



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksop

May 2026

*A Seasonal Message from Sue Dawson,
one of our church leaders*

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Many of you will know we moved house nearly a year ago, and now we have been rewarded with seeing the plants in our garden come into bloom, plants keen to show themselves to the new owner, unaware of how we might decide to prune or weed them out, hopeful of bringing joy to all who see them.

This has reminded me of God's grace, ever present in our lives and our need to trust that He is the gardener pruning us, removing the weeds in our lives that stop us hearing His words and knowing His plan for us. His plan to help us to grow and produce good works in His name.

Step forward into this new season, leaving behind yesterday's failures or experiences in the knowledge that God makes all things new, we are His new creations.

He cares about the big and the small things in our lives, helping us to become the people He wants us to be.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are in uncertain times, trusting that Jesus holds our future in His hands, brings peace and comfort into our lives, allowing us to grow closer to Him on a daily basis as we seek to reap the harvest He promises us.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight".

PENTECOST SUNDAY ~ 24TH MAY

Pentecost, also called Whit Sunday, is a Christian holiday that takes place on the 49th day (50th day when inclusive counting is used) after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus, Mary, and other followers of Christ, while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-31). Pentecost marks the "Birthday of the Church".

See page 2 for article on the Holy Spirit.

BEACON Backtrack May 1981

45 years ago, St John's Church Magazine was called 'Family', and edited by Andy Rudman. The church at that time was in interregnum, following the sad death of Revd Albert Mack Brown in Sept 1980. Revd Ted Crofton (Curate) was at the helm, supported by Revd David Bailey (Curate) and others.

Contributions to Family Magazine were both home grown and resourced from other Christian sources. The article I have included below is by John Richards, and entitled 'Symbols of the Spirit'. Not sure who John Richards was, but may have been Bishop John Richards from St David's Cathedral?



SYMBOLS OF THE SPIRIT BY JOHN RICHARDS

THE DOVE

'Seeing your dove brooch, I knew you'd be a charismatic!'—these were the words of a nun to my wife when on holiday abroad.

The dove is used widely within the charismatic renewal, and is adopted by other 'renewal' movements who recognise that it is only the Holy Spirit who gives life.

The dove-symbol finds its focus in our Lord's baptism (Mk 1.10, etc), and although it is one of the easiest symbols to portray, its significance is less immediately clear than, say, wind or fire.

The dove speaks to us of purity, gentleness, and peace, but it is not for these reasons that it is the foremost symbol of the Spirit.

The New Testament is clear that the Spirit is no mere force or power. From such passages as John 14-16, Romans 8 and 1 Corinthians 12, we learn that the Spirit leads, teaches, intercedes, convicts, helps, witnesses and speaks.

In addition it is blasphemy to speak against the Spirit (Mt 12.32) and we are warned (Eph 4.11) not to grieve him. The Spirit is therefore a *Person*, who relates to us personally. Of all the symbols, the dove comes nearest to telling us this.

The dove speaks not only of a relationship which is *personal*, but also one that is *creative*.

In Genesis we read of the Spirit 'hovering' (NIV) over the waters. The Latin Bible has '*incubat*'—a theme which may be related to 'gifts' and 'fruits'.

The illustration is of the dove which forms the focal point of St Peter's, Rome. Unlike most representations today, the artist has, I believe, tried to show that the Spirit wishes to hover creatively over God's people, and is there not just a hint that if he is not welcomed he will go elsewhere?



The early use of the word 'charismatic' probably refers to the Charismatic movement that impacted many churches in the 1960s and 70s. Further explained as a renewal movement within the mainstream Christian church, that emphasises the active presence of the Holy Spirit and the practice of spiritual gifts.

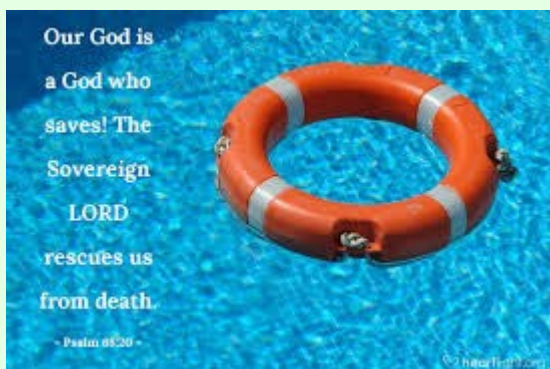
Hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane. Happy Pentecost Sunday 2026! Chris L

GOD AS RESCUER

I have been challenged these past six months or so to think about how God rescued me from a life that could well have been heading down a troubled path before I came to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour over 40 years ago.

