

# Epiphany News

The magazine of Holy Epiphany Church

April/May 2018



Read about the work of  
Christian Aid  
and  
Agape Outreach Ministry  
as they bring help and  
the Good News of Jesus  
to the poorest people of  
our world.

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more information on our website [www.epiphanychurch.co.uk](http://www.epiphanychurch.co.uk)

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There is a loop system available in church. Please adjust your hearing aid to the relevant setting.



## Letter from David Thompson

Dear friends,  
Easter is the most important Christian festival. It acknowledges both the sacrifice of Jesus made upon the cross and the joy that his resurrection from death, seen three days later, brings to us all.

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead provides reassurance in the promises he made that there is a place in heaven for all of us. It is the central message of grace, love and hope that is offered to us by the gospel; it is the reason that Jesus was born, the reason why he died and the central point of the Christian faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again.

Pentecost happens 50 days after Easter and celebrates the arrival of the Holy Spirit, the counsellor and guide promised by Jesus to his disciples. In many ways this festival also marks the beginning of the church. The disciples met in an upper room and the Bible describes flames of fire dancing above their heads. The significance however is not found in this supernatural phenomenon but in the fact that those same disciples were personally and totally transformed by the Holy Spirit. Remember that they were in the most part humble fisherfolk and yet they organised the early church, preached and spread the gospel and in some instances also died for their faith in Jesus.

What then of us today? May we expect the immediate return of Christ, or flames dancing above our heads? Perhaps not; but we may be transformed by the Holy Spirit, we may find new fulfilment in life and a new peace through faith.

If we expect faith to make a difference to our lives then it will do; if we are open to change then it will happen. As spring moves towards summer and new life returns to our natural world we celebrate God's presence in his creation and, through his Holy Spirit, God's presence within each one of us made in his own image.



Over the next few weeks on Sunday mornings in Church we will hear stories from Acts of the Apostles. These describe what happened to the apostles and disciples through the intervention of the Holy Spirit. We will also try to answer the question 'Why did Jesus die?'

I do hope that you can join us as we attempt to learn and explore faith together.

God Bless

## From the Editors

Welcome to another edition of Epiphany News. By the time you read this, we will be looking forward to the next big event in the Christian calendar – Pentecost – the birthday of the church. As we remember the events of the first Pentecost, why not give thanks for the person who first told you about Jesus and His death on the cross for you.

Mary Hogg and Julie Renton

This magazine is freely available; however, a donation of at least £1.20 a copy would help to offset the costs of printing. Contributions are welcome for consideration for our next edition - by 15 May please.

***Disclaimer: Views expressed in Epiphany News are those of contributors, not the editors or the ministry team. Editors reserve the right to edit or shorten articles or hold them for a later edition.***



## FaithTime by Jan Farrow

### After 40 days of Lent, the church now begins 50 days of celebration between Easter and Pentecost. But what are we celebrating?

We are celebrating the resurrection of Christ from the dead. That's a lengthy celebration, although I have a feeling it doesn't only mean a time of feasting for the next seven weeks! That's just as well as I have to confess the 40 days Lenten fast didn't exactly work for me.

So what do we mean by feasting? Does it mean I can now gorge myself on Easter Eggs? Probably not. The resurrection of Jesus is not just something to be believed, it is a reality to be lived each day.

St Paul writes: -

***'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on the earth.'* (Colossians 3:1,2)**

Here lies the challenge of both feasting and fasting. We possibly need to refocus our perspective. Is Christ alive in our lives?

