

# Marcham Baptist Church

(Packhorse Lane)

## May 2009

### Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30 am

(Communion every first and third Sundays)



#### ***Our Speakers for May include***

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|----------|---|
| May 3rd  | Mr. Dale Sutcliffe of Didcot Baptist Church                                       |
| May 10th | Mr. John Hawley of Grove<br>(This service supports the work of BMS World Mission) |
| May 24th | Mr. Paul Revell of Cholsey Baptist Church   |
| May 31st | Mr. Tony Valente of Abingdon Baptist Church                                       |

**Everyone welcome**

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#### **Where on earth has Whitsun disappeared to?**

You may well be forgiven for asking this question, and many younger ones may even ask, what is this Whitsun you're on about? Time was when Whitsun was a festival of community celebrations, Sunday School parties, for new clothes and processions and marches of witness. Whitsun still exists and Christians still celebrate the festival, but nowadays more commonly under its other name of Pentecost. But it has now largely disappeared from general view in our country, because the old Whitsun Bank Holiday, which was a moveable feast like Easter, was replaced by the Late Spring Bank Holiday, now fixed for the last Monday in May.

Nevertheless, Whitsun is and remains one of the three most important Christian feasts, together with Christmas and Easter. It celebrates God's gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers. A gift as real today, as it was at the first Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus is with us and empowers us to follow him, and serve him in our world. Jesus said "*I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of Truth*" (John 14.16,17), and promised "*I will never leave you, nor forsake you*" (Hebrews 13.5). You can trust Jesus' promise, he will not let you down!

***And oh before I forget, Whitsun this year is on 31 May!***

#### **For further information on church activities:**

**Contact**                      **Mr R Barrett    01865 391356**  
   **Mr W Dyer        01235 814986**

*Marcham Baptist is affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain*