

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn –
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he becomes the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.

Bianco Da Siena (d.1434) Tr. R. F. Littledale (1833-90)

A message from the Archdeacon

Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure your congregation, and members of the local community, are cared for and looked after. May I thank everyone who has stepped up to the challenge of what it means to 'be church' in this 'new world' in which we find ourselves; livestreaming services, using social media, grasping 'zoom' meetings, and so much more. As I've sampled various online services and resources from different churches across the Archdeaconry I've been amazed and thankful for the creativity and willingness of people to use these technical resources to demonstrate something of the light of Christ to their community.

Please do take care and stay safe. God bless

Venerable Dave Middlebrook – Archdeacon of Bedford

Community Help Initiative:

If you need help during this difficult time contact:

for Wilden	Martin & Susie Cooper wildennews@hotmail.com
for Colmworth	Jeremy & Gillian Freedman j.freedman@sky.com
for Ravensden	<ravensdenhelpline@gmail.com> or phone 772230
for Keysoe	Laura Barry PellrLaura@outlook.com
for Bolnhurst	Jane Browning janebrowning50@gmail.com

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Wilden with Colmworth & Ravensden St Mary Keysoe with St Dunstan Bolnhurst

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NEWSLETTER

May 2020

The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us.

The whole of May this year falls in the Easter Season, and ends on Sunday 31st with the great festival of Pentecost or Whitsun. At Pentecost we remember the gift of God's Holy Spirit whom He gave at this ancient Jewish Festival which literally means '50th day' after the Great Jewish Festival of Passover. This 'Paschal Feast' is also when Christians celebrate Easter when Jesus was raised from the Dead. So, many of God's people were gathered in Jerusalem at that Pentecost Festival and were all gathered in one place when God gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit for all people who will receive Him.

No wonder that great acclamation has come down the ages 'The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us' as God is not just up in heaven but present with us, among us, around us and even within by His Holy Spirit.

God our Father created and loved the World. God the Son – our Lord Jesus Christ - came to save the world from sin and death and Ascended back into Heaven 40 days later as we mark this year on Thursday 21st May. God the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost to be with us for ever so we can have a relationship with God our loving heavenly Father, because Jesus has dealt with the old order of sin and death. Because God is with us by His Spirit, we can commune in prayer with God, know Him, love Him and experience His presence with us often in unexpected and unpredictable ways and times.

This year I don't expect us to be gathering together in our church buildings yet by 31st May. This is particularly sad for us at Wilden, Colmworth, Ravensden, Keysoe and Bolnhurst because being a 5th Sunday we were looking forward to a joint service for the first time ever as our new family of 5 churches at Bolnhurst. But we shall still celebrate together that day. Archdeacon Dave was due to be with us as our preacher, and somehow over the internet and by phone we shall gather with a message from Dave for us all.

This isolation and lockdown is teaching us more about our relationship with each other, and also with God our loving Heavenly Father. Our families and friends are physically separated from us. But we still communicate with them. We still love them and know them. We do not see God as He is in Heaven. As is His Son Jesus Christ. But, 'The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us!' We don't see or even physically touch God's Holy Spirit. But we know God loves and cares for us. One day this virus will be past. One day we shall be able to meet up together again. One day by faith in Jesus we shall be with God in Heaven. Until that time, we rejoice in our relationships with our families and friends. And with God our Father in Heaven. But still, 'The Lord is here! His Spirit is with us!'

Timothy Wilson