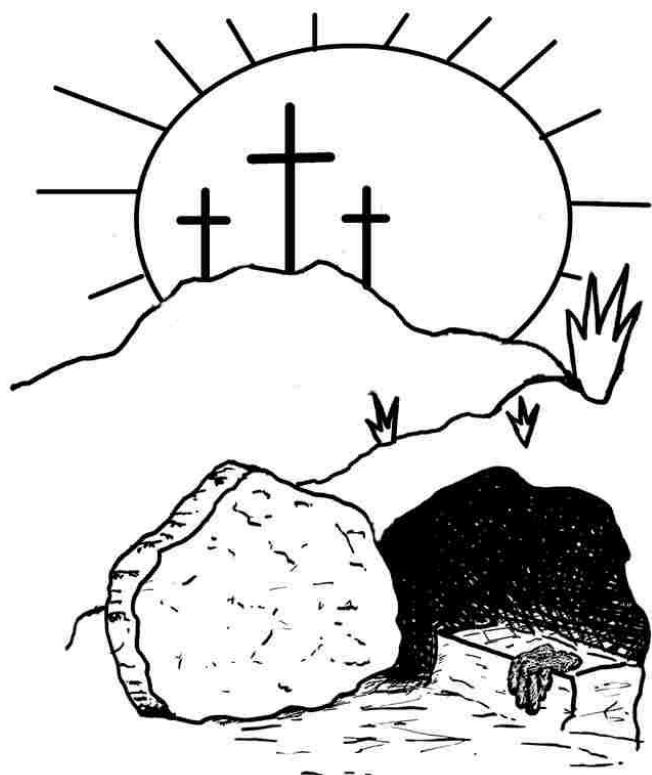
Here's a very old analogy - but the old ones are still sometimes the best. What would you do if Jesus knocked on your door tomorrow and asked to come in and spend some time with you?

Would you worry about how clean and tidy everything is? Would you worry about what you were wearing? Would you worry about getting something to eat for him? What on earth would you talk about – probably not the weather! Will he think I should be doing more for him; will there be silences; can he see into my soul and will he accept me with all my faults and failings?

That short analogy makes me realise how important it is not to be so wrapped up in the things of this world. It reminds me how important it is to continue to grow in my faith and to feast on Him.

Jesus walked with two very sad disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. They thought he was dead and didn't recognise him for quite a while, but he continued to walk with them, explaining the scriptures. We often, I think, don't recognise the presence of the Lord in our life but that doesn't mean he is not there. Jesus will walk with us on our Emmaus Road if we invite him to. The risen Christ will show us how our lives can be healed and transformed by God's grace; he will transform our life if we want him to. This is feasting; feasting on the risen, ascended, glorified Christ, God himself.

P.S. If you are lucky enough to have an Easter egg or even two, enjoy that feast as well. Happy Eastertide feasting



Jesus said to them, "***I am the bread of life – whoever comes to me shall not hunger"***

John 6:35

## Women's Evening by Jan Biggin

I must admit that when I heard Sheila Eaton was to be the guest speaker at the Women's Evening last month, my main motivation for going was to catch up with an old friend and former colleague but I'm so glad that I did. I was aware that she was involved in some form of missionary work but had no idea what that actually was or what she was doing.



Sheila's talk was called 'How Did I Get Here?' and she began by describing her lifestyle as a teenage biker, riding her motorbike at speeds of up to 100mph and having no interest in God.

It was surprising then that a recurring theme of her talk became 'God's not remote' – he's with us, knows what we need and is in control.

Sheila's first encounter with Christianity came when she went along to a church in her then home town just because others in her group of friends wanted to go. She recalled the minister telling her that it was good to see her and that he looked forward to seeing her again. 'Not likely,' responded Sheila, 'I'm about to move to Bournemouth.' 'Oh,' came the response, 'Our pastor has just moved to a church in Bournemouth. These are his details.'

Once settled in Bournemouth, a friend came to visit Sheila. This friend was very troubled and said that she wanted to go to a church. In the first of many 'coincidences' that Sheila described during the evening, they went to the very church

where the pastor, from the church she had been to in her hometown months before, was now working. Over the coming weeks Sheila kept going back, week on week, and eventually came to realise that God is real and that Jesus died for her. She gave her life to Christ and her life was turned around.

Fast forward a number of years. During this time Sheila met her husband, married, had a family and worked as a Teaching Assistant at Epiphany School.

During a family holiday in Swaziland, Sheila and her husband Dennis, met a couple from Malawi who were keen to start missionary work among



the very poorest people in Malawi. As a result of this meeting the lives of Sheila and Dennis changed and they now spend up to six months a year working in Malawi, ministering to both the spiritual and practical needs of the people in remote communities.

