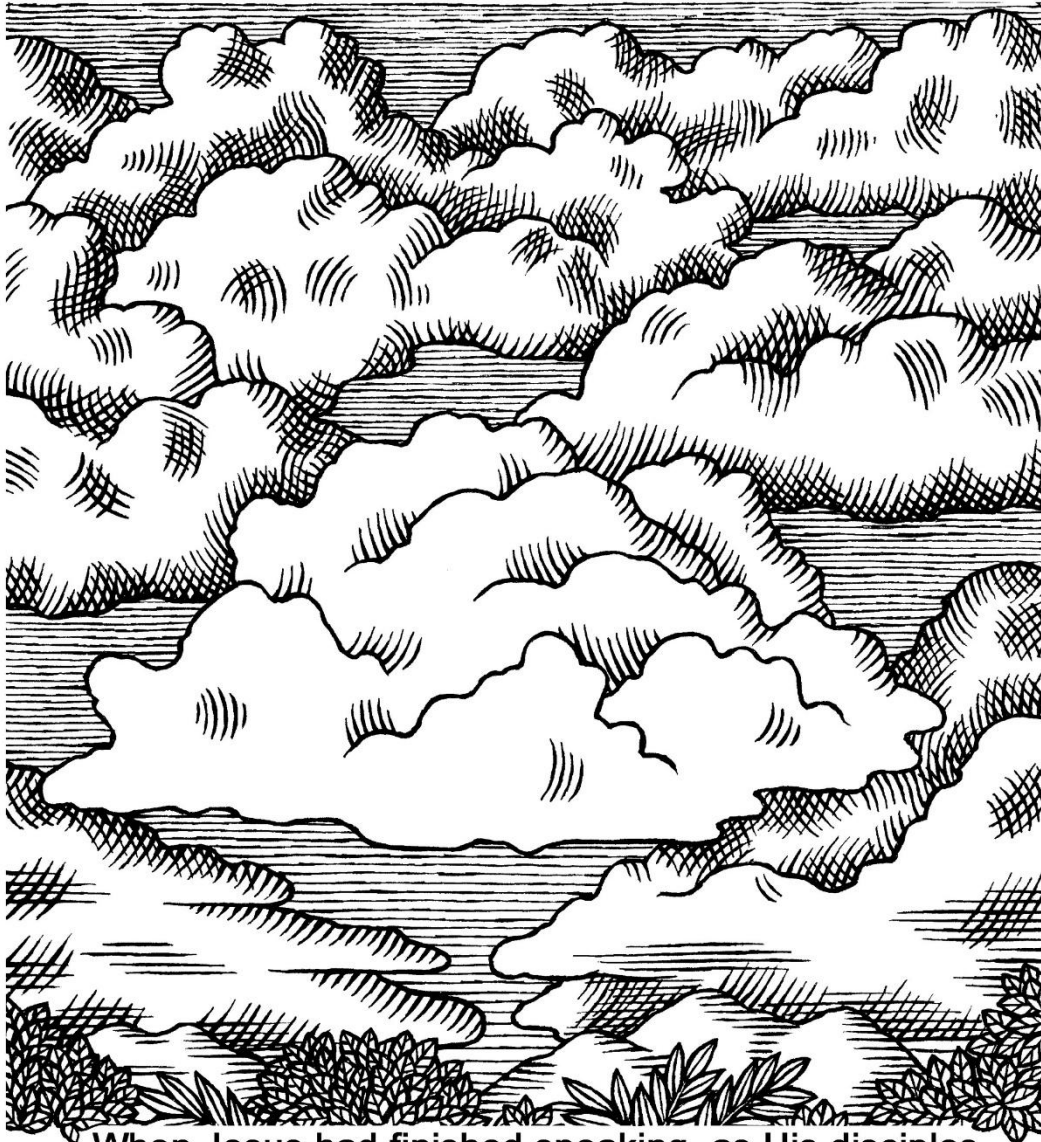


Parish Magazine

May 2026

30p



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens, Southport
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

Magazine contents:

Letter from Rev. Les Thomas	Page 3
Rotas	Page 5
Sudoku	Page 8
Wordsearch	Page 12
Children's section	Page 13

Church contacts:

Team Rector: Rev Rebecca Clarke, revrebecca@hotmail.co.uk, Tel: 233738
Reader: Mrs Karen Corbett, 40 New Lane, Crossens. Tel: 220192
Churchwardens: Mrs Chris Jowett, 25 Brook St, Crossens. Tel: 227507
Dr Andrew Macdonald, 7 The Causeway, Crossens
Treasurer: Mrs Louise James
PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald
Brownies: Mrs Natalie Flynn
Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden. Tel: 228189

Mumford Room bookings:
Mr Andrew Boden. Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion: 3rd May and 31st May
Morning Prayer: 10th May, 17th May and 24th May

Wednesday (10am, unless otherwise stated)

Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

For later dates, please check the website: www.stjohncrossens.co.uk

God is a Spirit - Worship in Spirit and in Truth

A Letter from the Revd Bill Watson.

