

# Breath of life

By Bill Pugh

God walked in the garden in the cool of the day at the time of the evening breeze. A busy God needed a quiet walk, a refreshing breeze.

How on hot summer days we long for a cool, refreshing breeze. Breath, wind, spirit, breeze, are fundamental to human life. Wind drives the scudding clouds and changes the seasons.

There is another breeze which blows, significant in the Bible story. On the day called Pentecost it blew mightily on the gathered friends of Jesus, like a rushing mighty wind which brought new strength and empowerment to proclaim the resurrection.

So the Church was born. They proclaimed his message as they travelled the Mediterranean world. News of this new faith was received by the scholars and philosophers.

In Athens, Paul was invited to address them on Areopagus Hill, the meeting place. He spoke about the many statues to gods he saw in the city, even an altar to the Unknown God.

Paul said this confusion was unnecessary. The real God is revealed and known through his only son Jesus, cruelly condemned, crucified and raised to life on the third day.

He is the Risen one whom they proclaim. At the mention of resurrection, the council were furious, dismissing him by saying, "we will hear you again on this matter".

The Speaker of the House, as we would call him today, adjourned the debate with no fixed arrangement.

The old prayer reminds us to be "deeply conscious of the shortness and uncertainty of human life".

Shortness of breath and physical incapacity underline our vulnerability.

More than ever do I value the ability to breathe into my lungs good, clean air.

The gift of life renewed every day. And later to sense the calm and peace which comes at the time of the evening breeze.

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