

Dear Friends

In last month's magazine we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost (also known as Whitsuntide) when the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus then gathered in Jerusalem. What a wonderful, mysterious and dramatic experience it must have been. St Luke's account in Acts 2 tells of a rushing mighty wind and tongues like mitres resting on the heads of those present followed by the ability to speak in many languages and to be understood by all gathered there.

God chose to call the early Church into being in a very dramatic way and to imbue those followers of Christ with the Holy Spirit for their very special purpose of spreading the good news of the gospel throughout the world. They were called to do a special task and God made himself known in a very special way.

God has similarly made himself known to the prophets of old in mysteries and telling ways. At this time of year traditionally a time for the ordination of priests and deacons, a passage from Isaiah Chapter 6 will be read in which God calls his servant Isaiah to tell the Jewish people to lead more holy and dutiful lives. Again it was an awesome experience in which the very doorposts of the temple were shaken and the building filled with smoke.

I believe that each one of us is special to God and has been called to be a servant of God in our place, in our own time using our own special talents in our own unique way. Although we may not experience such dramatic experiences as those above, God directs us in quieter ways, wanting us to listen in prayer to discern the vocation he has for each and every one of us.

The prophet Elijah experienced the call of God in both noisy and quiet ways.

1 Kings 19:12

“And after the earth quake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice”

Now be still and listen in prayer so that the still small voice can be heard.

With love from Janet