Reiterating her theme that God is not remote, Sheila referred to many examples of times when it has been very obvious that God is in control of their lives and work.

There was a real 'WOW factor' in Sheila's story which served to remind me that we have an amazing God, who longs to be involved in even the smallest of details in our lives.

***At the end of the evening, we were able to give a donation of £115.75 to Sheila for their work in Malawi with Agape Outreach Ministry***

*(more information available by e-mail from [AgapeOM@aol.com](mailto:AgapeOM@aol.com))*

## Parish Registers from February and March

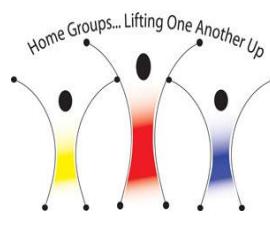
### Funeral

**28 February** Barbara Daphne Diment

We extend our deepest sympathy to Barbara's family and friends and remember her with great affection.



# What's happening at Epiphany in April and May?

<p><b>Church Services</b></p> 	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>6 May</b>      9.00am      Breakfast @ 9 – Especially for families with young children      10.00am      Coffee followed by a short, informal Family Service</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>8 April and 13 May</b>      10.00am      Holy Communion with Junior Church and Crèche</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>15 April and 20 May (Pentecost)</b>      9.00am      Holy Communion (said)      10.00am      All age service</p> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>22 April and 27 May</b>      10.00am      Holy Communion with Junior Church and Crèche</p> <p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>      <b>29 April</b>      10.00am      All age service</p> <p><b>Wednesday Holy Communion 12.15pm on 11 April and 16 May</b></p>
	<p><b>Home Groups</b> – friendly groups, who meet fortnightly to share fellowship, study God’s word and pray. New members welcome, please talk to Lynley Wilkes.</p> <p><u><b>Monday Evening Group meets at 7.30pm</b></u></p> <p><b>16 April, 30 April, 14 May</b></p> <p><u><b>Wednesday Morning Group meets at 10.00am</b></u></p> <p><b>18 April, 2 May, 16 May</b></p> <p><u><b>Wednesday Evening Group</b></u></p> <p><b>25 April, 9 May, 23 May</b></p>
<p><b>PRAYER</b> <small>changes things</small></p>	<p><b>Prayer Meetings</b> in the Jubilee Room – all are welcome</p> <p>Saturday evenings 6 – 7pm – Coffee and Prayer – <b>5 May</b></p> <p>Tuesday afternoons 2 – 3pm – <b>10 and 24 April; 29 May</b></p>
	<p><b>Epiphany Bright Stars</b> – Parent/carer and Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings in term-time at 9.30am in the church and Jubilee Room. <b>Closed on 3 and 10 April for Easter holidays, restarts on 17 April. Half term closure on 29 May.</b></p> <p>More information from Jodie Burge on 01202 776270</p>
	<p><b>Messy Church</b> – family fun for parents and children followed by a shared meal. Lots of craft activities, biscuit or cake decorating, Bible stories and buffet tea.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, <b>15 April and 20 May</b>, 3.00 – 5.00pm.</p> <p>More information from Lynley Wilkes on 01202 246421</p>
	<p><b>Men's Breakfast</b> – full English breakfast and a talk from an invited Christian speaker about their work and faith. 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 8.00 – 10.00am.</p> <p>On <b>28 April</b> we meet at St Paul's, Throop when the speaker will be from London City Mission. No meeting in May because of the Bank Holiday. All men welcome. Contact Andy on <b>07484 203076</b> or andy.renton56@gmail.com.</p>
	<p><b>Muscliff Care Home</b>:– Mondays at 2.45pm, monthly</p> <p><b>9 April (post-Easter theme)      14 May</b></p>
	<p><b>Epiphany Pre school</b> meets Monday - Friday in the church hall during <b>term-time</b> from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Restarts after Easter on 16 April. Closed on 7 May and for half term 28 May – 1 June. Phone 01202 612337 for more information</p>

