

Stewardship Sunday 4/4 – Theme: Community

Address by Fr Peter Delaney at the Solemn Eucharist

These words in Acts are the result of the power of the Holy Spirit descending on the very young Church Of God in Jerusalem. They show you the result of action amongst Christian people. So the new church was born.

Acts 2:43-47

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.

⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

⁴⁷ Praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

These words come at the end of the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They show the power of change brought about by the dynamic gift of the power of God in each life. These marks of the Christian life made clear the commitment of each person to the common life of the Body of Christ.

We have just heard Ian remind us of the way in which the idea of community binds the church together, but also the fact that we all need to work hard to bind and not rent apart the Body of Christ.

Each of you is now asked to think hard at how you make your own contribution to this community which we have to build and strengthen. Pentecost Sunday comes with the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit of God a gift we have to want and claim in our lives if his power is to be alive in this place!

Look at the description of the early church in Acts and see how it mirrors St Bartholomew the Great and the less. We need to think about how we build our community and what it is to do with the power and resources it is given by God. We are equipped to go out and bring people to Jesus Christ to make new disciples of all nations let's start with West Smithfield and grow from there!