



Northall Baptist Church – 200

years and still going.

A little Church with strong local links.

The Holy Spirit - the Unexpected Visitor

Have you ever been sad or lonely when your best friend or a family member has left?

Most of us have been concerned when those we rely on aren't there anymore. It's daunting for those going off to university and for the first time having to fend for themselves. Or when a parent or partner dies and life completely changes without that support. Perhaps we've moved to a new school without our best friend. Most of us have experienced that at some point in our lives.

At Easter we celebrated Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus had been with his followers for three years, spending a lot of time together. During, that time Jesus had told them that it was necessary that he should die and be raised. He was to be the sacrificial lamb to assuage the consequence of sin - not temple sacrifice. This was a really difficult concept for the disciples and they didn't really understand it, so likely dismissed it from their minds. They had seen Lazarus raised and Jairus' daughter so maybe they thought it would be similar. But when Jesus was crucified, the death of a criminal, they were bereft and confused. Peter at the very point of Jesus sham trial, denied that he knew Jesus, until the cock crowed 3 times and he remembered Jesus' words.

All seemed to be lost, but true to his word Jesus soon popped up again, three days later. Jesus reappeared to the disciples in several different circumstances over 40 days – through locked doors when they were able to touch him and feel the marks of the nails and another time when Jesus had got a fire going to cook breakfast for them.

The disciples may have got used to this sort of arrangement. But to fulfil God's purpose, Jesus had yet to be taken from them again. He ascended to heaven and they were on their own for 10 days. During this time the disciples chose a replacement for Judas and then when Jerusalem was full to bursting with the celebration of Pentecost, the **Holy Spirit** came just as Jesus had promised. Pentecost is a celebration to remember the Children of Israel escaping from their slavery in Egypt. Christians celebrate this as the coming of this special friend who is there within us always, guiding and comforting. This year it will be on 5th June.



The 10 days between Jesus' Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit are remembered by most Christians with 'Thy Kingdom Come' when prayers are said for family and friends who haven't yet come to know the love of Jesus. With the **Holy Spirit** you are never alone.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. We'd love you to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>
Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625