	<p><b>Tea Cosy</b> – tea and coffee and time for a chat. Mondays in term-time from 9.30am – 12.00 in the Jubilee Room. <b>Restarts after Easter on 16 April. No meeting on 7 and 28 May.</b></p>		<p><b>Choir practice</b> - Fridays from 7.00 – 8.00pm. Please contact Susan Bright, for up to date information. See the 'Who's Who' page for contact details.</p>
	<p><b>Lunch Club</b> – social time with coffee at 10.30am followed by games. Lunch served at 1.00pm prepared by 'Crumbs'. A 2 course meal costs £4 and (pre-booked) menu choices are available. Weekly in the Jubilee Room. Please contact the church office on 01202 612337 to book.</p>		
	<p><b>Pie and a Pint</b> – an opportunity for men to chat and 'put the world to rights'. 7.00pm Wetherspoon's in Winton. <b>Next meetings are on 25 April and 30 May.</b> Contact Alan Hogg on 07963 706907. All men welcome.</p>		
	<p><b>Beavers</b> Paul Sutton 07736 283973</p> <p><b>Cubs</b> Jan Kingsland 01202 517627</p> <p><b>Scouts</b> Simon Blake 07500 901 561</p>		<p><b>Brownies</b> Sam Pattemore 07930 581851</p> <p><b>Guides and Rainbows</b> Sandra Coomber 07712 129445</p>



**Do you have children aged 8-10½?**  
**Are they looking to do something different with loads of fun and with new friends thrown in?**

**1st Bournemouth Cub Scouts are looking for boys or girls to join our pack!**

Our weekly meetings are on **Thursdays, 5:45- 7:30pm at Holy Epiphany Church Hall**  
 We have a variety of indoor and outdoor activities as well as all the usual camping, badges and regular opportunities to do even more!  
**Contact Jan Kingsland for more details on 01202 517627 or pop along on a Thursday evening to give it a go - it costs just £10 per month for our weekly meetings.**

**Your children and their friends are very welcome - they don't have to start on their own!**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 22 April after the 10.00 Service**

***Stay after the service to hear news of all the exciting things that are happening at Holy Epiphany in the coming year.***

***All welcome, but if you wish to be able to vote you will need to be on the Electoral Roll.***

***New members of the PCC are also needed.***

***Please see one of the wardens for more information.***

The theme for this year's Christian Aid week is 'Together we're stronger than the storms'



**Marcelin Abellard and his daughters**

(Photo credit: Christian Aid)

In Haiti, Marcelin (see photo) raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore.

Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's kingdom is stronger than the storms.

## This Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May, Holy Epiphany Church is:

Supporting the **Sponsored Walk** along the seafront from Boscombe to Sandbanks

**12 May**

Sponsor forms available from Pauline Wheeler

### Having a **Musical Evening**

'The Way We Were' - sights and sounds of the 50's.

**16 May 7.30pm**

Tickets £5 - contact the church office on 01202 612337

**Will you join us?** If our church can raise £210, we could pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti. He could then build secure homes for people like Marcelin, giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster and a fighting chance to live a better life.

## Pray around the Year – A prayer for displaced people

As we mark Christian Aid week, you might like to use the prayer below.

You can pray by yourself or you might like to join us at one of the times when we pray together.  
(for dates and times, please see the centre pages of the magazine)

Don't worry, you don't have to pray out loud if you don't want to.

Lord of the journey,  
we ask for your protection for all who have fled their homes.  
Grant them strength on their journeys,  
that they may find places of compassion at which to rest.  
Ease their fear as they throw in their lot with strangers.  
God of all the world, keep alive their vision of returning  
to a secure and welcoming home.  
Amen.



**christian  
aid  
week**  
**13–19 MAY**

**Wednesday  
16th May at 7:30 pm**

# **THE WAY WE WERE**

**Sights, sounds and music of 50's**

**A show of slides, video,  
sounds and music with a  
chance for audience  
participation as we step back  
in time to remember perhaps  
our past.**

**Tickets £5 to include refreshments**

All monies raised will go to Christian Aid

**dementia friendly event**



## **Have you spotted our new sign?**



Thanks to an anonymous benefactor, we now have a bright new sign to announce our presence to passersby and to welcome people to our church.

