



## Pastor's Page

### ***A Turn Up for the Books***

I had been planning it for weeks and I was looking forward to it all coming together on the night. Such was the magnitude of the event that I even moved the church prayer meeting to avoid any clash of loyalties! (Note that I moved the prayer meeting rather than cancelling it – which I think is acceptable!!)

I booked my spot on Carl's settee, (he's a friend who lives in Wolverhampton and shares my passion for these occasions) cleared my diary and then waited for the great day to arrive. When it did I found it hard to concentrate on much else and as the hour approached I made my final preparations. I set my video player (just in case Carl's TV broke down) sent a few texts to fellow supporters and with a great sense of anticipation made my way to Wolverhampton to watch this awesome showdown. I refer of course to....."Britain's Got Talent" (only joking)...The Champions League Final (it's a football match!) Well as you may well know even after all my meticulous planning things didn't work out too well for us Manchester United fans – we lost 2-0. Oh yes the Catalan Champions but paid to our team making history and Fergie being hailed the greatest British Football manager of all time and me having a happy evening! We "faithful" felt let down by our players. One fan summed up well our sense of disbelief saying; "United just didn't turn up"

Two thousand years ago an even bigger event took place as about 120 followers of Jesus were in the city of Jerusalem at the time of the feast of Pentecost. They were there waiting (as Jesus had told them to) for the coming of the Holy Spirit to inhabit their lives and empower them for service. In other words they were waiting for God himself to turn up and transform them. The thought of this may have scared some and excited others, but they believed it would happen – why else would they have stayed in Jerusalem? And when the day of Pentecost came the Bible tells us that God did indeed "turn up" in power. For these disciples of Jesus (unlike Manchester United!) fans!) there was no disappointment - God delivered what he had promised. But how did the disciples know that the Holy Spirit had turned up? Firstly they heard something. Acts 2:2 says "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting." Perhaps this was a heavenly reminder that the power of God was now available to them to be his witnesses. Secondly they saw something –"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." (Acts 2:3) Whatever this meant it was unforgettable! And thirdly they did something. "They began to speak in other languages as the spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4) This miracle had a very practical purpose, namely that it grabbed the attention of the multi-racial crowd in Jerusalem and gave Peter (the chief apostle) an opening for the first evangelistic sermon in history. And as the fisherman preached with boldness (which was also due to the enabling of the Holy Spirit) 3000 people became believers and the Christian Church was born. This truly was history in the making.

And as we celebrate Pentecost let's thank God for his gift of the Holy Spirit and recognise our need for him today. We need him to make us holy and we need him to give us courage to speak out for Jesus. So how do we get him? The bible says "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Luke 11:12) So let's ask, in confidence that God will definitely turn up!

31<sup>st</sup> May 2009