

Vicar's Blog

June 2019

Building bridges for the future

On 9 June, churches around the world will be celebrating Pentecost, the festival which is thought by many to mark the birth of the Christian Church. It is the day when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the apostles, the followers of Jesus, a gift that would enable them to take the Christian faith into many foreign lands.

Pentecost was a time of extravagant generosity: barriers of language and nationality were broken down; hearts and minds were opened.

Pentecost marks the beginning of the spread of Christianity around the world. For 2000 years, people have continued to take that extravagant generosity, God's gifts, into the darkest and most despairing places in the world. Such generosity is sorely needed now. All too often difference creates a barrier which leads to confrontation and selfishness, but the Pentecostal gift acknowledges and embraces differences in an enabling way.

We need to accept afresh the importance of reaching out into situations and places of need; we need to learn afresh to speak a language that draws people together in shared understanding; we need to learn afresh a language that recognises and honours difference.

This year as we celebrate Pentecost, let us all seek opportunities to offer and embrace the extravagant gift that breaks down barriers and builds relationships.

Gwyneth