As well as being extremely grateful for the donation which enabled us to purchase the new sign, our thanks go to David Thompson, Ray Old and Alan Hogg for their hard work in digging out old concrete, removing the old notice board and putting up the new posts and sign.

## **Barbara Daphne Diment - 1 February 1935 – 4 February 2018**

Everyone who knew Barbara will remember her smile and gentle helpfulness.

Barbara's contributions to Holy Epiphany were many. We especially remember that, beginning in 2003, she made beautiful occasion cards, some to special order, for sale – a real aid to church funds. (*Our thanks to Ann Witts for continuing this work.*) We will think of Barbara often, with great thankfulness and pleasure. RIP.

*Pat Matthews*





## Unsung heroes of the Bible – Hagar

How does her story relate to us today?

by Lynley Wilkes

**When we read the Bible, there may be some people's names that we remember well, but with others we think, 'I have heard that name, but I just can't remember where they come into the Bible'.**

**So, before you read on, does the name Hagar mean anything to you? Does her son's name, Ishmael, help? You'll find them in Genesis 12 – 21 in the first book of the Bible.**

If you know the story of Hagar you may, like me, feel much compassion for her - an Egyptian slave, who was mistreated by her owners. Those owners were Abram (later called Abraham) and Sarai (Sarah), whose names I'm sure you will know.

Hagar had no control over her life. When God called Abram to take his household and 'go where I will show you' (Genesis 12), Hagar was part of his household as servant to Sarai so she had to go too.

Despite God's promise to Abram and Sarai that they would have a child, Sarai in her impatience, takes matters into her own hands. As a slave Hagar had no rights of her own and had to submit to Sarai's demands, so when Sarai tells her husband to sleep with Hagar, Hagar has to agree.

Afterwards Sarai becomes jealous of Hagar and ill-treats her. Hagar runs away to the desert. God appears to her, telling her he has seen her misery. He tells her to return and submit to Sarai, that she will have a child, Ishmael, and her descendants will be too numerous to count. Hagar responds by saying "You are the God who sees me, I have now seen the One who sees me".

Fast forward 14 years to the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. Sarah sees Ishmael teasing Isaac and tells Abraham to send him and Hagar away. Abraham is distressed, but God reassures him and they are sent into the desert with food and water. When the food and water run out Hagar puts her son under a shady bush, sits a little way away and begins to sob. God hears the cries of Ishmael, tells Hagar not to be afraid and says, 'I will make him into a great nation', then God provides a well so they have water to drink.

### You may ask why Hagar is an unsung hero?

Her story shows how God provides for people who initially have no relationship with him and how they respond to him. As an Egyptian she would have known about all sorts of gods, however in serving Abram's family, Hagar would also have heard about the one true God, who she goes on to recognise as the one who sees and saves. Hagar responded to God by going back to a very difficult situation, maybe expecting more mistreatment.

God sees our suffering and sorrow and responds. He has compassion on all, not just on his chosen people, Abram and Sarai, the ancestors of the Israelite nation. God meets us where we are and we need to trust him. God gave Hagar a way out to freedom even though initially it looked like death loomed. Hagar's reaction, '*you are the God who sees*' may seem ordinary to us; all the Bible tells us this, especially as we know Jesus, but it was the last thing she expected. God rescued her and gave her hope and direction; she trusted him. It's so hard when life does not conform to our expectations! It takes time for us to learn to trust God's provision.

**The twist the story of Hagar:** Hagar found an Egyptian wife for Ishmael and he had 12 sons, just as Isaac's son Jacob did. God used the descendants of Ishmael to save the Jewish nation. Isaac's grandsons sold their brother Joseph into slavery to **Ishmaelite** traders. They took him to Egypt and he became second in command of the entire country and saved his father and brothers during a great famine. Ishmael became the father of the Arab nation. Doesn't God work in mysterious ways?

