**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Bible study for week beginning 17th May 2021 - Pentecost**

Every year Pentecost comes round and Churches up and down the land try to celebrate it in the way they see fit. Some more Charismatic and Pentecostal churches don’t make much of it as for them Pentecost is celebrated in all their services every week. Some more ‘right wing’ churches barely mention it, because they believe in Father Son and Holy Scriptures. At Witham URC we place great emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit, and in our own way try to celebrate this this special day. We love God’s word in the Bible, and we acknowledge the Holy Spirit as God’s unique gift. Indeed we believe that the Scriptures come alive through the power of the Spirit. So let us look again at that first Pentecost and try to learn more of the work of God’s Holy Spirit.

**Read Acts 2 vs 1-13**

**Pray for God to open up the scripture to us.**

1/ Where do you go to seek Gods will for your life? What are your expectations?

2/ We can envisage God as Father as an older King sitting on a throne, we can imagine Jesus as he came in human form; but how do we visualise the Holy Spirit; the third person of the Trinity? Is he a person (human) at all?

3/ The word Spirit – ‘Ruach’ in Hebrew – can be translated ‘breath’, and we talk about the ‘wind’ of the Spirit. We also read of Holy Spirit ‘fire’. Vs 1-3; A violent wind and tongues of fire… Can these two things coexist? How do we explain these happenings?

4/ V 4. Is it significant that ‘all of them’ were filled with the Holy Spirit? When people nowadays claim an infilling of the Spirit, often people in the chair next door don’t feel a thing. How can we explain this?

5/ V4-11 ; What is ‘speaking in other tongues’ here? Is it a heavenly tongue or a different language this is referring to?

6/ V 12/13; I wonder which of the two responses we would have made?

7/ The disciples had gathered together in their weakness and confusion, really unsure of the way ahead? They were timid and frightened; but after this experience they were able to go out into Jerusalem – a hostile environment – and share the Gospel with the crowds. Clearly the Holy Spirit had a wonderful affect on them. Why do we struggle to ask to be filled with Gods Holy Spirit?

8/ In John 14.16 the apostle calls the Spirit ‘another helper’. What does this mean? Help for what?

Finish with prayer for each other to become alive in the Spirit.