



St Leonard's Church
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 Denmark

Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

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St. George's Church
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We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community

Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you all managed through the storms at the beginning of the week without too much damage. It has been good to hear that some of you have received good rainfall over that period.

I am writing this week's letter a couple of days early as I am travelling to Esperance tomorrow for a funeral on Thursday. I will be driving back to Denmark on Friday.

It is my intention to drive over to Walpole for the service on Sunday. It will be good to be physically involved in worship again! As I mentioned in last week's letter, the layout and size of St George's congregation is such that the 20 people regulation, at 4m² can be achieved.

At St Leonard's, Denmark, we have a smaller, narrower building with a much larger congregation. Again, with me taking leave at the end of June / beginning of July, Parish Council have made the decision to wait until I return, and open for worship on July 19. Hopefully by that stage, the rules for gatherings will have eased further and we will be able to meet in a bigger group.

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, the day when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, and many celebrate as the birthday of the Church. It is a time of great rejoicing and dedicating our lives in service of God's purposes in the world.

Some years ago, when I was chaplain at the Esperance Anglican Community School, I was challenged by some of the Year 9 boys to do a rap at the chapel service the following week. It just so happened that that was the Friday before Pentecost Sunday. Now, I don't particularly enjoy 'Rap' and really knew nothing about it, but the result is a memory that stays with me, teaching me lessons - something about not taking myself too seriously, about reaching out to people where they are and having a bit of fun while I am at it!

So here, for your delectation, is The Pentecost Rap!

Come down O love divine
 Come down, come down
 Fill this old heart of mine
 Come down, come down
 Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus
 Come down, come down

Peter and his mates were in the Upper Room
 they were hanging and planning and singing to you
 There was Peter and John and James and all
 Mary and Mary and Mary and more
 They were waiting and waiting but waiting for what
 They were bad, they were sad, they were mad and they were glad

Come down, come down
 Come down O love divine
 Come down, come down
 Fill this old heart of mine
 Come down, come down
 Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus
 Come down, come down
 Fill me up, fill me over, fill me so I flow over with that love of thine

There was wind and the wind did blowed
 There was fire and that there fire glowed

They were glad they were mad but no longer sad
They were excited and amazed
and thought they were crazed
but they weren't fazed

Come down, come down
Come down O love divine
Come down, come down
Fill this old heart of mine
Come down, come down
Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus
Come down, come down
Take me out, sh-shake me up, take me out of this comfort zone of mine

God is good, God is love, God wants you and me, him and her
God wants us all to tell the world
t-tell the world about the Lord
yeah we could be flooded!
Fill us up, fill us out
fill us so that we can shout
sing it loud, sing it proud,
sing it right to the crowd
'coz they all want to hear

Come down, come down
Come down O love divine
Come down, come down
Fill this old heart of mine
Come down, come down
Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus
Come down, come down.

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As I said, a bit of madness, a bit of fun ... and on performing it, a lot of exhaustion!! Still it went down very well and certainly broke down a lot of barriers with some of the students at the school. Luckily, when I 'performed' it in church the following Sunday, I had at least three Mary's in the congregation!

And isn't that something we are about, or should be about – breaking down barriers, stumbling blocks, so that God is accessible for all, so that we all can reach out with God's love?

I know that Sally Prickett is going to add a little bit about the *Mustard Seed*, so I will wrap this up now.

It is my prayer, as the rules which have kept us safe start to ease, that we will continue to be safe and healthy, that we will soon be able to physically reach out and touch each other again, and that there will be no "Second Wave" of this terrible virus.

I close with the Pentecost blessing from Celtic writer, David Adam:

The fire of God change you, and you shall be changed.
The wind of God change you, and you shall be changed.
The breath of God change you, and you shall be changed.
The Spirit of God change you, and you shall be changed.
And the blessing of God, holy One and holy Three be with you always. Amen.

With my prayers and good wishes, your priest and your friend,



The Mustard Seed opened its doors on Monday 25th for the week having produced a Covid Safe Plan and following all the protocols the Government and Diocese have instructed. The whole hall underwent the required clean. It was a blustery cold day on Monday but since then the sun has shone and we have had many customers who are delighted that we are in business again. For the month of June the shop will open for the usual hours on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Thank you for the support of our wonderful vollies. Sally P