

8th June, 2025

The paper-version Service



St Andrew's
Church



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks
Responding to God's Love



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If safe, light a candle and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it as you begin or read, or even sing, the song from this Sunday's

Service.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn:

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing
soul

My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to
fathom

Your love exceeds the heavens'
reach

Your truth, a fount of perfect
wisdom

My highest good and my unending
need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful
darts

My song when enemies surround
me

My hope when tides of sorrow rise

My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the
night

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Saviour of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your
shoulders

In my place You suffered bled and
died

You rose, the grave and death are
conquered

You broke my bonds of sin and
shame

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your
Name.

The Sermon by Timothy James

Read Acts 1:1–9, John 14:8–17 – Powerful Life

There is a hunger in our culture for power – physical, political, technological or spiritual. But Pentecost shows us a different kind of power: to live the full, Spirit-empowered life Jesus promised when he said, *“I came that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:10).

That full life comes from the Holy Spirit. In today’s Gospel, Philip asks, *“Show us the Father,”* but Jesus replies that seeing Him is seeing the Father. Yet even three years with Jesus didn’t prepare the disciples for their task. In Acts 1, Jesus tells His disciples to wait – not to act, not to strategise – but to wait for power. Only after receiving the Spirit would they be ready to go into the world as His witnesses.

The “greater works” Jesus promised (John 14:12) do not mean more spectacular miracles than His, but a greater reach – because now the Spirit would be **in** all believers, not just **with** them, as Jesus had been. The ministry that was once limited to Israel through the incarnate Jesus would now go to all nations through His Spirit-filled Church. At Pentecost, that Spirit came with wind and fire, and the Church was born. The frightened disciples became bold witnesses. The “greater works” began.

The same Spirit who came at Pentecost lives in us today: *“You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you”* (John 14:17). A powerful life is not about being young, energetic, or extroverted. Many of us feel unqualified – too old, too tired, too unsure. But Pentecost tells us: **God’s power starts where we are.** We don’t have to become something we’re not. We are already indwelt, already sent.

Christopher Wright reminds us: *“It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world.”* The Spirit’s power is not just for our comfort, but for our calling.

So what does a “powerful life” look like in Medstead and Four Marks? It may begin with a simple prayer: **“Holy Spirit, show me one person I can speak to, and one thing I can say.”** It will continue with genuine conversations, honest faith, visible love. Witnessing means simply telling the truth about what you’ve seen and known of Christ.

The early Church began with a few hesitant people in an upper room. That’s not so different from us. But the power that raised Jesus from the dead gave Peter the courage to preach, and opened the hearts of those who heard, and this is the same Spirit given to us.

Why do we feel we lack that power? Not because God has changed not because the Spirit is weaker, but because we no longer expect power. We no longer ask. Let us ask again. Let us expect again.

The Holy Spirit has not just been given to the Church – He has been given to you. Your life should be inexplicable without that fact. Live your life in the light of it.

Pentecost Sunday: *God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, St Andrews and The Good Shepherd, the communities around us and our whole nation. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV).

At the Church of the Good Shepherd

- Tea and Chat and Bowls: June 18th at 2pm in Church Hall & Church.
- Coffee and Questions: June 25th at 10.30am in Church Hall.
- The Community Cupboard, 2:45pm every Thursday in Church.

For Further information:

This paper and all parish details are on the website at
<https://www.parishofmedsteadandfourmarks.co.uk>