## Faith Stories – Thelma Cummins (*interviewed by Jan Farrow*)

Thank you, Thelma, for agreeing to talk to me. As you know this column is about ordinary people and their faith story over the years.

My instinct at first was not to talk to you, but I do love reading all about other people in the magazine, and it's good that you have people to talk to, Jan.

I noticed as I came in some beautiful tapestry, I guess they are all your own work. There are also lots of lovely family photos.

Yes, they are all my work, some years ago now and here is all the family.....

I know family has always been and still is very important to you, Thelma, but I also know it's your grandmother who is so important in this story.

Yes, I spent a lot of time with my maternal Granny, she taught me so many things. She took me to St Saviour's church; my grandfather was verger and Granny 'did' the altar linen, amongst other things. I loved her gentle faithfulness; she peacefully and quietly introduced me to God just by who she was. Granny took me to both the morning and evening services where I remember the choir and singing lots of hymns and canticles. Granny's sons (my uncles) carried the cross and were in the choir. One thing I will always remember is that during one morning service, a baby,



Phyllis Benjamin, was left outside in the porch. We couldn't do that now!!

So you can see this was a very traditional church upbringing. I love the King James Bible and the 1928 prayer book and, of course, the traditional Lord's Prayer.

All my life Sunday has been special; I try to do only essential work.

**Do you ever have any doubts about God and your faith?**

Yes I do, particularly at times of bereavement or severe illness, but I always come back to God. We all have our ups and downs. I am a great believer in giving thanks to God for all things.

My favourite Bible passage is **Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup> *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

<sup>2</sup> *My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore*

The other Bible verse that has given me encouragement over the years is **Deuteronomy 33:27**

*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:*

**You must find all the changes in church life difficult, Thelma.**

I like the cosy familiarity of the traditional forms of service that I grew up with, but by the same token I do look forward. There are many aspects of the changing words and modern hymns that I thoroughly enjoy.

**Thelma, I would like to thank you for talking to me and pray that God's peace and blessing will be upon you and your family. I also pray that we will all know the truth of the verse in Hebrews 13:8:**

**Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever.**

## Family Page



I wonder if you enjoyed eating lots of chocolate eggs this Easter? Did you know that WE have eggs at Easter because they tell us about new life? And Easter means new life for Christians, because we believe and trust Jesus. How does that happen?

Jesus' special friends felt very sad all those years ago when Jesus died on the cross. They didn't know that God would bring Jesus back to life again just a few days later. That isn't surprising is it, because people who have died don't normally come back to life. But Jesus was very special because he was God's son. Why did God send him?

In Messy Church and Family Service recently we've heard how much God loves us and how long ago he told his people how they should live – "Love God and love each other". But neither the people then, nor people now, manage to do that all the time. Jesus is the person who could, because he is both God and human. So why did something as bad as being killed on a cross happen to him?

When Jesus died he took the punishment that people everywhere and for all time really deserve, for not loving God and not loving each other. When we trust Jesus and tell God that we are sorry for the wrong things we've done, Jesus gives us new life, so we too can be his friends and have his help to live as God wants us to.

After Jesus died, came back to life and went back to heaven to live with God, he sent a special helper so his friends could tell others all about what he had done for them. We call the special helper the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can be everywhere at once and with each of us at the same time. He helps us to remember Jesus, to live the way God wants us to live and he helps us to talk to God.

In church we celebrate the first time God sent the Holy Spirit with a festival we call Pentecost. We sometimes call this the birthday of the church and this year it's on Sunday 20 May.

H	L	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B
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B	N	E	G	G	S	E	M	I	S
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	T

All the words below are hidden in the Wordsearch. Can you find them?

BELIEVE	HELPER
BIRTHDAY	HOLY SPIRIT
CELEBRATE	JESUS
CROSS	LIFE
EASTER	LOVE
EGGS	PENTECOST
GOD	TRUST



Why not join us on 15 April and 20 May from 3-5pm when we will be looking at the first books in the New Testament which tell us the story of Jesus