WE GATHER HERE ON THIS SPECIAL DAY TO CELEBRATE THE

FEAST OF PENTECOST.

YOU KNOW ONE HAS TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT GENERALISING,

BUT THERE IS ONE QUESTION THAT MOST PEOPLE GET

RIGHT ABOUT PENTECOST,

AND THERE IS ONE QUESTION THAT MANY PEOPLE GET

WRONG.

**HERE IS WHAT MOST PEOPLE GET RIGHT:** PENTECOST IS THE

DAY ON WHICH TRADITIONALLY WE SAY THAT THE CHURCH

WAS BORN.

THE OUT POURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE BELIEVERS IN

THE UPPER ROOM (NOT THE JUSTIN KIND) SO THAT THEY GO

AND PREACH AND LIVE THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD.

YES THE JEWS HAD GATHERED FOR THE FEAST OF WEEKS,

THE GIVING OF THE LAW.

AND SUDDENLY THEY WERE HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

ABOUT JESUS BENG PREACHED IN THEIR OWN DIFFERENT

LANGUAGES.

**BUT HERE IS WHERE MANY OF US GET IT WRONG**:

PENTECOST DID NOT JUST HAPPEN ONCE.

THERE ARE IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES MULTIPLE

PENTECOSTS, WHEN THE SPIRIT WAS POURED OUT AND

PEOPLE CAME TO FAITH.

PAULS CONVERSION, PETERS CONVERSION TO A GREATER

UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH, THE STORY OF CORNELIUS AND

THE GENTILE PENTECOST.

AND IT DOES NOT STOP IN ACTS.

**PENTECOST HAS HAPPENED DOWN THE PAGES OF HISTORY**.

IN THE MONASTIC MOVEMENT OF WHICH DUNSTAN WAS

APART IN ENGLAND IN THE REFORMATION IN THE

METHODIST MOVEMENT IN THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL.

**BUT PENTECOST IS NOT JUST IN THE BIG EVENTS**, THE BIG

MOVEMENTS.

PENTECOST MOMENTS CAN COME IN SMALL WAYS AS

PEOPLE HAVE HEARD THE WORD OF GOD AND RESPONDED

TO IT,

AS JOHN WESLEY DID WHEN HE HEARD THAT SERMON THAT

LEAD TO A NEW CHAPTER IN HIS LIFE.

HE SAID HIS HEART WAS 'STRANGELY WARMED!'

**HAVE YOU BEEN IN SITUATIONS WHERE THAT KIND OF**

**THING HAS HAPPENED?**

WHEN YOU ARE SINGING A HYMN, READING PORTION SCRIPTURE IN SACRED PLACE

I HAVE.

THERE IS PENTECOST!

AS WE KNOW, WE EXPERIENCE THE LOVE THE FORGIVENESS

THE ASSURANCE THE EMPOWERMENT OF GOD OUR FATHER

FOR OUR LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

**BECAUSE DID NOT JESUS SAY**,

“I WILL ASK THE FATHER TO GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER WHO WILL BE WITH YOU FOREVER. THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH....YOU KNOW BECAUSE HE ABIDES WITH YOU AND WILL BE IN YOU.”

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THAT ST PAUL COULD SAY OF

HIS OWN PENTECOST EXPERIENCE,

‘FOR WE ARE ALL LEAD BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD AS CHILDREN OF GOD. WHEN WE CRY, “ABBA FATHER”. IT IS THE SPIRIT PLEADING WITNESSING TO OUR SPIRITS THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. ‘

YES CHILDREN OF GOD WHO ARE LOVED FORGIVEN

EMPOWERED AS WE CONTINUE TO BE IMMERSED IN THAT

SPIRIT OF PENTECOST,

THE SPIRIT OF JESUS .

SO ON THIS FEAST OF PENTECOST...

THOSE WHO ARE TO BE BAPTISED...

THOSE WHO ARE TO BE CONFIRMED ...

WE ALL WE COME TO OPEN OUR

HEARTS TO THE ONE WHO IN LOVE FOR US CAME AMONGST

US TO SHARE OUR LOT

MINSTER AMONGST SHOWING US A MORE EXCELLENT WAY;

WHO DIED FOR US SO THAT WE CAN KNOW THE

FORGIVENESS OF THE FATHER,

WHO ROSE FOR US SO THAT CAN KNOW THAT DEATH IS NOT

THE END.

WE COME TO LET THE SPIRIT OF JESUS AND HIS MESSAGE

INTO OUR HEARTS IN THE SILENCE IN THE HYMN SINGING,

IN THE READINGS THE SERMON AND ABOVE ALL IN THE

BREAD AND WINE.

SO THAT PENTECOST IS NOT JUST PAST

EVENT BUT A PRESENT AND CONTINUING REALITY IN OUR

LIVES, AS WE ARE IMMERSED CONFIRMED STRENGTHENED

BY HIS LOVE DAY BY DAY.