

## ALL SAINTS'



## ALIVE

All Saints' Welcomes Everyone

VICAR'S VIEWPOINT  
**"Transformed."**

Dear friends,

We often try to domesticate the spiritual world. Think of how absorbed we can become, at Christmas, with the innumerable variations on the manger scene and sideline the unimaginable reality and great mystery that the infant is the same God who created the universe and continually holds it in being. How much easier it is to create nice, cosy, safe images of a world that is not only terrifyingly incomprehensible but also very real.

At this time of Pentecost and Trinity, the image of the Holy Spirit as wind is an important one. It is linked to the understanding of "spirit" in the Old Testament and the Hebrew word *ruah*, which means "wind, spirit, breath." Jesus in John's Gospel breathes on his disciples as He tells them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

But wait. Is this domesticating the Holy Spirit by downgrading it from wind to breath? No, as the wind/breath identity of the Holy Spirit is closely linked to the image of the Holy Spirit as fire. Don't forget that before the flaming tongues appeared above the disciples' heads at Pentecost, they first heard "a noise like a strong driving wind" (Acts 2:2).

Under certain conditions, the interaction between oxygen (the air that we breathe) and some type of fuel causes a chemical reaction, one product of which is heat and light - fire. Consider the air, or the breath, as the Holy Spirit, and the fuel as the human soul: your soul, my soul. Given the right conditions - an openness and a willingness on the part of the "fuel," spontaneous combustion takes place.

When we watch a piece of wood being consumed by fire there's sighing and

crackling and glowing, it becomes blacker and blacker until it falls apart completely and nothing remains but ash? It doesn't just look different from the original piece of wood. It is different, at the very core of its being. Its chemical composition has changed. It has been transformed.

This is what we are called to as Christians and what awaits us when we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives. Let yourself be set on fire by the Holy Spirit. Let yourself be transformed.

*Spirit of our Living God,  
May Your fire revive us,  
Spirit of our Loving God,  
May Your blessing embrace us,  
Spirit of our Gentle God,  
May Your mercy enfold us,  
Spirit of our mighty God,  
May Your wisdom inspire us  
Amen.*

Love, Jo

**Course on Prayer**

After Pentecost, beginning the first week of June, All Saints invites you to join a group following a course on prayer. The course was devised by Pete Greig, who founded the 24/7 prayer movement. He bases this course on the Lord's Prayer, delving into and discussing each line in turn. It is presented in the form of 8 videos, followed by discussion questions and practical prayer activities. The videos are available on YouTube, and the intention is to share the course via Zoom on a weekly basis over 8 weeks.

If you are interested in joining this course, please let Jo know, and she will then determine the day of the week and the time that will suit the greatest number.

If you are not able to access Zoom, by device or phone, please still inform Jo of your interest, and we will explore other means of sharing the discussion and questions.

## Worshipping together – apart

Until it is safe to do so we are having to worship apart. But there are ways of being together, both for those with the Internet and those without.

### Without the Internet

Each week we are producing a set of prayers, a short reflection and more that we can print out, along with the collects and readings and either deliver or post to you. If you would like us to do this, please contact Jo (contact details below) and she will put you in touch with the team.

### With the Internet

Full information is on our website <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/>.

## Stay Alert

We have been told to Stay Alert - Christians couldn't agree more:

Alert to our influence on those around us  
Alert to our wastefulness which pollutes the planet  
Alert to the wonder of life's rich opportunities  
Alert to the power of love  
Alert to the mixture of truth, lies and deceit surrounding us  
Alert to the possibility of forgiveness and newness  
Alert to the Creator's plan  
Alert to the dangers of careless living for ourselves and society  
Alert to the Presence of the Lord.

*Doug Loveridge*

## The World Peace Prayer

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,  
lead us from hatred to love, from war to peace;  
peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our universe.  
Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
let us begin to grow into your people.  
Amen.

## Parish Diary

We are providing worship resources on-line at <https://www.allsaintshertford.org/worship.php> and a video service on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3VBtMX4REMw7HpS9N0SvA>. All videos will commence at 10.00 am. Some services will also be shown using Zoom. If you would like to take part please email us [onzoom@allsaintshertford.org](mailto:onzoom@allsaintshertford.org).

**MAY 31<sup>st</sup> Pentecost**  
Parish Communion

**JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday**  
All the Family Service

**14<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion

**19<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday after Trinity**  
Family Eucharist

**26<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion

**JULY 4<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday after Trinity**  
All the Family Service

**14<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion

**19<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
Family Eucharist

**26<sup>th</sup> Seventh Sunday after Trinity**  
Parish Communion

## Need help?

The All Saints family would like to reach out to those who are isolated and could do with someone to talk to. We have a group of friends who would like to support all those who need it. If it would be helpful for you to have someone call you, please email us on [support@allsaintshertford.org](mailto:support@allsaintshertford.org) or call Rev Jo on 01992 584899 and she will arrange for someone to get in touch.

### Contact Information

[www.allsaintshertford.org](http://www.allsaintshertford.org)    AllSaintsHertf

#### Vicar (and Team Rector of Hertford)

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