

## Melissa's Thought for the Month – May 2015

The April edition of The Link came out on Easter Day this year because it happened to be the first day of the month. What a wonderful day that was for anyone who like me had to share our times of Worship with BBC programmes.

The festival began on the Saturday evening with an Easter “Carols from Kings”. We always enjoy the parallel, “Christmas Carols from Kings College”. One is inclined to forget that a carol was originally music accompanying a dance of rejoicing – whatever the season!

Easter Day started by following my usual Sunday routine while I am not making it to Church at Marshside Road. We start each week with “Sunday Worship” on Radio 4 at 8am. If I remember correctly this time it was from “St Martin in the Fields” in London. No doubt the original Church lay in fields between the cities of London and Westminster. Now, of course, it is in Trafalgar Square not far from Charing Cross Station. I have, in fact, worshipped there when I was living in the London area way back in the 1940s. I have also appreciated the cafeteria which serves reasonably priced food in the Crypt. As Easter is such a special Sunday it was then possible to move in thought to Rome. It is always wonderful to see there such a vast crowd of people making their pilgrimage to hear the Pope's annual address from the balcony (of St Peter's Cathedral). There has always been a roll call of all the countries represented. Each group stood in turn with its national flag or banner and made a contribution song or read in its own national language.

After that came the Pope's address usually in his native tongue. This was immediately translated and transmitted by radio link for all of us. We here of course hear the message in English.

This year Pope Francis showed his different personality. He expressed his concern for the troubled people in the world such as those in Somalia, Uganda and the Ukraine. This was a more detailed interest displaying real understanding of the situations. Finally, in place of the traditional “Urbi et Orbi” (for the city – i.e. Rome – and the world) he pronounced a blessing on “all risen everywhere”.

Now in the month of May we pass on from Passover to Pentecost. Passover is easy to grasp. The Hebrews celebrated the day of their escape from Egypt after the night when “the angel of death” passed over the Israelites while the plague killed so many of their conquerors.

Pentecost simply means fifty days later. If Passover was celebrated on a Sabbath Day giving thanks to God for deliverance, Pentecost becomes a day later – what we call Sunday. That is unless you explain the day by recalling that

for the Jews the day ran from 6pm one day to 6pm the next instead of our country from midnight to midnight.

So it is that this year we remember Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit on 24<sup>th</sup> of May.

Let us not forget that this Supreme Gift is for all the followers of Jesus including everyone of us who deserves to follow His footsteps here and now. Hopefully more thoughts about the Spirit in next month's Link.

**Melissa.**