Dear Friends across our Team Ministry,

This month (24th May) we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost. We pray that the same Spirit should rule and govern all human life. But the Spirit of God was always moving. In Genesis chapter 1 we read that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. God the Holy Spirit, Creator of the heavens and the earth..

Some years ago I remember writing a Magazine Letter which I entitled "The Pale Blue Dot". I quoted an article about the Voyager 1 spacecraft as it flew six billion kilometres from the earth. Carl Sagan, the astrophysicist and astronomer, asked that the Voyager's camera be rotated to photograph the direction from which it had come. What we now saw was a small pale blue dot suspended in a sunbeam. Carl Sagan's comments were poetic and inspirational. "This is where we live ", he said, "On a blue dot. That's here, that's home, that's us. On it everyone you love; everyone you know; everyone you've ever heard of; every human being who ever was, lived out their lives on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam. The earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena ".

In these days of space exploration, rocket trips around the moon and international space stations, many people wonder if there is life out there on other planets. It is entirely feasible that the God the Creator would have more than one project in this vast cosmic arena than our one pale blue dot.

I am reminded of a Sydney Carter song which has always fascinated me. I used to have it on a 7inch 45rpm vinyl sung by Donald Swann. You can still hear it and get the full lyrics on line if you wish, (just Google, "Every Star Shall Sing a Carol"). Here, I just quote two verses:-

"Who can tell what other cradle
High above the Milky Way,
Still may rock the King of Heaven
On another Christmas Day.

Who can tell what other body

He will hallow as His own.

I will praise the Son of Mary,
Brother of my blood and bone".

If this is the case, it is too be hoped that they have made a better job of their planet than the human race have made, so far, on planet Earth.

St. John 4 : 24 tells us that "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth". In the world today we are aware, more than ever, of a corresponding spirit of evil which gets into the hearts and minds of many human beings.

Terrorism, genocide, knife crime and murder are reported daily in the news, on a grand scale - (and sometimes even into the hearts of young children).

Even Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan, into believing that he could be supreme over all the nations of the world. Some of our world leaders today ought to be saying to themselves, "Get thee behind me Satan ". We must continue to pray that this may happen -- that they may see the error of their ways and turn their thoughts to God the Holy Spirit - the Spirit of love, joy and peace.

May God's Spirit of peace be with you all, in this Season of Pentecost and always.

Bill Watson.

.....

ROTAS

Sunday Coffee Rota

3 rd May	Brenda & Chris
10 th May	Louise J & Heather
17 th May	Kath & Jane
24 th May	Nicola & Andrew
31 st May	Brenda & Chris



Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

Wednesday Coffee Rota

6 th May	School In
13 th May	Brenda & June
20 th May	Jean & Chrissy
27 th May	Chris & Janet
3 rd June	Eileen & Trish

Readings Rota

3-May-2026	Maggie	5th of Easter	Acts 7.55-end
10-May-2026	Louise J	6th of Easter	Acts 17.22-31
17-May-2026	Joey	7th of Easter	Acts 1.6-14
24-May-2026	Chris L	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21
31-May-2026	Sylvia	Trinity Sunday	2 Corinthians 13.11-end
7-Jun-2026	Hayden	1st after Trinity	Romans 4.13-end
14-Jun-2026	Roisin	2nd after Trinity	Romans 5.1-8
21-Jun-2026	Joan	3rd after Trinity	Romans 6.1b-11
28-Jun-2026	Andrew	4th after Trinity	Romans 6.12-end

Intercessions

May 3 rd	5 th of Easter	Simon
May 10 th	6 th of Easter	Karen
May 17 th	7th of Easter	Andrew
May 24 th	Day of Pentecost	Joey
May 31 st	Trinity Sunday	Simon

*St John's Crossens
Summer Concert*



BANKS BRASS



BAND



Friday 10th July – 7.30pm

at

St John's Church, Crossens

Rufford Road

£6 entry fee

Pay on the door

On our YouTube Channel every Wednesday...

