

2019-06-09 ... Pentecost Sunday 10am ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt

Acts 2: 1 – 21

'The Missing Ingredient'

Have you ever missed out a vital ingredient in a recipe ... or a crucial step in assembling something?

Perhaps you've had a new device of some kind ... battery powered ... you wonder why it's not working ... and then realise that you've forgotten to take that little 'seal' off the end of the battery – or maybe you omitted to insert the battery itself!

Perhaps you were making bread ... and forgot the yeast ... or you forgot to add the baking powder whilst making a cake?

On the Day of Pentecost ... alongside the Biblical images of Flames and Wind ... we can also think of the Holy Spirit as being like God's yeast ... or baking powder ... or battery.

The Early Church rose up, was empowered on that first Pentecost ... in response to the key ingredient ... the basic source of power ... that is the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit, they would not have had the power, the confidence to rise up, to leave the apparent safety of being together in one room and go out to speak to the crowds.

Without the Holy Spirit, the Church then ... and the Church now ... cannot, is not able to respond to God's call, to fulfil God's mission.

We've had a lot of images of crowds on our TV screens lately; crowds gathered to protest against Donald Trump's visit, crowds gathered to remember D day.

Last weekend – we also had crowds gather to celebrate the victory of Liverpool FC. Perhaps these are closest to the ones gathered for Pentecost. It was **PTO**

both corporate and personal and done from a choice to celebrate.

The Spirit is still having an impact but there is always a choice. The apostles were not forced out to witness to the love of Jesus. They chose to do so.

The victory of Liverpool FC in the Champion's League unified a community; thousands of people took to the streets – they quite literally painted the town red!

Could there be something here for us to learn from?

Are there ways in which the Spirit can enable us to unify our communities?

Red, as a symbol of the blood of Christ, is often seen as a colour representing redemption. And it is used in some Christian traditions to represent the Spirit. In what ways can we paint the town red?

So each day, every day – we need to ask for God's Spirit to empower us and lift us up ... to go out ... and in turn to act as yeast in our society, amongst our Family and Friends.

Amen.