

# THE BENEFICE OF WITNEY



St Mary  
the Virgin  
Witney

St John  
the Baptist  
Cutbridge

St John  
the Evangelist  
Halley

Holy Trinity  
Woodgreen  
Witney

St Kenelm  
Minster Lovell

Called to be a community of mercy and kindness



## **The Day of Pentecost**

United Benefice Eucharist  
with Ministry of Anointing  
**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**10.45am**

**A very warm welcome to Holy Trinity, Woodgreen, as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and pray for new attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our communities.**

The Benefice of Witney is a group of six Christian communities the town of Witney and the villages round about.

Our churches share a common purpose: to help each person in our communities grow deeper in their knowledge of and relationship with God. Our vision is to be a community of mercy and kindness.

We cherish the eucharist and daily prayer, and we are an inclusive church committed to a hospitable Christianity where everyone is welcome.

As an outward-looking church, we seek to demonstrate God's love through our actions. We actively engage with 11 schools, 6 nursing and care homes, and provide outreach to new housing communities and those in need throughout the area.

If you're interested in being involved in our community, or learning more about Christianity, do speak to a welcomer or a member of clergy.

*This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.*

We receive no central funding for our running costs or to maintain our buildings. If you'd like to support our work, please scan the QR code below:



*All **stand** as the choir and ministers enter.*

*We sing the Processional Hymn, Come thou Holy Spirit, NEH 139*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Jesus Christ, whom we worship, is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering and death on a cross.  
We have rejoiced at his bursting free from the bonds of death.  
We have enjoyed his risen presence with us and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.  
We have seen his return to the throne before which every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time,  
we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, his gift to his people, through whom we make Christ known to the world.

## **Responsory**

As we wait in silence,

**All fill us with your Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**All fill us with your Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,  
**All fill us with your Spirit.**  
As we long for your refreshing,  
**All fill us with your Spirit.**  
As we long for your renewing,  
**All fill us with your Spirit.**  
As we long for your equipping,  
**All fill us with your Spirit.**  
As we long for your empowering,  
**All fill us with your Spirit.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

And so we unite our voices:  
**All God's Spirit calls us into the future,  
God's Spirit calls us to new vision,  
God's Spirit calls us in compassionate love.**

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life  
in the presence of the God of Glory:

*We sing together:*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Let us pray:  
Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 2.1-21*)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of

each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians  
(1 Cor. 12.3-13)

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Psalm**

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

*John 7.37-39*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit*

**The Sermon**

**The Anthem**

*Come Down, O Love Divine*  
Hilary Tadman-Robins

**The Creed**

*We stand*

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church,  
in which we pray we may all find grace to grow:

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Intercessions**

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father.

*The Intercessor may use the response*

Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Most Merciful God

**All Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*All stand*

### **The Peace**

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **The Offertory Hymn**

*While the priest prepares Bread and Wine and a collection is taken, we sing the Offertory Hymn, God is Love, NEH 364.*

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks  
because in fulfilment of your promise  
you pour out your Spirit upon us,  
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,  
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one  
faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,  
to proclaim your gospel to all nations  
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,  
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,  
to proclaim the glory of your name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**All Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist,  
St. John the Evangelist, St. Kenelm, and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray in our preferred language:

**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Priest breaks the consecrated host*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All** **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### Agnus Dei

**All** **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
Grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*If you are used to receiving Communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here. If you are not used to receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (a prayer for God's presence with you), or simply remain in your seat.*

*During the distribution of Communion, two hymns are sung:*

*Holy Spirit Come, NEH 140*

*Alleluia, Sing to Jesus, NEH 271*

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:  
Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter  
by sending us your Holy Spirit  
and opening to every race and nation  
the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*We sit for the notices*

**The Notices**

**Laying on of Hands and Anointing**

*At the Paschal (Easter) Candle we pray for the gifts of the Spirit.*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.  
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.  
now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.  
strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;

the young see visions, the old dream dreams.  
With the new wine of the Spirit  
they proclaim your reign of love.  
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation  
the way of light is made known.  
Source of freedom, giver of life:  
fill us now with the Power of the Holy Spirit.  
Pour down upon us the oil of sevenfold grace you shed.  
Anoint us, now, from love's deep springs  
and renew in us the desire to serve you in all we do  
and empower us for the ministry we are called to through our  
Baptism.  
We pray in the Power of the Holy Spirit  
and through Christ our Risen Lord.

**All Amen.**

*You are invited to receive anointing with the oil of Chrism, blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Eucharist in our Cathedral Church on Maundy Thursday. Chrism is associated with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is used particularly at Confirmation, at Ordinations and Coronations, and when dedicating Church buildings and holy vessels.*

*When you come forward with your palms outstretched you will receive the laying on of hands (1 Tim 4.14) and anointing with oil on your foreheads and on the palms of your hands (Ex 40.15, Rev 5.10). If you would like someone to pray with you, this ministry is offered by the High Altar.*

*You may also wish to remain in your place, praying for yourself and our whole benefice, for renewal through the grace of the Holy Spirit.*

*While these ministries take place, we sing this chant:*



Music: J. Berthier  
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## Liturgy of Commissioning

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in the Benefice of Witney, I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting him to be your guide?

**All By the Spirit's power, we will.**

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

**All We will.**

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

**All We will.**

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

**All We will.**

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

**All We will.**

*The Paschal Candle is extinguished*

## **Final Hymn**

Light's Abode, Celestial Salem, *NEH* 401

## **The Blessing**

*Please stand for the Blessing*

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

May the Spirit,  
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,  
breathe into you the life he gives.

**All Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came  
among us,  
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

**All Amen.**

May the Spirit,  
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

*The deacon says*

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.***



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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