You are invited each week to take a...

Mid-Week Pause

A time for God in maybe a busy week
with hymns - a Bible Reflection - prayers

NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT

begins Wednesday 6th May

Shining Brass

Once a month, if you would ever have the need to go into our vestry, then you would have found Brenda and Mavis rubbing and cleaning our brass and silver furnishings. They have regularly kept this work going for several years and we thank them most sincerely for it!



They now feel that it is time to stop, and they would be grateful to hand over to someone else.

If you feel that you would like to continue this work, then they would be very grateful. Please contact Chris Jowett if you would like to help in keeping our church well cared for.

Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift



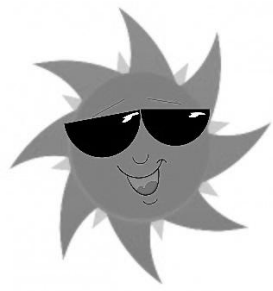
We used to call it Whitsun – ‘White Sunday’ because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we’ve even changed its name. It’s now ‘Pentecost’, which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

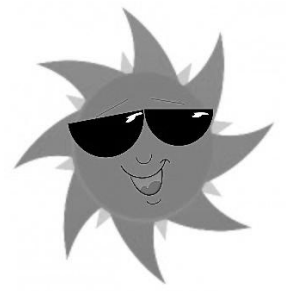
They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn’t helped by the earlier title ‘Holy Ghost’. The spirit is not spiritually a ‘ghost’ but a precious gift



Summer



Coffee Morning

St John's Church

10am-12.00

Saturday 27TH JUNE



Classic Raffle
Books, Cakes etc
+
Refreshments

Puzzles – Sudoku

EASY

8			6	5			4	
				7	4	3	2	
	3		8		9		1	5
	4			1		2		
2		7				1		9
		8		6			7	
4	7		2		1		6	
	8	6	4	3				
	9			8	6			1

MEDIUM

8				4				5
5		7			8		6	
	4			5			2	
					9	3		2
9				1				7
4		1	7					
	8			9			7	
	7		2			5		6
1				7				9

Sanctuary Flowers

3rd May In memory of Audrey Stanley

10th May _____

17th May _____

24th May In memory of The Reverend Chris Gregory

31st May In memory of Betty Empson.

Thank you to all donors to our Flower Fund. ECB.



"SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

Nexus

Churches Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday 12th May

At Cornerstone Methodist Church
7:30pm

Everyone is very welcome!

“A new commandment I give unto you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”

John 13:34-35

WORDSEARCH

A Prayer for the Middle East

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to de-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