I didn't realise at the time that He was already reaching out to me, offering a lifeline, most likely through the prayers of a Christian work colleague and friend, who invited me to go with her to the Billy Graham evangelistic event known as Mission Sheffield in June 1985. I've often thought that I don't really have much of a story to tell in comparison to the testimonies I have heard from many other people over the years. However as I have been thinking back, I realise now that without God's rescue all those years ago, life would have been very different and not in a good way.

He challenged me about a relationship situation during that Mission Sheffield gathering, and gave me the courage, as I committed my life to Him, to repent, make some necessary changes and turn my life around in a different direction. I was then referred to St John's church and given opportunities to grow in faith and trust in Jesus.



In October 1999 I believe His divine intervention rescued me when I was involved in a car accident. As I reflected on this afterwards, I again realise that the outcome could have been so much worse. It happened on a busy main road, but His guardian angels were there. Within a couple minutes of the accident, an ambulance and police car were on the scene; they had been travelling along the road not far behind me. The other car involved coming in the opposite direction, could have been the articulated lorry passing a few seconds earlier. Although my car was a write off, no-one was too seriously injured but my mum who was in the car with me spent a night in the hospital.

I don't believe God intervened here because I am a special person amongst other Christians, but because like others who are God's chosen children, He has a plan for us. Jesus leads God's 'search and rescue' mission, and has rescued us from darkness into His marvellous light (1 Pet.2:9). This is, at heart, a spiritual rescue that impacts our whole life, but there are times when God can invoke other types of rescue too as the Psalmist David witnesses on many occasions eg Psalm 18 vv 16-17.

As we were celebrating Easter a few weeks ago, I have been increasingly grateful for the saving grace of Jesus who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age (Gal: 1 v 4).

Anne Skellitto

An opportunity to support Ian Walsham's charity Hike

There are less than three weeks to go to my 13 mile charity hike in the North Yorkshire Dales starting in Malham on the 16th of May at 0930 in aid of Alzheimers.

Up to now I've done a 13.5 mile walk around Clumber an 8.5 mile from Langold through Welbeck, Firbeck and back to Langold. I have also done an 8.5 mile hike over Mam Tor as well as four 6.2 mile walks in two hours. I'm doing 1000 metre swims (40 lengths) every other week at the leisure centre as well as a few extra yoga sessions on this challenge.

I am really enjoying the new the challenges I've set myself.

Raffle tickets for a prize of £140 worth of hair and skin care products, are still available. The raffle will be drawn after the hike all proceeds will go to Alzheimer's charity.

I am very grateful for the support, advice and kind words from you all.



Ian



[If you've missed out on raffle tickets I guess donations will be very welcome]



Tuesday @ 10, May 26th

Coffee Morning

**Our visiting speaker this month is
Steve Jarvis
who will share his knowledge of
Worksop Town Football Club
from 1930 to the present day.
All Welcome**





About St J's



St John's is a Bible-based, evangelical Anglican Church, open to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to show the love of Christ to all.

Our main Sunday worship is at 10.30a.m. There is 'Kids' Church' for children aged 3 years and over. Also a creche for under 3s. '**Sunday @ 6**' is an informal evening meeting in the church lounge.

We welcome all who come into our buildings for any reason.

Prayer underpins everything as we support each other in a loving community and reach out to others.



Sunday Services

10.30 am Morning Worship
+ Kids, Church
6.00 pm Sunday @ 6.00
Informal service in the
Church Hall Lounge

Contact Point

Church Office:

Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG
[usually open Friday a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]
Tel: 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Gareth Banton 07897 005843
garethrbanton@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

Regular Weekly Diary

Tuesday 10.00—12 noon
Coffee Morning

Wednesday 1.00 pm Mothers' Union
(1st Wed'day of the month)
7.00 pm
Lifeline Praise and Prayer

OR Home Groups

Friday 7.00—8.30 (alternate weeks)
Games Night for all ages

Saturday 10.00—12 noon
Church open to all

*For more details of the above ask one
of our leaders*



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