

Lambfold Magazine Article June 2025

As I write this it's exactly a week since the announcement by the Vatican of the new Pope, Leo XIV. His appointment came three weeks after the death of Pope Francis and it makes me wonder why it has to take so long for the Anglican Communion to appoint a new Archbishop of Canterbury! But the selection processes are, of course, quite different. The Roman Catholic Church decides by Conclave whilst the Anglican Communion has a period of consultation and prayer before the nominated candidate's name is submitted to the Prime Minister and then the King for approval. These processes are very different but very much the same in that those doing the discerning look to the Holy Spirit for guidance. But who or what is the Holy Spirit?

After the resurrection Jesus rose to life in physical form but with a form of new life, not just the resuscitation of a body. Forty days later he ascended into Heaven but before he went he promised to his disciples 'I am with you always'. And it's through the Holy Spirit that this promise is fulfilled. Had Jesus stayed in physical form he could only be in one place at a time but through the Holy Spirit he can beat the restrictions of time and space. We can all know his presence and guidance, anywhere and everywhere, and he promises to lead us into all truth and help us find fullness of life.

The Holy Spirit is a gift offered to all and through which Christians and the Church are lead and guided. This coming month – June 8<sup>th</sup> – we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the early Church at Pentecost – why not come along to a service and find out more?

God bless

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