

Thought for the Day 03/06/2020

“Then he said to me, ‘Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’”

So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.” Ezekiel 37:9-10

Here we are in the season of Pentecost, and it is worth remembering that ‘breath’ is a powerful metaphor for life and for the Holy Spirit.

For example, we are told in Genesis 2:7 that God “***breathed*** into Adam...the breath of life.” And in John 20:21 where the disciples are in ‘lockdown’ (!) in the Upper Room, Jesus “***breathed*** on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Ezekiel the prophet, meanwhile, is in a place of death and despair in a valley of dry bones. But God says to him there *is* hope, there *is* life in a place that seems dead: “**Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again... [and] They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army**”! Wow! God is good! God is powerful!

Sometimes it feels like this long drawn out pandemic crisis is a place of despair and hopelessness...but *God is* with us in it. In this time, more people are turning to prayer. Many people are accessing online church services than would ever go physically to church. People all over the world are asking big questions about the meaning and purpose of life.

And so this is the time for us, the church, to ‘rise up’ in the power of the Holy Spirit...as St Peter says to “**be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.**” (1 Peter 3:15) I think the power of blessing someone unexpectedly with a kind word or a kind action is especially significant because it leads people to ask that question: *Why?* Why have you done that kind thing for me?

Do you remember a couple of years ago I talked about us needing to live *QUESTIONABLE LIVES*...? By that I don’t mean dubious lives, lives that are somehow falling short of the Gospel; on the contrary, by living ‘questionable lives’ I mean living our lives in ways that provoke a gospel explanation, living our lives in step with the Spirit of God so that our lives naturally invite questions from others as to why we live the way we do.

Let me encourage you today to do something for someone else that provokes that ‘why’ question. And as we do that, notice how the Holy Spirit brings His life, His power and His breath into what may have seemed like a hopeless situation. The wonderful truth is the breath of the Spirit doesn’t bring a virus; He brings new life. Alleluia!

Remember you can send your prayer request to:

Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org

Or ring: (01743) 583215

And you can read these *Thought for the Day* articles on our website too at www.baystonhillchurch.org

Peace be with you!

Rev Peter Hubbard (Vicar)