

Yesterday we celebrated not only Pentecost, but the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a lunch in the car park. It was lovely to have the time to chat not only with regular church members but also with others who live in the Park Hill area and see St Matthew's as the centre of the community, something that truly helps to cement the residents together. I wonder if you felt the Spirit move you as we celebrated yesterday? I do hope so, because right now it seems that we need the Spirit more than ever, as we try and correct the ways in which we have treated God's creation.



The most sensible suggestions I can find online are that the world's reserves of crude oil will be depleted in about 47 years. That means that our youngest members of the congregation will see this happen. We need the Spirit to move us quicker to make changes to how we live. And not just because it will run out – right now we are living with people who cannot afford the fuel to heat their homes and cook their meals. When did you last check your neighbour was OK? Our responsibility to care for this world has been overlooked for the last 50 years or more while we became so well-developed, and so reliant on energy, that we appear to have 'sidelined' the need to use resources wisely.

Our church is part of the 'eco-church' movement. 'Reducing our heating bills, turning things off when we have finished are a good start. So is using less paper and doing less photocopying. Hopefully, our new roof will make a dent in our energy use.

So the Spirit is moving us slowly towards a better way of caring for God's world and God's creation. Last year, the Catholic church issued a Pastoral Letter that said 'The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation.' and went on to speak of the interconnectedness and interdependency of all of God's creation and that 'The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth'. How we live our lives today is unsustainable.

How far do you think you can move towards a more sustainable existence? I am the first to admit it's not easy and I often feel like giving up. But the Spirit that we celebrated so joyfully on Sunday is there to help us, to remind us not only of our responsibility but also of our link to the rest of God's creation.

If each of us manages a small change this week, collectively we will have an impact. My prayer is that not only will you be moved to reduce your individual energy usage, but that you will be guided by the Spirit to remember that even if it is a small change, together we can make a difference.

Every blessing

Linda