

KINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH ONLINE NOTICE BOARD - 17

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<https://www.kingtonbaptistchurch.org/>

It is better for you if I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16.7)

John 7.39 – 11.4; 12.23, 32-33; 13.1, 31-32; 14.28.

The Holy Spirit, active in the world since the very moment of creation, is now with us *all* and *forever*.

By his resurrection all limitations of the earthly human body of Jesus were removed. Before returning to the Father Jesus told the disciples, *'I will come to you'*. He wasn't talking about his return at the end of time. He was talking about how he'd be with us after he ascended to the Father. Jesus will not leave us. He's with us by the Holy Spirit. Jesus says the Spirit is *'another comforter'* – another *exactly* like himself. The Holy Spirit is so like Jesus that when the Spirit comes Jesus can say *'I am with you'*!

Today is Whit Sunday – *Pentecost* – the day when we recall the coming of the Holy Spirit *'to be with us forever'*. He is with 'us', with the Church. He makes his home in each of us individually and lives in the Church. It's as members of the Church, of the body of Christ, that we receive the Holy Spirit. The gifts he gives he gives to individuals but always as we are members of the Church. His gifts are for the building up, equipping, strengthening of the Church. They are never given for our own individual benefit.

The coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost is closely linked with the *ascension* of Jesus. The sending of the Holy Spirit was possible only because of the *ascension* of Jesus. Only then was every barrier removed.

Jesus explained to Mary Magdalene on the morning of his resurrection that she wasn't to 'touch' him: *'do not cling to me'*. Jesus meant the opposite of what Mary imagined he meant. Jesus said *'do not to cling to him'*, not because Mary could no longer have him, but because now he'd be with us in a more complete, permanent way. She wasn't losing him – he'd be with her forever!

We'd be wrong to imagine that because '*Christ sits at the Father's right hand*' he cannot be anywhere else. Returning to the Father he hasn't left us! We'd be wrong to think having ascended to heaven it's no longer possible for Jesus to enter into our earthly, day to day lives. He is with us, with us by the Holy Spirit, with us and in us forever. By the Holy Spirit Jesus is able to be 'here' and 'there' – at any time and at the same time!

Most wonderful of all is that *he is with us now!* **Whenever** and **wherever** we are! The Holy Spirit – 'another Comforter', one just like Jesus. He is with us *really* – he is really *with us!* The mystery of the Trinity tells us that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are *One* – even though they are distinct! Don't try to understand it – simply enjoy it!

The Holy Spirit has come to us to lead us to Jesus, to make clear to us the words of Jesus, and to grow the life of Jesus in us – to fill us with his love, joy and peace. May we know him more and more!