



# ST. JOHN'S ST. RAPHAEL



## PENTECOST 2008

*At Pentecost we have Luke's picturesque description in the book of Acts, of the coming of the Spirit of Truth as light and fire. The word for truthfulness and sincerity in the New Testament Greek originally meant "judged in sunlight" (our word derives from the Latin "sine cera", without wax) In Classical times repairs to damaged vases or statues were often made by the skilful use of wax so as to then palm them off as original and new. They were so good at this, that only by heating it in direct sunlight, or near a fire, would the wax melt and the cracks appear. The Holy Spirit of Truth is God's fire and light in our world, showing up so much that is false and that covers up the cracks, not only in our society but in our own lives. But the Spirit is light, Christ is the light of the world, and the way and the truth. The light of guidance and revelation, the light to bring us all on to the right path, the way home to godliness.*

*In a Psalm we read, "By your light O Lord we see light" Now the path is not always so clear to us individually, and certainly not in human society, but the light of the Spirit is enlightenment to us to reveal to us God's divine truth. While the Spirit exposes our weaknesses and sins, at the same time it enlightens our inner souls and minds, and brings us healing, thereby giving us the gift of guidance and the inner power to overcome, that we might walk more and more in sincerity and truth to greater Godliness. So we pray as we sing: "Come down O Love divine seek thou this soul of mine and kindled it with your flame bestowing. Let your glorious light shine ever on my sight, and make my pathway clear by your illuming". May we at St John's be living witnesses to the truth of Christ "sine cera"!!*



The Holy Spirit

### GIVES POWER

Acts 1 :8

### CHANGES LIVES

Galacians. 5 :22,23

### IS ETERNAL

Hebrews 9.14

### IS CREATOR

Genesis.1 :2

### REMINDS, TEACHES

John 14 : 26

### GUIDES

John 16 : 13



### LIVES IN US

Romans 8 :11

### INTERCEDES

Romans 8 :26

### PRAYS IN US

Ephesians. 6:18

### UNITES US

PHIL. 2: 1,2

### COMMANDS

Acts 16 :6

### GIVES WISDOM

Ephesians 1:17



### How Well Do you Know your Bible?

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (..turn from your sin...) The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

**A Book mark for your Bible.**

## Confirmation.

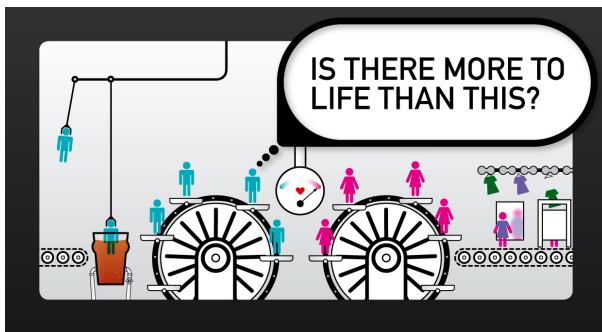
In March we were delighted to welcome Bishop David Hamid again to St John's. He came to confirm Joël and Luke as they committed themselves to follow Christ.



After the service 50 people sat down to a celebratory lunch during which the boys cut their confirmation cake depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. We understand that this is the first time there has been a confirmation service at St John's.

## Alpha

**St John's is running its first Alpha course, starting in September and the members of our monthly fellowship group are already signed up and eagerly awaiting the start. Whilst the greatest benefit comes from attending the entire course, this is not compulsory; indeed, many of our congregation are periodic visitors, but all are most welcome at any time during the course. Just come when ever you can.**



**YES – there is . . . and it starts with the Alpha Course. If you don't know what it is, here's your chance to find out what's fired up so many people and how it's transformed the lives of millions in such a positive way.**

**Whilst the course is aimed especially at non-churchgoers and new Christians, it is equally interesting and valuable for those who are already committed Christians: indeed, it is for *absolutely anyone* - and *everyone* is welcome, irrespective of background.**

Typically, each session starts with a light meal. The session begins with a short time of worship. There is then a talk or presentation, followed by open discussion on the topic, and whatever issues arise: no question is out of bounds and you can discuss as much or as little as you wish. At the end, there is a short time of individual and/or collective prayer.

**This is a wonderful opportunity for St John's to develop further by widening its reach and broadening its activities. We hope and pray that we can in this way inspire some to embark on their Christian journey and help those already on the road to strengthen their understanding and grow in faith.**

**If you would like to find out more, do call Leona McNamee on 0494 522359.**

## Tuesday Group

St John's holds a **Tuesday Group** regularly meeting in the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting lasts an hour and provides a time for prayer, study and discussion.

The meetings were started last year for those who wished to explore the bible further and for a time of prayer outside the normal Sunday services.

These meetings have developed into a friendly gathering where we meet together for an hour to sing a few hymns, to study and to pray. Please remember to send to us any prayer request.

During Lent this year the frequency of the meeting was changed to weekly to coincide with the study of David Winter's book a **Journey to Jerusalem**. If you are visiting this summer, you are warmly welcome to come along.

Details are on the website as usual where Anne puts a copy of the service pew sheet.

This will show any date changes but you can of course ring for further details.

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## Harvest Thanksgiving.

**Harvest Thanksgiving will be held this year on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Do plan to be with us on that Sunday there will be a Harvest Lunch to follow the service. It would be wonderful to have a huge turn out of the St. John's family Bring a salad or a dessert. We will also be making a collection of food to donate to the food bank organised in St Raphaël for those in need. Food in packets such as rice, pasta, sugar would be most welcome**