

## Pentecost

The Great feast of Pentecost, the end of our Easter Journey and an Easter season that I hope we never have to go through again. What an extraordinary time. I have heard people compare it to the blitz. I am not sure that our weeks of lockdown and the bombing of London is a fair comparison. Yet these weeks of isolation have been, for so many, very difficult.

For all of us there have been bad days and good days. Tears, yes, with so many deaths. but much smiling and sometimes great laughter too. It is the pulling together that I have found amazing. Families supporting one another. People talking to neighbours that they had hardly acknowledged in the past. The help groups that have galvanised themselves. The national Thursday clap, the NHS and staff in our Care Homes, all those who have kept our country going. Those who have kept our schools open so others can care. I could go on.

All this and so much more I would call the Pentecost spirit.

It reminds me so much of what was happening in the early Church, echoed today in that lovely passage from St Paul when he spoke to the Corinthians.

That variety of gifts, working in so many different ways for a good purpose. But always the same spirit. Truly what we as Christians call the Body of Christ.

Please God that as we take small steps into the future with the spirit of this feast, we will not lose all the new and wonderful things we have gained in this lockdown. The knowledge that we need each other and we want and need to work together.

That breath of God that Jesus breathed on his apostles and on us in baptism is that very spirit that makes us say today:

**WE REMEMBER. WE CELEBRATE. WE BELIEVE.**