Dear friends
I am pleased to enclose the virtual service for Pentecost.

For worshippers in our Benefice, please note that this Sunday's service at Farmborough at 11am will be Friends and Family, and Morning Prayer has been moved to next Sunday 30 May.

Anyway, on to the music…

Two hymns to start with, 'Breathe on me, breath of God', sung by members of Mackay United church (lyrics provided):
https://youtu.be/lwl7-zhSEF8

'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire', sung by Peterhouse College Choir:
https://youtu.be/kmRbc9cf-dw

Thomas Attwood's gentle setting of these words, sung by the choir of New College, Oxford:
https://youtu.be/QQyOiO_Y7NE

'Veni Sancte Spiritus' has been set by many composers, including Lassus. The repeated descending phrase represents the Holy Spirit. This performance, with rolling score, is excellent, but a tad fast for my taste:
https://youtu.be/_23hwGZffG4

Alternatively you may prefer the Taizé mantra-like 'Veni Sancte Spiritus', sung/played by a truly international virtual group of musicians:
https://youtu.be/us-v4slsUX4

And finally, many thanks to Martin for two Pentecost songs…

Fresh Wind - Hillsong Worship. A 2020 worship song inviting the Holy Spirit in:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LRqPaBCRVs

'Here I Am to Worship' by Tim Hughes Live From Shepherds Bush, London. The composer, Rev Tim Hughes, formerly worship leader at Holy Trinity Brompton, sings his worship song live in 2012:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUywjZrfslQ

Pentecost blessings!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 23.05.21
DAY of PENTECOST

Exuberant Spirit of God, bursting with the brightness of flame into the coldness of our lives to warm us with a passion for justice and beauty, we praise you.
Exuberant Spirit of God, sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy to breathe vitality into our struggles for change,
we praise you.
Exuberant Spirit of God, speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust to convey messages of truth and new understanding,
we praise you.
Exuberant Spirit of God – flame - wind-speech, burn, breathe, speak to us, fill your world with justice and with joy. *(Jan Berry)*

CONFESSION Lord, so often we create barriers against you, when we are self-centred and proud, when we neglect the needs of others and fail to worship you; forgive us and heal us. *May his tongues of flame burn out all evil from our hearts, fill us with his love and peace, and give us the gifts of his Spirit, and a voice to praise him forever. (Roman Missal, adapted)*

COLLECT God, who at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

READINGS Psalm 145, Ezekiel 37.1-14, Acts 2.1-21, John 15.26-27,16.4b-15.

REFLECTION It must have been a remarkable sight for the curious passers – by; an excited group of people chattering noisily with what seemed like tongues of fire flickering among them. No wonder some suspected a party that had got out of control. But these Galileans weren't babbling incoherently. Among the onlookers in the cosmopolitan city of Jerusalem were people from many different regions; each recognized the disciples speaking in their own language. The Holy Spirit transformed this disheartened group of people, who had recently seen Jesus disappear from their midst. They were given new courage; they were emboldened to speak of their faith, often at great personal risk, starting the worldwide spread of Christianity. If we allow God's Spirit to infect us, each of us in our own small way can be empowered to be his witness to the community outside our church walls even if, like those early disciples, we risk facing ridicule and rejection.

PRAYERS Overflowing God, breathe the spirit of Jesus into me and into all those who long for peace, especially those who have drifted from your way, got stuck in their faith, or who have not yet found a way to believe. You believe in them. Renew them by your Spirit and today may your Church be filled with joy. *(Thy Kingdom come prayer journal)*

We pray for your reign of peace in this troubled world. Especially we pray for the peoples of Israel and Palestine. In human terms, a lasting peace seems unattainable, but, through you, all things are possible.

We offer to your loving care all who are sick or distressed, those in chronic physical or mental pain, those who mourn, especially remembering…… We give thanks for all who provide support, who counsel and heal; strengthen them in their work of service.

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and strength, now and always. *(New Zealand Prayer Book).*

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER**
We share **THE GRACE**

FINAL PRAYER O God, life-giving Spirit,
Spirit of healing and comfort, of integrity and truth, we believe and trust in you.
Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation, rushing wind and Pentecostal fire,
we commit ourselves to work with you and renew our world. *(Janet Morley)*.