



## Pastor's Page

### ***"On the Boil"***

I'd been up north with Family and friends following the Easter celebrations when I arrived back home late Friday night. Tripping over the mail that had piled up during my absence I stumbled into the house and knocked the hall light on. I headed for the kitchen and was amazed to discover that no-one had done the washing up whilst I was away! (Typical!) So I set about it whilst the kettle boiled ready for a much needed cup of tea. I also turned the central heating on to take the chill off the air. However, It wasn't long before I realised that the water wasn't getting warm and neither were the radiators. I adjusted the room thermostat a couple of times, prayed, but still nothing happened. No matter, the kettle had now boiled so I had a splendid cup of tea and then decided to retire for the night.

The next day I made a serious attempt at inspiring the boiler to spring into life! I pressed the restart button that was merrily flashing away – nothing! I turned the fused switch off and on again – nothing. I adjusted the temperature control on the boiler - nothing – I tried the thermostat at different levels (as well as on and off) nothing – I even laid hands on it! All to no avail. So after putting up with this for a few days I gave in and eventually called out a service engineer. He took one look at it and said "I'm not surprised its not heating up there's no water in it!" Now I'm not sure why there wasn't any water in it but I know that without the water the boiler is totally ineffective. Well the nice man (very nice considering he was an Everton supporter!) filled it with water and fired it up for me. (I've now done my washing up!)

I was pretty fervent in trying to get my boiler working but as I later discovered there was one vital ingredient missing without which nothing was going to happen. In the passage of scripture that we're looking at today (Acts 1:1-11) Luke tell us that after his resurrection Jesus instructed his apostles not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit who would empower them to be his witnesses. The power of the Holy Spirit was the vital ingredient that they needed. So the disciples waited and prayed and then on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and filled them and empowered them. And the result was that Peter preached and three thousand people believed and were baptised on that very same day. This is the story of the birth of the church and the beginning of the evangelistic period which continues to this day. This same commission that the disciples were given ("You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth") still applies to Christians today. As the old hymn says;

"Ours is the same commission, the same glad tiding ours  
Fired by the same ambition, To you we yield our powers"

But just like the early apostles we need the power of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses. He is the vital ingredient we require both for living the Christian life and for communicating the Christian message. He is the key to effective evangelism.

So as we continue to seek God's plans for Selly Park Baptist church at this time, exploring the shape of our ministry and identifying the people God is calling us to be witness to lets not forget this vital ingredient lest we go off the boil!

*26<sup>th</sup> April 2009*