

Letter from the Rector, June 2019

Dear Friends,

On 18th May we experienced the annual humiliation otherwise called the Eurovision Song Contest. Assuming we will never do well we still enjoy the excuse for a party. And let's be fair, the programme always offers remarkable stage productions and plenty to talk about. (Honest!) For example, Madonna was interviewed and she reminded us how music brings us all together. What do you think? It would have been good if Ukraine were there alongside Russia, and maybe Syria or Lebanon alongside Israel. Why not...if Australia can be included. But, never mind, lots of nationalities were represented and they all had a good time.

Talking about what brings us together, it interested me that the German Eurovision song was sung in English. In fact many countries chose to sing in English. Being able to communicate in a common language certainly helps us get together and to get on with each other.

This brings me to the story of the Tower of Babel. In Genesis chapter 11 we read the story about how everyone had a common language. And so they got together and decided to build a city with a tower that reached to the heavens. But God intervened and caused confusion by giving them all different languages. This is an odd story. At the time it was a cautionary tale against urbanisation. It was also a word of warning against the idea that we could achieve anything we wanted if we all worked together. I told you it was an odd story! Anyway, the good news is that another historic event took place to reverse the message of this story.

Fifty days after the Resurrection, (at Pentecost) Jesus' disciples experienced an extraordinary event in which the Holy Spirit came upon them like heaven-sent dynamite. An explosion of activity followed in which people of every language under the sun heard the Gospel in their own language. Prior to this moment, religion had been a local matter with each nation claiming exclusive rights to God. Through this dramatic development a new message of love and salvation was going to sweep the world, hopefully uniting people from every tribe and language. The Church became the first missionary organisation with a global message for everyone. What can unite us is a positive good news story about the value of each individual life that respects diversity of culture and opinion – a message that reminds us just what can really be achieved when we all work together for the common good. (It's amazing what the Eurovision Song Contest can make you think about!)

John Ganjavi

Services in June 2019	6.00 pm
02/06	Eastertide Sunday Worship
09/06	Pentecost Sunday Worship
16/06	Trinity Sunday Worship
23/06	Holy Communion
30/06	Trinity Sunday Worship

DON'T FORGET! The 6 pm Sunday Services in June & July will be at the Old Chapel.

Verses of the Month: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)

Prayer of the Month: Holy Spirit of God, you transform lives and communities. I open my heart to you, and with a faltering but sincere faith I dare to ask you to transform me and my world. Amen.