

*Today's reading: [Acts 2.1-21](#)*

I have had the privilege of being in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday and joining the congregation at worship in St. George's Cathedral. Don't get me wrong, the worship was good, but it didn't somehow have the energy that I imagine to have been part of that first Pentecost Sunday.

'a violent wind came from heaven' ... 'they saw what appeared to be tongues of fire' – its reminiscent of some of those great Old Testament stories of the Temple, Isaiah 6, For example. Oh, its so much more dramatic than most of our Methodist worship is today – even when we can be together. I loved the smell of the incense in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, it seemed to capture the essence of that Pentecost experience so much more than the worship in the Cathedral – solid though that was!

Those passages for Isaiah and Jeremiah in which the prophets hear their call from God, are absolutely central to me in my experience of the call to be a minister (by the way, it was 40 years ago this Easter that I first heard the call to be a preacher – but more of that another time).

These early chapters of the Acts are moving with an incredible sense of pace and urgency. It was only nine in the morning, when all of this happened – when I'm just beginning to surface form my second cup of Coffee.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Yours sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams ..."

No matter what our age God's spirit is poured out on us- we all have a part to play in this new era.

The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost marked a huge transition for the early disciples, they were constantly having to face up to new challenges to their sense of orthodoxy in this new, post-Easter world. I wonder what the challenges to our orthodoxy might be in the new post-corona virus world. We surely can't go back to the old normal, either in the world or in the church.

"I can tell you confidently writes Luke, "that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ... Seeing what was ahead he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body decay. God raised him to new life, and we are all witnesses of the fact."

We can never go back to the former ways of being Church in Alderley Edge – the world has changed and so too must the church if our message of resurrection is to be at all relevant.