Middle
East
Conflict
Pray
Damage

War
Cease
Earth
Break

Bows
Shatter
Spears
Burn
Shields

Fire
crisis
many
Lives
millions

Lord
Our
Rock
Fortress
Deliverer

Hope
Kyrie
in
You
mercy

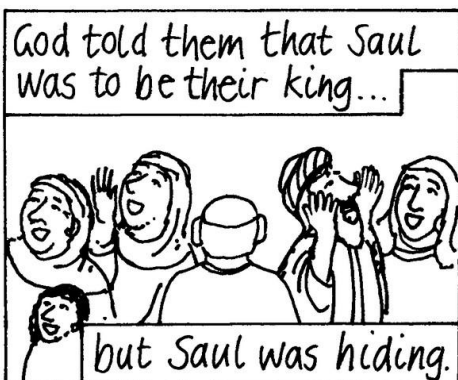
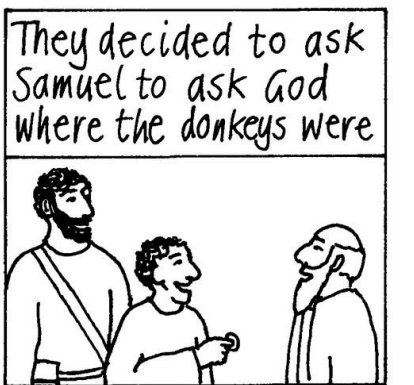
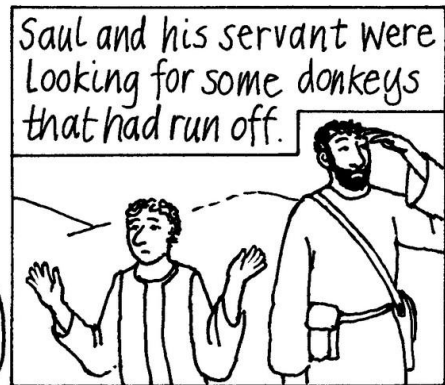
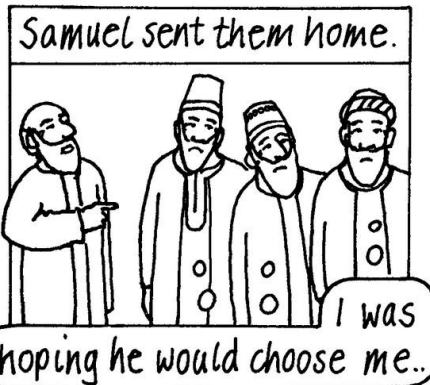
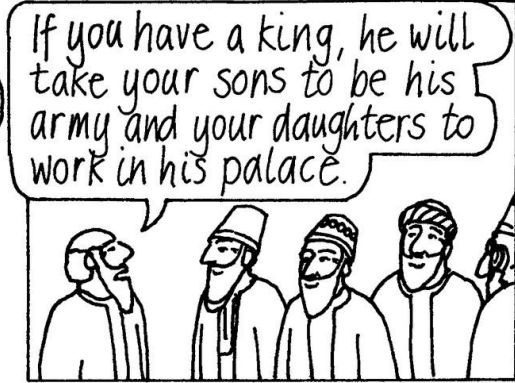
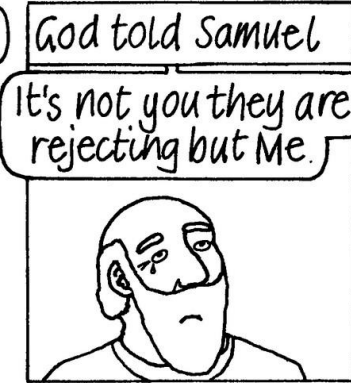


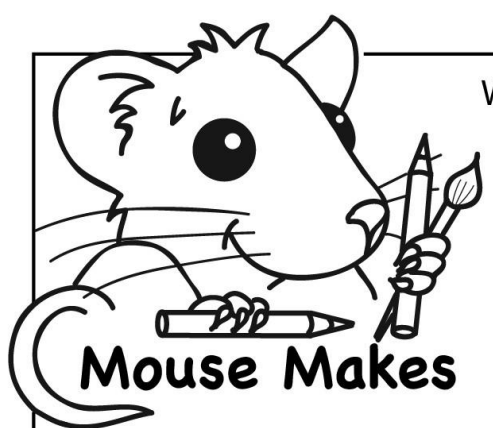
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel
but he was now old. The leaders of the
twelve tribes came to talk to him...





WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A _____

Romans 8:15

H _____

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___O___

___Y___

___C___

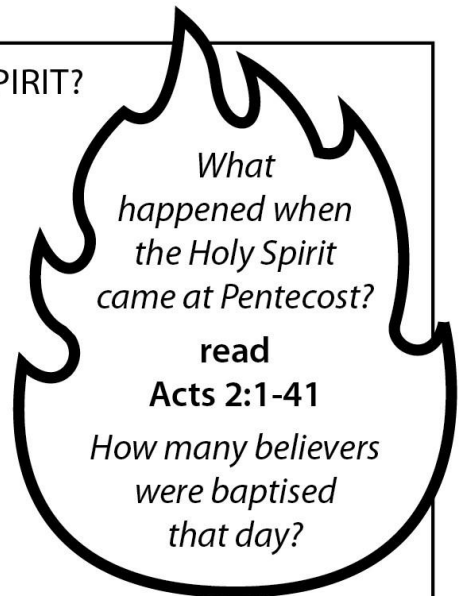
___T___

___I___

___N___

S___

___N___



What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

O G C O M F O R T E R L C
 K E O N P P E A C E G O D
 I N U F A K J D H J R R F
 N T N A T L O V E O A D H
 D L S I I O H O L Y C D L
 N E E T E A I C P L E E G
 E N L H N D E A E D E B L
 S E L F C O N T R O L J O
 S N O P E P T E A C H E R
 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K
 K P P R O M I S E R S R
 I D W I N D D O V E W

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Some colouring for all ages....



M. RUSHTON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*24 Hour Personal,
Professional Service*



Independent & Family Owned

Serving
the Bereaved
with Dignity and
Respect Since
1986



Michelle & Michael Rushton Dip.Fd

Monumental Masonry • Funeral Plans Arranged

100 Marshside Road, Southport PR9 9TG

Tel: 01704 214118

www.rushtonfuneraldirectors.co.uk