

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place'

Today we come to Pentecost, also known as Whit Sunday. Although things are improving and services have been back in the church since Easter, we may still feel sad that we still cannot all be in church together – *all in the one place*.

We are still slightly unsure about the future and some may find it difficult to do some of the things we may now be allowed to do. We of course need to be patient that some people struggle more than others to go back to some form of normality. We may feel weak and vulnerable at times, but there is no shame in weakness. Rather than



leaning too much on our own faltering and hesitant understanding, we have God, who is, according to the psalmist, 'our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble'.

I feel that Pentecost helps to remind us that the church is far larger than just our regular congregation. Not only does it also include those who are unable to come to services due to illness or being housebound, but our Lent groups this year reminded us that the church is worldwide. We were fascinated to hear how different groups of Christians across the world were caring for creation in imaginative and bold ways. We have a great deal to learn from each other, looking beyond our parish (or our Diocese and its current issues) to give us great hope.

I often remember those people who have gone before us, the great cloud of witnesses, especially the many thousands of people who have worshipped in our church over the decades; those completely unknown to us, those in the old photographs we have, and those who were our friends and church family who we still miss. I like to think they are still worshipping with us and are singing on our behalf until we can all sing together again.

Wherever we are on Sunday, whether celebrating communion in the church building, or at home, we come together 'in the one place' along with Christians around the world to celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the spirit of truth.

Liz Coe