

Musings from the Manse-Week 11

31/05/20



ADVANCE NOTICE about next week's communion service June 7th. Yes friends we will be breaking bread together although we are apart. It will be a separate video clip to be found on the website (gurc.org.uk). Please have some bread or a biscuit even and some wine or juice at hand. I know other churches have done this before but bear with me it's a new thing for me.

Printer Saga. Did you know there is a shortage of reasonably priced ink jet printers. I was printing some notes out on Saturday when there was a loud ominous grinding sound. A large plastic cog had come adrift and destroyed the printer head. I thought I would repair the machine, *sustain and renew the life of the earth* etc. I looked up the parts and they were twice the price of the printer. I also realised with this hand problem I couldn't fix it anyway. I could ask Jill to help it if I tell her how. No, not a good idea after the pond cleaning request. She does enough at the moment as my carer. A new printer was needed. So, I looked on five of the prominent internet sites, all out of stock, all except the really expensive ones. I eventually manage to find one from some company I had never heard of, about 48th in the Google search list. They had exactly the one I wanted and in stock. Hooray great celebration. I placed my order. Two days later an email - item not in stock. Alternative suggested, three times the price and a four-week delivery!!! Do you remember the character Victor Meldrew, 'I don't believe it'? The quest still goes on for a reasonably priced printer. This is a sign of the times. People working from home had snaffled them all up and now there are limited imports. This is just one small and very trivial example of the way things have change in our world. Covid 19 had impacted on every life at so many levels. From life and death situations to the minor frustrations of not having the things we think we want or need.

News flash - I seem to have found one at last.

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.”

— Bill Keane



Pentecost is the day recorded in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, when the Holy Spirit suddenly filled the room where the disciples were gathered. What appeared to be tongues of flame appeared over the head of each of them, and the disciples began to speak in a language that allowed all the people that had gathered in Jerusalem from more than a dozen different countries to understand what the disciples were saying in their own native language (Acts 2:5–8). The power of Pentecost was that the confusion of languages that was associated with the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1–9 was being reversed, as people from all over the known world were able to hear the message of the gospel in their own language.

Through the prophesy from Joel (Joel 2:28f.) and from the event itself we can see Gods timing is perfect. People gathered together waiting in that room now liberated and empowered. All those people gathered together that day in Jerusalem. To celebrate and party. That's probably why the reference to the disciples being drunk. '*These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!*' The point is Peters message gets maximum exposure. The hearers are from the scattered lands of the known world. They are going back home and will tell of what they had witnessed. The mission field is being prepared. When the disciples venture out of Jerusalem ¹⁹ *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" Matthew 28. They finish the work that had been started in Jerusalem.

Gods timing is perfect as is his preparation. When we emerge from lock down, I wonder how God has prepared the world for us to proclaim his message?

Andrew and Jill